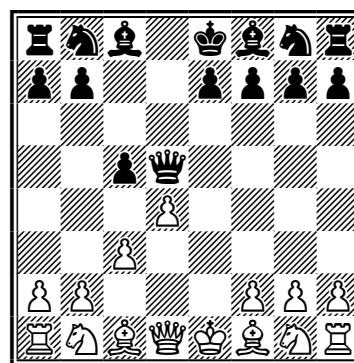


Sicilian Alapin



with 2 ... d5

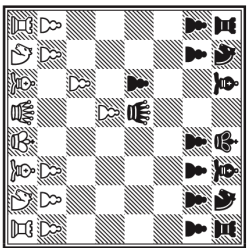


1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4

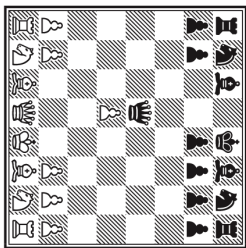
1 e4 c5 2 c3 2 ... d5 3 exd5 ♖d5 4 d4

	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
Kirilov Gambit		cx d4	♗f3	♗c3	gf3	♖d4	♗b5!	♗d1	♗a7	♖b1		+/-
1	cx d4	♗c6	♙g4	♙f3	♖d4	♗d4	♗c2	♖c8	♖c5			
Schlechter Variation	...	...		♗c3	♙d2	♙c3	♗e5	de5	♙e2	O-O	♖a4	+/-
2	...	...	e5	♙b4	♙c3	e4	♗e5	♗e7	O-O	♙f5		
Isolated Duo Var.	...		♗f3	♗c3	♙d3	O-O	bc3	♖e1	♙g5	♙e4	d5	+/-
3	...	e6	♗c6	♙b4	♗f6	♙c3	O-O	b6	♗d7	♖d6		
IQP Variation		♗f3	♙e3	cx d4	♗c3	♙c4	O-O	♖c1+/-	♗e5	♙d3		+/-
4	♗f6	e6	cx d4	♗c6	♖d6	♙e7	O-O	♗b4	♗bd5			
Two ♗s: Q-trade Countergambit			dxc5	♗d1	b4	♗c2	♙b5	♗b2	♙e3	♗bd2		+/-
5	...	♗c6	♖d1	♙g4	e5	O-O-O	♙f5	♗g4	f6			
<i>Q-side Majority</i>	...	...		♗a3	♙e3	♗c4!	♖a4	♗b6	♗xd7			+/-
6	...	...	♖xc5	e5	♖a5	♖c7	♙d7	♖d8				
Lane Var: Q-trade Gambit	...		dxc5	♗d1	b5	h3	g4	hg4	♗d2	♙d3	♖e1	+/=
7	...	♙g4	♖d1	e5	e4	♙h5	♗g4	♙g4	ef3	♗c6		
<i>Q-side Majority</i>	...	...		h3	♗a3	♙e3	g4	♙g2	♖a4	♙f4		+/=
8	...	...	♖c5	♙h5	a6	♖c7	♙g6	e6	♗bd7			

Black decides first whether to force the game into an isolated queen pawn position. If so, he can either try to aggressively attack the queen pawn with the Kirilov Gambit (line 1) or Schlechter Variation (line 2,) or play the traditional IQP blockade game that also comes about from a Queen's Gambit Accepted or Panov-Botvinnik Caro Kann. If black decides not to exchange his c-pawn for the d-pawn to create the isolani, then he risks white playing d4xc5 at an inopportune time. In the Two Knights Variation (lines 5 and 6) and the Lane Variation (lines 7 and 8), black will have to decide whether to exchange queens with a difficult gambit, or to lose time by taking back the pawn on c5. The latter creates pawn majorities on opposite sides, with black's queen getting harassed early.



First black decides whether or not to create the IQP structure.



Black can violently attack white's queen pawn

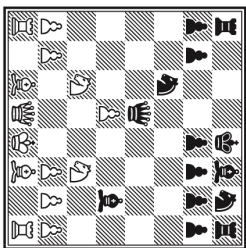
establish the classic "Isolated Queen Pawn" game.

or

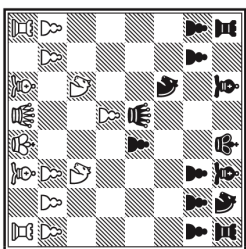
Black can trade queens at the cost of a pawn

or

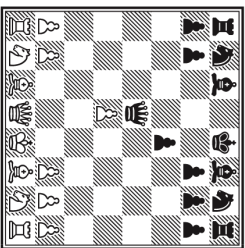
keep queens on the board but get his chased around.



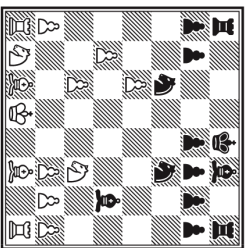
#1 Kirilov Gambit



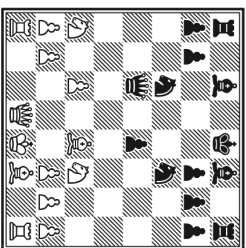
#2 Schlechter Variation



#3 & #4 Isolated Queen Pawn



#5 & #7 Queen Exchange



#6 & #8 Queen Side Majority



Games

1: Kirilov Gambit

Pedersen - Vistisen

Esbjerg 1997

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4
 ♜c6 6 ♜f3 ♙g4 7 ♜c3 ♙xf3 8 gxf3 ♖xd4
 9 ♖xd4 ♜xd4 10 ♜b5 ♜c2+ 11 ♙d1 ♜c8
 12 ♜xa7 ♜c5 13 ♙e3 ♜xe3+ 14 fxe3 f5 15 b4
 ♜d5+ 16 ♙c2 e6 17 a3 ♜f6 18 ♙c4 ♜d6
 19 ♜b5 ♜b6 20 ♜hd1 g6 21 ♙b3 ♙h6
 22 ♜d6 ♜xd6 23 ♜xd6+ ♙e7 24 ♜xb7 ♙xe3
 25 ♜d1 ♙f4 26 h3 g5 27 ♜c5 e5 28 ♙d3 g4
 29 hxg4 fxg4 30 fxg4 ♜xg4 31 ♙xh7 ♜f2
 32 ♜d7+ ♙f6 33 a4 ♜e8 34 ♙e4 ♜xe4
 35 ♜xe4+ ♙e6 36 ♜d3 ♜g8 37 a5 ♜g1 38 a6
 ♜a1 39 b5 ♙h2 40 ♜c5+ ♙f5 41 ♙b2 ♜a5
 42 b6 e4 43 ♜a3 ♙e5+ 44 ♙b3 ♜xc5 45 a7
 ♜c3+ 46 ♙b4 ♜c8 47 b7 1-0

2: Schlechter Variation

Reitinger,Petr - Jelinek,Miroslav

Svetla nad Sazavou 1997

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4
 ♜c6 6 ♜f3 e5 7 ♜c3 ♙b4 8 ♙d2 ♙xc3
 9 ♙xc3 e4 10 ♜e5 ♜xe5 11 dxe5 ♜e7 12 ♙e2
 O-O 13 O-O ♙f5 14 ♖a4 ♖e6 15 ♜fd1 ♜d5
 16 ♙c4 ♜xc3 17 ♙xe6 ♜xa4 18 ♙xf5 e3
 19 fxe3 ♜xb2 20 ♜d7 ♜ab8 21 ♜c1 ♜fd8
 22 e6 g6 23 ♜xf7 gxf5 24 ♜cc7 ♜d1+ 25 ♙f2
 ♜d2+ 26 ♙f3 ♜d3 27 ♜g7+ ♙h8 28 ♜xh7+
 ♙g8 29 ♜cg7+ ♙f8 30 e7+ ♙e8 31 ♜h8+
 ♙d7 1-0

3: Isolated Duo Variation

Karpatchev,A - Fitzke,Ulrich

Kiel Germany 2001

1 e4 c5 2 c3 ♜c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 cxd4 d5 5 exd5
 ♖xd5 6 ♜f3 e6 7 ♜c3 ♙b4 8 ♙d3 ♜f6 9 O-O
 ♙xc3 10 bxc3 O-O 11 ♜e1 b6 12 ♙g5 ♜d7
 13 ♙e4 ♖d6 14 d5 exd5 15 ♙xd5 ♖c7
 16 ♙e7 ♜xe7 17 ♜xe7 ♖d8 18 ♜xd7 ♙xd7
 19 ♙xa8 ♜e8 20 ♖d4 ♖c7 21 ♙d5 ♜e2
 22 ♜d1 ♙e8 23 h3 h6 24 ♙c4 ♜c2 25 ♖e4
 ♙a4 26 ♖a8+ ♙h7 27 ♙d3+ g6 28 ♙xc2
 ♙xc2 29 ♜d8 ♖xc3 30 ♖xa7 ♖a1+ 31 ♙h2
 ♖f6 32 ♜d4 b5 33 ♖c7 ♙f5 34 ♖e5 ♖b6
 35 ♜d6 ♖c7 36 g4 ♙e4 37 ♜f6 ♖xe5+
 38 ♜xe5 ♙d5 39 ♜xf7+ ♙xf7 40 ♜xf7 ♙g7
 41 ♜d6 b4 42 ♜e4 1-0

4: IQP Variation

Okhotnik - Stempin

Uzhgorod 1988

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 ♜f6 5 ♜f3
 ♜c6 6 ♙e3 cxd4 7 cxd4 e6 8 ♜c3 ♖d6 9 ♙c4
 ♙e7 10 O-O O-O 11 ♜c1 ♜b4 12 ♜b5 ♖d8
 13 ♙f4 ♜bd5 14 ♙g3 ♙d7 15 ♜e1 ♙c6
 16 ♜e5 ♖b6 17 a4 a6 18 ♙xd5 ♜xd5 19 ♜c4
 ♖d8 20 ♜bd6 ♙g5 21 ♜a1 ♜f4 22 f3 h5
 23 h4 ♙h6 24 ♙f2 ♙d5 25 b3 f5 26 ♙f1 ♜g6
 27 a5 f4 28 ♙f2 ♜xh4 29 ♜e5 ♙g5 30 ♜b6
 ♜g6 31 ♜xd5 exd5 32 ♜xb7 ♖e7 33 ♜xa8
 ♖xb7 34 ♜b6 ♙h4 35 ♖e1 ♙xf2 36 ♖e6+
 ♖f7 37 ♖xf7+ ♙xf7 38 ♙xf2 ♜e7 39 ♜c1
 ♜f5 40 ♜c7+ ♙e6 41 ♜c6+ ♙f7 42 ♜xd5
 ♜xd4 43 ♜xa6 ♜xb3 44 ♜xf4 h4 45 ♜a7+
 ♙f6 46 a6 ♜c5 47 ♜d5+ ♙e6 48 ♜e3 g5
 49 ♜c7 ♙d6 50 ♜g7 ♜e6 51 ♜h7 ♙c5 52 a7
 ♜d4 53 ♜f7 ♜a8 54 ♜g7 ♜e6 55 ♜g6 ♙d6
 56 ♜c4+ ♙e7 57 ♜e5 ♜f4 58 ♜b6 ♜d5
 59 ♜b8 ♜c7 60 ♜xa8 ♜xa8 61 ♙e3 ♜c7

62 ♖c4 ♗a8 63 ♘d4 ♘d7 64 ♘e5 ♘c7
 65 ♘f5 ♘b7 66 ♘xg5 ♘xa7 67 ♘xh4 ♘b7
 68 g4 ♘c6 69 g5 ♘d5 70 g6 ♘e6 71 ♘g5 ♗c7
 72 f4 ♗d5 73 f5+ ♘e7 74 ♗e5 1-0

5: Two ♗s Countergambit

Pedersen - Bromberger

2003

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 ♗f6 5 ♗f3
 ♙g4 6 dxc5 ♖xd1+ 7 ♘xd1 e5 8 b4 ♗c6
 9 ♘c2 O-O-O 10 ♙b5 ♙f5+ 11 ♘b2 ♗g4
 12 ♙e3 f6 13 ♗bd2 g6 14 ♖ad1 a6 15 ♙e2
 ♙d3 16 ♙xd3 ♖xd3 17 ♗c4 ♖xd1 18 ♖xd1
 ♗xe3 19 fxe3 ♙e7 20 ♗b6+ ♘b8 21 ♗d5
 ♙d8 22 a4 e4 23 ♗d2 f5 24 ♗c4 ♖e8 25 ♘b3
 ♗e5 26 ♗xe5 ♖xe5 27 ♘c4 ♙g5 28 b5 ♖e8
 29 bxa6 bxa6 30 ♖b1+ ♘a7 31 c6 ♖c8
 32 ♖b7+ 1-0

6: Two ♗s Q-side Majority

Sermek - Riegler

Maribor Pirc 1993

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 ♗f6 5 ♗f3
 ♗c6 6 dxc5 ♖xc5 7 ♗a3 e5 8 ♙e3 ♖a5
 9 ♗c4 ♖c7 10 ♖a4 ♙d7 11 ♗b6 ♖d8
 12 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 13 ♖d1 a6 14 ♙e2 ♙e7
 15 ♖g4 O-O 16 ♙h6 ♙f6 17 ♗g5 ♗c5 18 O-
 O ♖xd1 19 ♖xd1 ♖c8 20 ♖g3 ♗e6 21 ♙g4
 ♙xg5 22 ♙xg5 f5 23 ♙e2 ♘h8 24 ♖h4 b5
 25 ♙e3 e4 26 f4 ♖c7 27 a4 bxa4 28 ♙c4
 ♗cd8 29 ♙xa6 a3 30 ♖f2 axb2 31 ♖xb2
 ♗xf4 32 ♙xf4 ♖xf4 33 ♖b4 ♖g8 34 ♙c4 e3
 35 ♖fl e2 36 ♖xf4 e1=♖+ 37 ♖fl ♖e3+
 38 ♘h1 ♖e8 39 ♖xf5 h6 40 ♖f8+ ♘h7
 41 ♙g8+ ♘h8 42 ♙e6+ ♖xf8 43 ♖xf8+ ♘h7
 44 ♖g8+ 1-0

7: Lane Var. - 6... ♙d1

Kristjansson,S - Gopal,G

2002

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 ♗f6 5 ♗f3
 ♙g4 6 dxc5 ♖xd1+ 7 ♘xd1 e5 8 b4 e4 9 h3
 ♙h5 10 g4 ♗xg4 11 hxg4 ♙xg4 12 ♗d2 exf3
 13 ♙d3 ♗c6 14 ♖e1+ ♙e7 15 ♘c2
 15 ... a5 16 b5 ♗d8 17 a4 ♗e6 18 ♙a3 O-O-O
 19 ♗b3 ♙h4 20 ♙e4 ♗g5 21 ♙xb7+ ♘xb7
 22 ♖e7+ ♘c8 23 b6 ♗e6 24 ♖a7 ♙f5+
 25 ♘b2 ♙e4 26 ♖e1 ♙d5 27 c4 ♙f6+
 28 ♘b1 ♙b7 29 ♗xa5 ♙c3 30 c6 ♙xa5
 31 cxb7+ ♘b8 32 ♖xa5 ♘b7 33 ♖a7+ ♘xb6
 34 ♖xf7 ♖he8 35 ♙e7 ♗c7 36 ♙xd8 ♖xe1+
 37 ♘c2 ♖e2+ 38 ♘d3 ♖xf2 39 ♙xc7+ ♘c6
 40 ♙g3 ♖a2 41 ♖xf3 ♖a3+ 42 ♘e4 ♖xa4
 43 ♘d4 ♖a7 44 ♖e3 ♖d7+ 45 ♘c3 ♖f7
 46 ♖e6+ ♘c5 1-0

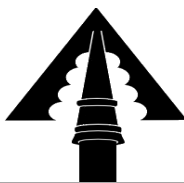
8: Lane Var. - 6... ♙c5

Sveshnikov,E - Gashimov,V

Dubai UAE 2003

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 ♗f6 5 ♗f3
 ♙g4 6 dxc5 ♖xc5 7 ♗a3 a6 8 h3 ♙h5 9 ♙e3
 ♖c7 10 g4 ♙g6 11 ♙g2 e6 12 ♖a4+ ♗bd7
 13 ♙f4 ♖c8 14 ♗e5 ♙c5 15 O-O-O ♖a7
 16 ♗xd7 ♗xd7 17 ♙d6 b5 18 ♖f4 ♙xd6
 19 ♖xd6 ♖c5 20 f4 b4 21 ♗c4 bxc3 22 f5
 cxb2+ 23 ♘b1 ♙xf5+ 24 gxf5 ♖xf5+ 25 ♖d3
 ♖c5 26 ♖hd1 ♖xd6 27 ♗xd6+ ♘e7 28 ♗xf7
 ♖c8 29 ♘b2 ♖c5 30 ♗d6 ♖ac7 31 ♖3d2
 ♗e5 32 ♙f1 ♖5c6 33 ♙e2 g5 34 ♗e4 h6
 35 ♖f1 ♖b6+ 36 ♘a1 ♖bc6 37 ♘b1 ♗g6
 38 ♗f6 ♗f4 39 ♗g8+ ♘f8 40 ♗xh6 ♘g7
 41 ♗g4 ♗xh3 42 ♗e5 ♖b6+ 43 ♖b2 ♖d6
 44 ♗d3 ♖f7 45 ♖xf7+ ♘xf7 46 ♗c5 ♗f4
 47 ♗e4 ♖d5 48 ♙xa6 ♘g6 49 ♙b7 ♖a5
 50 ♗f2 ♘h5 51 ♙f3+ ♘h4 52 ♖b3 e5 53 ♖e3
 ♖b5+ 54 ♘c2 ♖c5+ 55 ♘d2 ♖b5 56 ♘c3

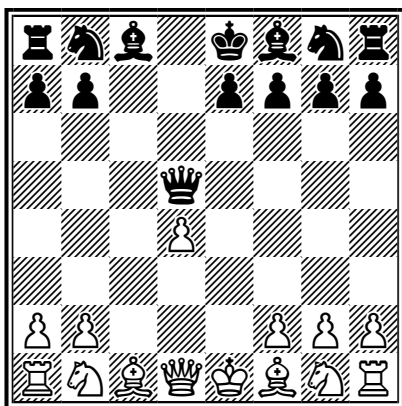
♖c5+ 57 ♘b2 ♖b5+ 58 ♘a1 ♖a5 59 a3 ♖c5
 60 ♘b2 ♖b5+ 61 ♘a2 ♖c5 62 ♜g4 ♜g6
 63 ♘b3 ♘g3 64 ♙e2+ ♘g2 65 ♘b4 ♖c7
 66 a4 ♜f4 67 ♙f3+ ♘g3 68 a5 e4 69 ♙d1+
 ♘g2 70 ♖xe4 ♜d5+ 71 ♘b3 ♖c3+ 72 ♘b2
 ♖c5 73 a6 ♜c3 74 ♖d4 ♜xd1+ 75 ♖xd1
 ♖b5+ 76 ♘c3 ♖a5 77 ♖d6 ♘f3 78 ♜f6 g4
 79 ♜xg4 ♘xg4 80 ♘b4 ♖a1 81 ♘b5 ♘f5
 82 ♘b6 ♘e5 83 ♘c7 ♖h1 84 ♖g6 ♘d5 85 a7
 ♖h7+ 86 ♘b6 ♖h8 87 ♖g7 ♘d6 88 ♘b7
 ♘d5 1-0



Early exchange 4... c5xd4

§ 1 - 4: Early IQP Variation

Black's immediate exchange of pawns is forcing - it achieves the isolated queen pawn structure - but it also allows white's knight to develop on c3, gaining time by attacking the queen. Perhaps the loss of time was inevitable.



The classic IQP positions popularized by Steinitz and Botvinnik can be reached by 6 ... e6 or 6 ... ♖c6 7 ♗f3 e6. What if black tries to break out of those positions? He can either develop his queen bishop outside the pawn structure, that is, before playing ... e6, or he can immediately counter in the center with ... e5.

1. 6 ... ♖c6 7 ♗f3 ♔g4
Aggressively going after the d-pawn.

2. 6 ... ♖c6 7 ♗f3 e5
Schlechter's idea of hitting the center.

3. 6 ... e6
Lines where black plays ♗b4xc3 creating an isolated pawn duo in the center. (Keeping the IQP structure is examined in line 4.)

1

The Kirilov Gambit

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 ♗c6 6 ♗f3 ♔g4

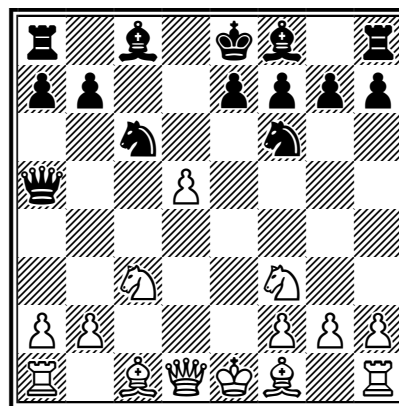
Alternatives let white overwhelm the center with quick attack. E.g.

6 ... ♗f6 7 ♗c3 ♖a5

(7 ... ♖d6 8 d5 ♗b4 9 ♔c4 Lendwai,R - Danner,G, Austria Tch 9293 (1) 1992;

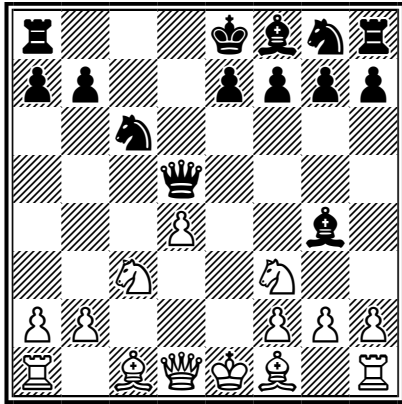
7 ... ♖d8 8 d5 ♗b8 (8 ... ♗b4 9 ♖a4+) 9 ♔f4 Hresc,Vladimir - Trumpp,Lothar, Bad Mergentheim 1988 9 ... a6 10 ♖a4+ ♔d7 11 ♖b3 b6 12 ♔e3 b5 13 a4 ♖a5 14 ♗e5 +/- Hresc,Vladimir - Trumpp,Lothar, Bad Mergentheim 1988)

8 d5



8 ... ♗b4 9 a3 +- Richards,H - Keskin,S, Istanbul TUR (2) 2003;

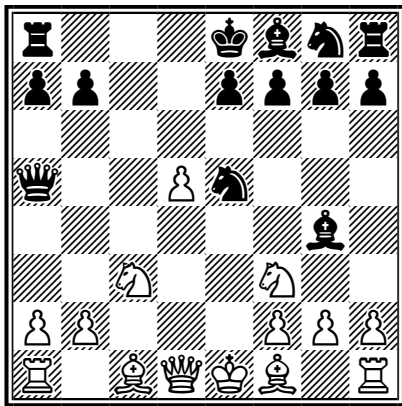
7 ♗c3



7 ... ♙xf3

Again, if black lets white play d5 he gets blown away. The queen sacrifice tactic is worthy of notice.

7 ... ♙a5 8 d5 ♘e5



(8 ... O-O-O 9 ♙d2 ♘b4 10 ♖c1 ♗b8 11 ♘b5 +-;

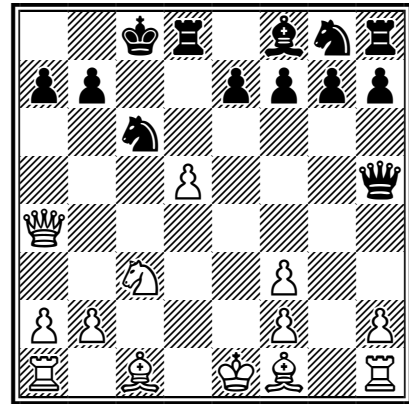
8 ... ♗d8 9 ♙d2 ♘e5 10 ♘xe5 +-;

8 ... ♘b8 9 ♙c4 ♘d7 10 ♙b3)

9 ♘xe5! ♙xd1 10 ♙b5+ ♗d8 (10 ... ♙xb5 11 ♘b5 O-O-O 12 ♙f4 +- Trabert - Norevall, Gausdal 1992) 11 ♘xf7+ ♗c8 12 ♗xd1 +- Kirilov, Valentins - Skuia, P, Tallinn 1965;

7 ... ♙h5 8 d5 ♙xf3 (8 ... O-O-O 9 ♙a4 ♙xf3 10 gxf3 ♘e5 (10 ... ♙xf3 11 dxc6 +-)) 11 ♙e2 ♘xf3+ 12 ♙xf3 ♙xf3 13 ♖g1 +-)

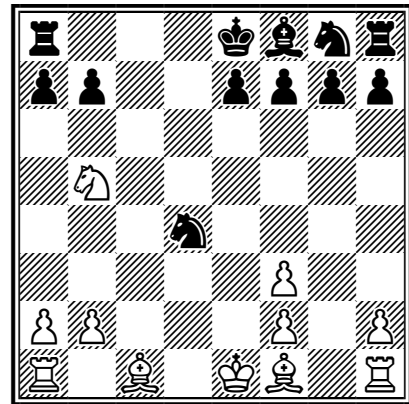
O 10 ♙a4 Morvay - Spitzlsperger, Budapest 1989 and Orton - Tew, USA 1990



;

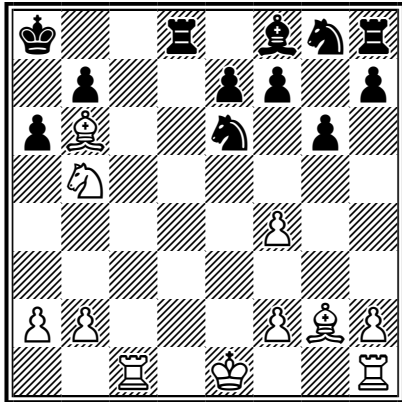
7 ... ♙e6+ 8 ♙e3 O-O-O 9 d5 ♙f6 10 ♙c1 +- Basically, every queen move gets killed by pushing the queen pawn.

8 gxf3 ♙xd4
9 ♙xd4 ♘xd4
10 ♘b5!



10 ... ♘c2+

10 ... ♘e6 11 f4! g6 12 ♙g2 O-O-O (12 ... ♙g7 Dyckmans - Abolianin, Ghent op 1995 13 ♙xb7!?) 13 ♙e3 a6 14 ♖c1+ ♗b8 15 ♙a7+ ♗a8 16 ♙b6 +- Mikhalchishin - Sellos, Primorsko 1978



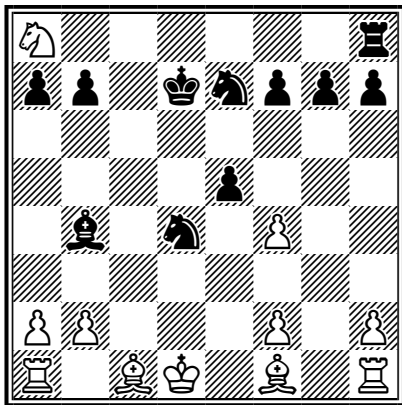
(12 ... ♖a4 13 ♖c1+ ♘d8 14 ♙b5 Rachel's - Einarsson 1981; 12 ... ♖d6 13 ♙xa7 ♜f6 14 ♖c1+;

12 ... ♖b4 13 ♙c5 ♖xb2 14 ♙h3+ ♘b8 15 O-O-O ♖xa2 16 ♖d8+ ♘c7 17 ♖c8#)

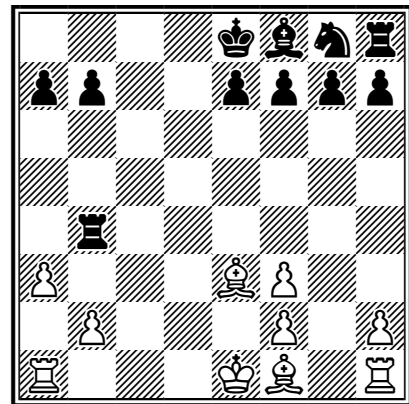
13 ♙b5 ♖c7 14 ♙xa7 e6 (14 ... e5 15 ♙b6 ♙b4+ 16 ♘d1) 15 ♙b6 ♙b4+ (15 ... ♖c2 16 O-O ♖xb2 (16 ... ♜e7 17 ♖ac1 ♖xc1 18 ♖xc1+ ♜c6 19 ♙a5 (19 a4 ♘b8 20 a5) 19 ... ♙d6 20 ♙xc6) 17 ♖fd1 ♙e7 18 ♙d7+ Pilaj,H - Pridorozhni,A, Oropesa del Mar ESP 1999) 16 ♘d1 +- Hennings,Artur - Bindrich,Oswald, Schwerin 1969;

;

10 ... e5 11 ♜c7+ ♘d7 12 ♜xa8 ♙b4+ 13 ♘d1 +/- ♜e7 14 f4!? Cirabisi - Leoncini, Imperia 1988



10 ... ♖d8 11 ♜xd4 ♖xd4 12 ♙e3 ♖b4 13 a3

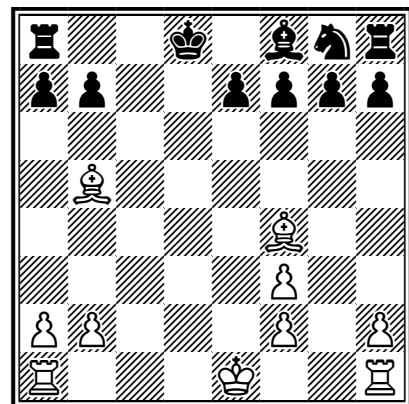
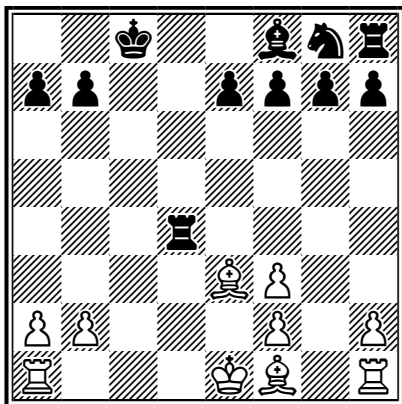


13 ... ♖h4 14 ♙b5+ +- Kiss - Porubszky, Tunggram 1991;

;

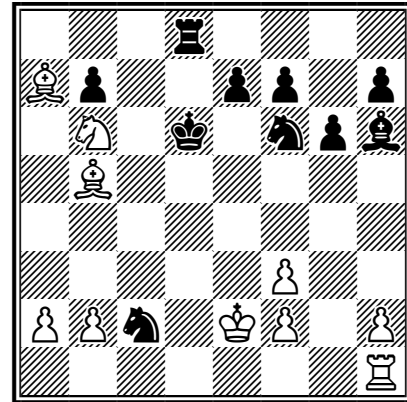
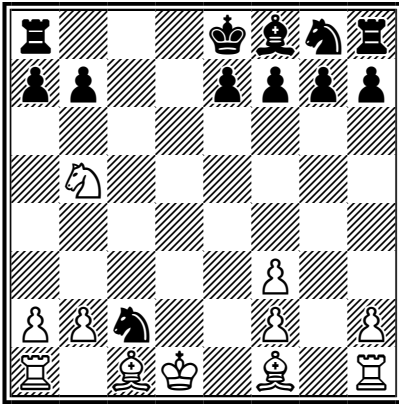
10 ... O-O-O 11 ♜xd4 ♖xd4 12 ♙e3

10 ... ♜xb5 11 ♙xb5+ ♘d8 12 ♙f4 +- Uppstrom - Sundman, 1959



12 ... ♖d7

11 ♖d1



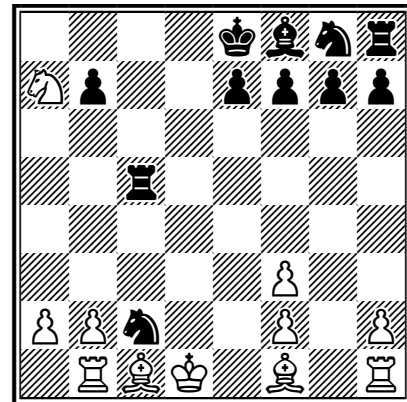
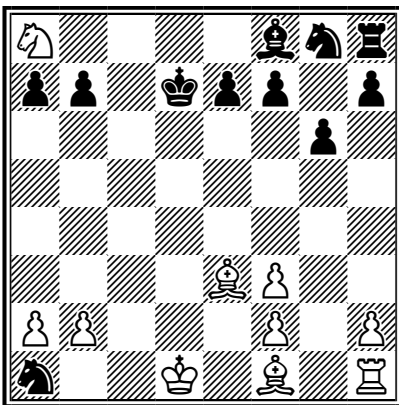
19 ♜d1+ ♘c7 20 ♜xd8 ♘xd8 21 ♘c4 +/=

11 ... ♜c8

11 ... ♘xa1 12 ♘c7+ ♘d7 13 ♘xa8 g6
14 ♙e3

12 ♘xa7 ♜c5

13 ♜b1



13 ♙e3 ♘xe3+ 14 fxe3 is also playable.

14 ... ♙h6

(14 ... ♙g7 15 ♙xa7 +/;

14 ... b6 15 ♙b5+ ♘c8 16 ♙f4 ♙h6 17 ♙a6+ +/-
Wuhrmann,D - Guiot,J, Paris 1993)

15 ♙b5+ ♘d6 16 ♙xa7 ♘f6 17 ♘b6 +/=
♜d8 18 ♘e2 ♘c2

• Key Game 1

Pedersen - Vistisen, Esbjerg 1997

13 ... ♜a5
14 ♘xc2 ♜xa7
15 ♙b5+ ♘d8
16 ♜d1+ ♘c8
17 ♙f4 +/

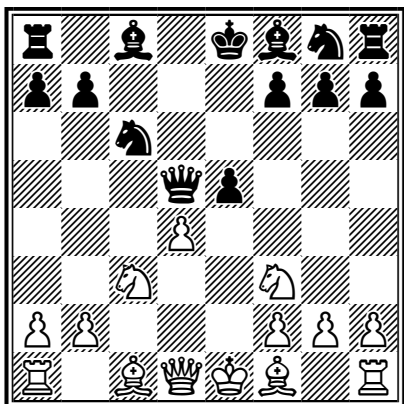
2

Schlechter Variation

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4
 ♜c6 6 ♜f3 e5

This is the second playable alternative to classic IQP positions.

7 ♜c3



7 ... ♜b4
 8 ♜d2 ♜xc3
 9 ♜xc3 e4

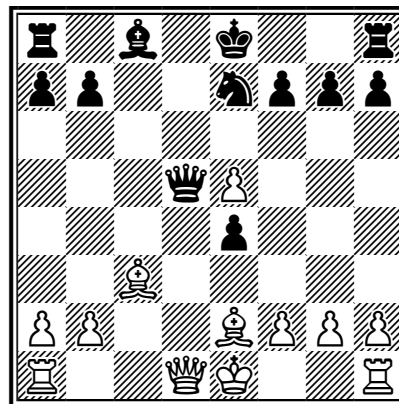
9 ... ♖e4+ 10 ♖e2 ♖xe2+ 11 ♜xe2 exd4
 12 ♜xd4 +/-;

9 ... exd4 10 ♜xd4 ♜f6 (10 ... ♜xd4 11 ♖xd4
 ♖xd4 12 ♜xd4 +/-) 11 ♜xc6 ♖xc6 12 ♜xf6
 ♖xf6 13 ♜b5+ ♜f8 14 O-O +/-

10 ♜e5 ♜xe5

10 ... ♜h6 11 ♜c4 ♖d6 12 ♖e2 ♜f5 13 ♜d1
 ♜d8 14 O-O O-O 15 h3 +/- Ostermeyer, Peter -
 Kaiser, Wolfgang, Germany 1987

11 dxe5 ♜e7
 12 ♜e2



12 ... O-O
 13 O-O ♜f5

13 ... ♖e6 14 ♖d4 ♖g6 15 ♜fe1 ♜e6
 Pavasovic - Starostits, Bled 2002 (15 ... ♜c6
 16 ♖e3 ♜f5 17 ♜ad1 ♜ad8 18 h4 +/- Smagin, S -
 Yagupov, I, Moscow (1) 1995) 16 ♜c4!;

13 ... ♜d7 14 ♖c1 ♜c6 15 ♜d1 ♖e6 16 ♜d6
 ♖f5 17 g4 ♖c8 18 ♖g5 ♖c7 19 ♜ad1 +/- Van
 der Brink, P - Bezemer, A (2215), semi final
 (Enschede): ch-NED (1) 1993;

13 ... ♜d8 14 ♜c4 ♖xd1 15 ♜fxd1 ♜g4
 16 ♜d6 ♜xd6 17 exd6 +/- ♜c6 18 h3
 Hudoba, Ondrej - Blaho, Stefan, SVK 1998

14 ♖a4 ♖e6
 15 ♜fd1 ♜d5
 16 ♜c4 ♜xc3
 17 ♜xe6 ♜xa4
 18 ♜xf5 +/-

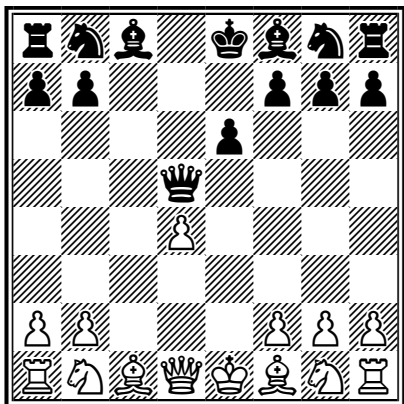
• Key Game 2;

Reitinger - Jelinek, Svetla nad Sazavou 1997

3

Isolated Duo Variation

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 cxd4 5 cxd4 e6



Others:

5 ... e5 6 ♗f3 ♗c6 7 ♗c3 - Schlechter Line 2;

5 ... ♗f6 6 ♗f3 e6 (6 ... ♗c6 7 ♗c3 & push d pawn;
6 ... g6 7 ♗c3 ♖d8 8 ♗c4 ♗g7 9 ♗e5 Castaldo -
Mastrorilli, Torino,ITA 1998) 7 ♗c3 - IQP Line 4;

5 ... g6 6 ♗f3 ♗f6 (6 ... ♗g7 7 ♗c3 ♖d8 8 ♗c4
♗h6 Raubal - Karner, Austria 1998) 7 ♗c3 ♖d8
8 ♗c4 ♗g7 9 ♗e5 Castaldo - Mastrorilli,
Torino,ITA 1998

6 ♗f3 ♗c6

6 ... ♗f6 7 ♗c3 ♗b4 8 ♗d3 ♗c6 transposes;
6 ... a6 does, too.

7 ♗c3 ♗b4

7 ... ♖a5 8 ♗c4 ♗f6 9 O-O (9 a3!? ♗e4 10 ♖c2
♗xc3 11 bxc3 ♗e7 12 O-O-O-O 13 ♖b1
Hornung,Ruediger - Funke,Eckhard, Ruhrgebiet 1998)
9 ... ♗e7 Mirouze,Frederic - Fournier,Philippe,
Creon 1997 (9 ... ♗b4 10 ♗d2 ♖c7 11 ♗e5 a6
12 ♖c1 Seitaj,I (2420) - Adu,O, Moskou olm (1) 1994);

7 ... ♖d6 8 ♗c4 ♗f6 9 O-O (9 a3 ♗e7 10 O-O
O-O 11 ♖e1 De Dovitiis,Alejo - Gamarra

Hogeye Bill

Caceres,Car, Chaco (1) 1993) 9 ... ♗e7 10 ♖e1
O-O 11 a3 De Dovitiis,Alejo - Gamarra
Caceres,Car, Chaco (1) 1993

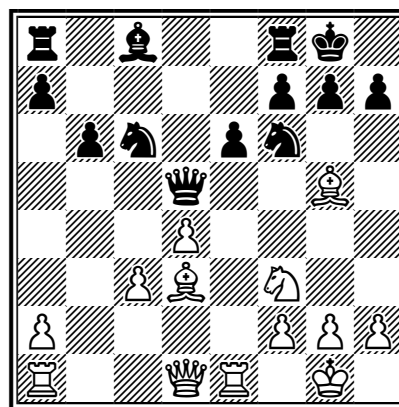
8 ♗d3 ♗f6

8 ... ♗ge7 9 O-O ♖a5 (9 ... ♖h5 10 a3 ♗a5
11 ♗e4 ♗f5 12 ♗c2 Leite,C - Flores,Ju, Barreiro POR
(8) 2000; 9 ... ♖d8 10 ♖e1 O-O 11 ♗xh7+ ♗xh7
12 ♗g5+ ♗g6 13 ♖g4 e5 14 ♗e6+ Dukurs,I - Kislicis,L,
Moscow (1) 1970) 10 ♗d2 ♗d5 (10 ... ♖d8 11 ♖e1
(Andersen,Erik Rune - Moller,Arne, Taastrup,DEN;Aktiv
Alliancen (7) 1999)) 11 a3 ♗e7 12 ♖e1 Pont
Mulet,Antonio - Navarrete,Sebastian, Palma de
Mallorca (1) 2002;

8 ... ♖a5 9 ♗d2 ♗f6 10 O-O O-O 11 a3 ♗e7
12 ♖e2 a6 13 ♖ac1 ♖d8 14 ♗e3
Horther,Heinrich - Christ,Rene, Bayern 1998;

8 ... ♖h5 9 O-O ♗f6 10 a3 ♗a5 11 b4 ♗c7
12 h3 O-O 13 ♗e2 Roza,Peter -
Kordahi,Nicholas, Canberra AUS (3) 2001

9 O-O ♗xc3
10 bxc3 O-O
11 ♖e1 b6
12 ♗g5



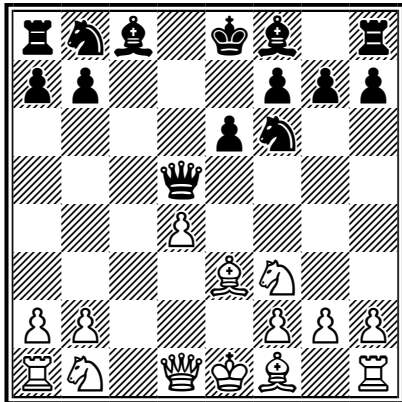
12 ... ♗d7
13 ♗e4 ♖d6
14 d5 +/-

• Key Game 3

Karpatchev,A - Fitzke,Ulrich, Kiel GER 2001

4 IQP Variation

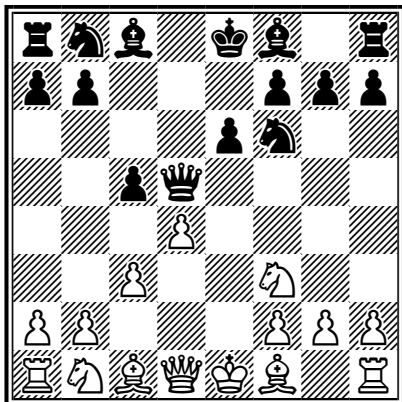
1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 and now
 ... cxd4 5 cxd4 ♘c6 6 ♘f3 e6 or usually
 ... ♘f6 5 ♘f3 e6 6 ♗e3 cxd4 7 cxd4



we get the isolated queen pawn structure. White will be trying to leverage his better center into an attack, while black will try to whittle it down to an endgame where he has chances of winning the isolani. In general, the IQP is strong in the middle game but weak in an endgame, so white and black play accordingly.

Let's use the second move order.

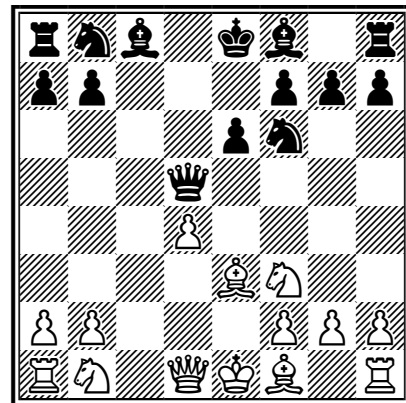
1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 ♘f6 5 ♘f3 e6



6 ♗e3

This bishop move virtually forces black to capture, clarifying the pawn structure. Yet from black's point of view, the bishop may be misplaced on e3 (it often goes to g5) so this seems a reasonable way to play the black side of the IQP struggle..

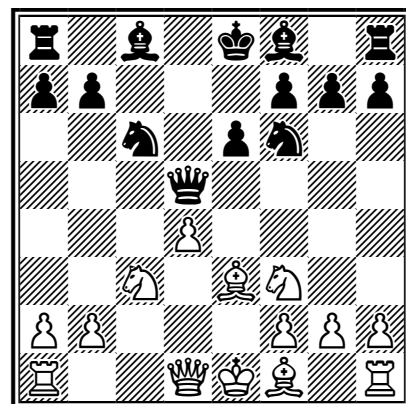
6 ... cxd4
 7 cxd4



7 ... ♘c6

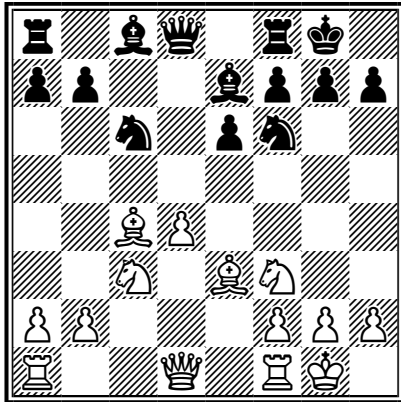
7 ... ♗b4+ 8 ♘c3 ♗d7 9 ♗d3 ♗b5 10 O-O ♗xc3 11 bxc3 O-O 12 ♖b1! +/- (12 ♗xb5 ♖xb5 13 ♖b3 +/- Orton,Bill - Kudrin,Sergey, Jerry Spann Memorial (2) 2008) 12 ... ♗xd3 13 ♖xd3 +/-

8 ♘c3



8 ... ♗d6

(8 ... ♖d8 9 ♗c4 ♗e7 10 O-O O-O

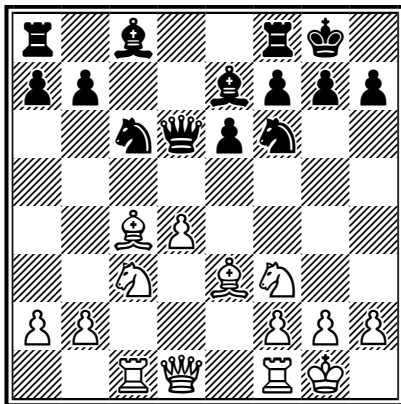


11 ♖e5!? ♜c7 12 ♘b5 ♜a5 13 ♜e1!? +/-;
 8 ... ♜a5; 8 ... ♘b4)

9 ♘c4

9 a3 ♘e7 10 ♜c2 O-O 11 ♘d3 ♘d7 12 O-O
 ♜ac8 13 ♜ad1 ♜fd8 14 ♜fe1 +/-

9 ... ♘e7
 10 O-O O-O
 11 ♜c1 +/-



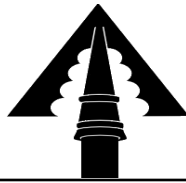
11 ... ♘b4
 12 ♖e5 +/-

12 ♜e1 +/-; 12 ♘b5 ♜d8 13 ♘f4 +/-

• Key Game 4

Okhotnik - Stempin, Uzhgorod 1988

12 ... ♘bd5
 13 ♘d3 +/-



IQP declined; White plays d4xc5

§ 5 - 8: Two Knights or Lane Var.

1 e4 c5 2 c3 d5 3 exd5 ♖xd5 4 d4 ♘f6

4 ... cxd4 is the Early IQP Variations 1-4;

4 ... ♘c6 5 ♘f3 ♗g4 (5 ... ♘f6 - Two Knight's Var) 6 dxc5 ♖xd1+ 7 ♘xd1 e5 8 b4 e4 9 h3 ♗h5 10 g4 ♗g6 Khelmnitsky - Abbasi, Philadelphia 1994 11 ♘h4 +/-

5 ♘f3

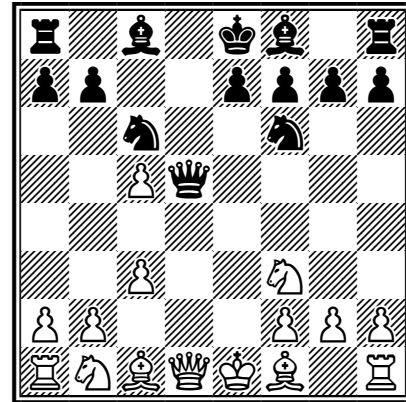
Now black must make a decision. He can go into an IQP game as in lines 3 and 4, he can develop his knight or bishop.

5 dxc5!? the Ferengi Variation is worth considering.

5 - 6

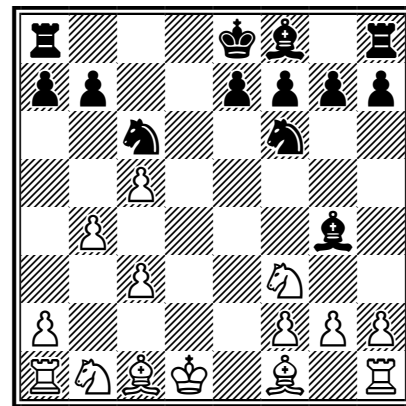
Two Knights Variation

5 ... ♘c6
6 dxc5



6 ... ♗xc5

6 ... ♖xd1+ 7 ♘xd1 ♗g4 8 b4

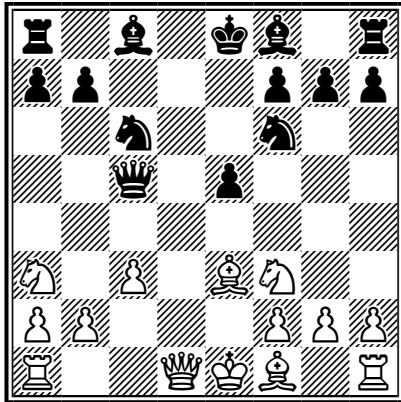


8 ... e5 9 ♘c2 +/- O-O-O 10 ♗b5 ♗f5+ 11 ♘b2 ♘g4 12 ♗e3 f6 13 ♘bd2

• Key Game 5

Pedersen - Bromberger, 2003

7 ♘a3 e5
8 ♗c3



8 ♖b5 ♜e7 9 b3; 8 ♗c4

8 ... ♙a5
 9 ♗c4! +/- ♜c7
 10 ♜a4 ♘d7
 11 ♗b6 ♝d8
 12 ♗xd7 +/-

• Key Game 6

Sermek,D - Riegler,P, Maribor Pirc 1993

7 - 8

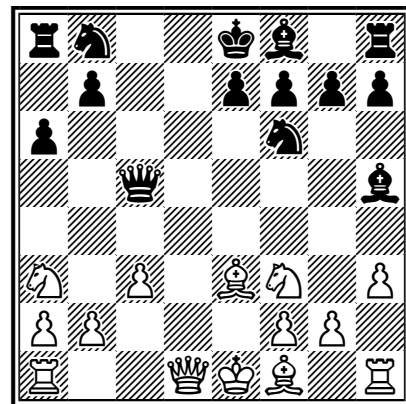
Lane Variation

5 ... ♘g4
 6 dxc5 ♙xd1+

6 ... ♜xc5 7 h3 ♙h5 (7 ... ♙d7) 8 ♗a3 a6

(8 ... ♗bd7 9 ♙e3 ♜c7 (9 ... ♜c8) 10 ♗b5 ♜b8 11 g4 ♙g6 12 g5 ♗e4 13 ♗h4 a6 14 ♗xg6 hxg6 15 ♜d5 +/- Vlassov,Nikolai - Avrukh,Boris, Moscow 2002)

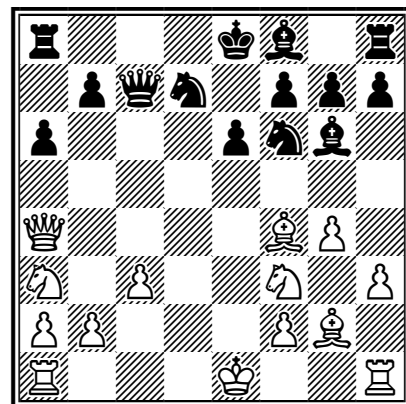
9 ♙e3



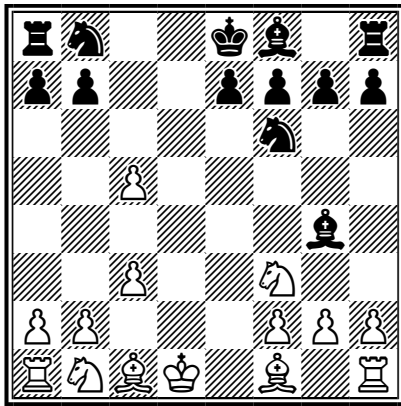
9 ... ♜c7 10 g4 ♙g6 11 ♙g2 e6 (11 ... ♙e4 12 g5 ♗fd7 13 ♜d4 ♙xf3 14 ♙xf3 +/- Alekseev,E - Buckley,S, Oropesa del Mar ESP 1999) 12 ♜a4+ ♗bd7 13 ♙f4 +/-

• Key Game 8

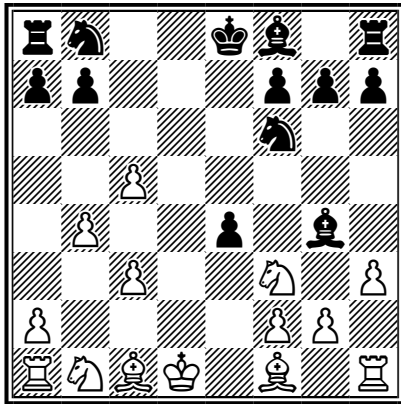
Sveshnikov - Gashimov, Dubai UAE 2003



7 ♖xd1

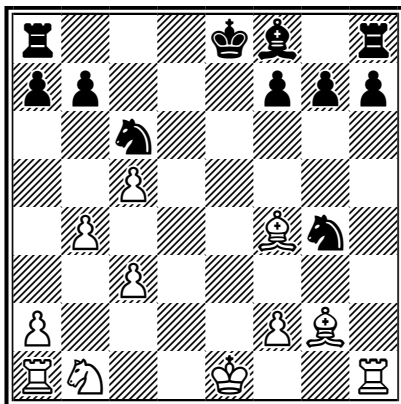


7 ... e5
8 b4 e4
9 h3



9 ... ♗h5

9 ... exf3 10 hxg4 ♖xg4 11 ♖e1 fxg2 12 ♗xg2 ♗c6 13 ♗f4 Orton,Bill - Mokriak,Liudmila, Oklahoma 2008



10 g4 ♗xg4

10 ... ♗xg4 11 hxg4 exf3 12 ♗h3 Khin Than - Bu Xiangzhi , Scheveningen 1999

11 hxg4 ♗xg4
12 ♗d2 exf3
13 ♗d3 ♗c6

13 ... ♗d7 14 ♖e1+ ♗e7 15 ♖c2 h5 16 ♗c4 +/- Miljanic - Vuckovic, Petrovac 2004;

13 ... h5 14 ♖e1+ ♗e7 15 ♗e4 +/- Kosintseva - Paetz, Istanbul 2003

14 ♖e1+ ♗e7

14 ... ♗e6 15 ♗xf3 O-O-O 16 ♖c2 +/- Emms - David, Escaldes AND 1998

15 ♖c2 +/-

• Key Game 7

Kristjansson - Gopal,2002

