

NOVICE LECTURE #1 (Paul Cavezza)

- I thought I'd do a talk on something pretty specific (namely techniques to play against a bad Bg5/Bg4) rather than something general. I really believe that club level chess is not about coming up with *new ideas* at the board, it's about putting ideas you *already know* into practice.
- Learn a new opening setup and the ideas behind it, and go on put that knowledge into practice. You learn a new end-game position is a draw, and next time you're playing an end-game that knowledge is part of your arsenal, you can AIM FOR that position if you need to. You learn a positional idea, like exposing a backward pawn on an open file (something we'll see in Niru's game against Paul Kovacevic) and you'll have that knowledge and can try to create and play that position at the board.
- One chess player is (usually) better than another because they understand more positions, and can aim for those positions which they know are good, and which they also know how to play. So if you want to improve your chess, don't memorise openings, but learn specific *ideas*, and you'll often learn “positional” or “general” stuff through those specific ideas anyway.
- The idea we're looking at tonight: we've all been guilty of getting to a position, not being sure what to do, wanting to play “a developing move” and thinking, oh well, Bg5 is the most aggressive one, it pins, so I'll play that. But that's often misguided.
- What's the difference between a Bishop on e3 and g5?
- How we can exploit the Bishop on g5 or g4. So it's not just pointless, it's a liability.
- This is the big one: As you improve, you go from playing “developing moves” to “developing plans” or just “plans”. The game Niru played against Paul Kovacevic shows the difference between developing moves (a novice concept) and developing plans (a more advanced way of playing).
- A quick example of the difference between developing moves and developing plans:

Cavezza,P - Beckman,J [A05]

MCC Championship, 10.02.2015

1.b3 Nf6 2.Bb2 e6 3.Nf3 Be7 4.c4 b6 5.Nc3 [Supporting?] 5...Bb7 6.Qc2 [Supporting?] 6...Nc6 7.a3 h6 8.e4 Bc5 [What is white's goal in 9/10 openings?]9.Ne2! e5 10.b4 Be7 [White went on to organise d4 and win.]

Intro: to start with, a few positions to understand the difference between a bad Bg5/Bg4, which is played *without a plan*, and some better Bg5/Bg4's:

(a) 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 d6 5.c3 Nf6 6.0-0 a6 7.Bg5? h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3

(b) Random line: Grunfeld

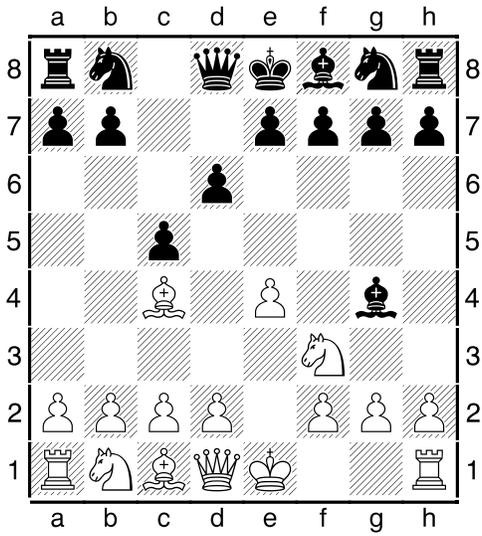
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 c5 8.Rb1 0-0 9.Qc2 cxd4 10.cxd4 Bg4!

(c) Fry – Cavezza (Brooking RR's)

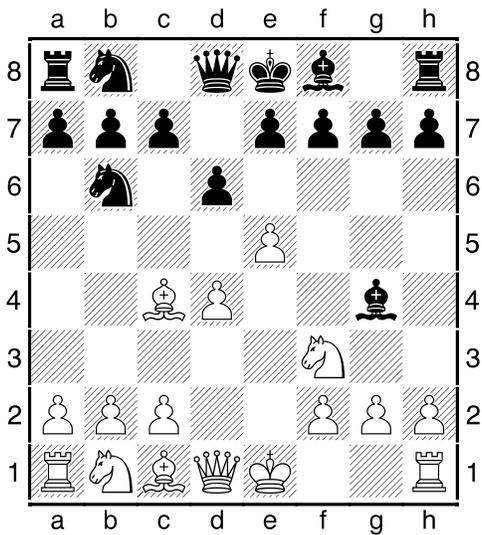
1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bd6 4.c4 Nf6 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 Re8 7.0-0 Bf8 8.Nc3 a5 9.e4 d6 10.d4 Bg4!

(d) Some lines in hyper-modern openings where black let's white have the centre then puts pressure on it, like the Pirc.

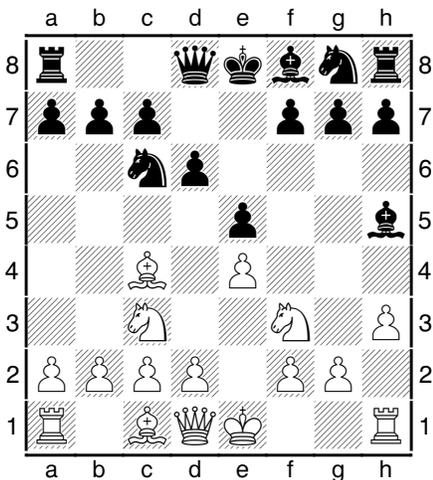
We'll come back to 2 strategic ways of taking advantage, but first let's look at some tactical ways:



1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 Bg4 5. Bc4 Nb6??



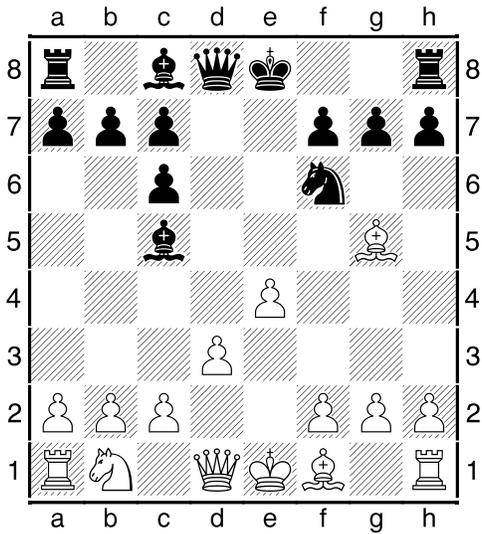
1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 d6 4. Nc3 Bg4 5. h3 Bh5



What happens if white tries the same without h3?

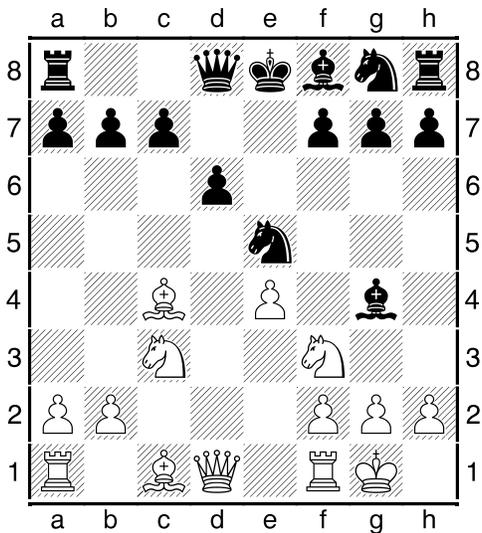
Petroff / Russian Defence:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 Nc6 4.Nxc6 dxc6 5.d3 Bc5 6.Bg5??



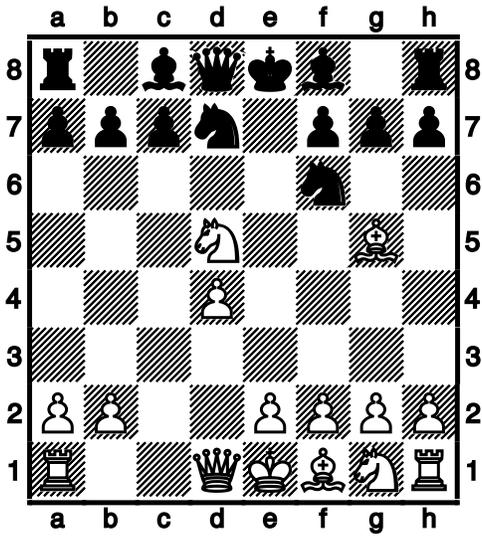
Goring Gambit: Enter New Game

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 d6 6.Bc4 Bg4 7.0-0!? [7.Qb3 Na5 8.Bxf7+ Ke7 9.Qa4 Kxf7 10.Ng5+ Kg6 11.f4] 7...Ne5??



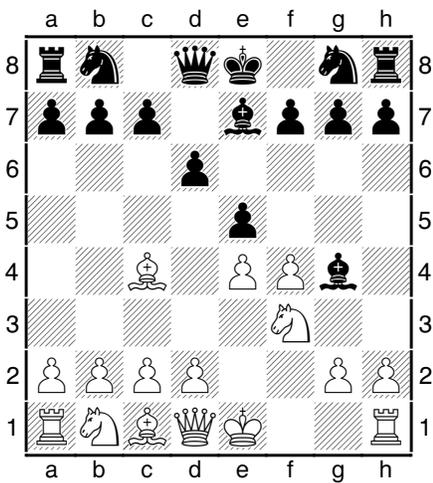
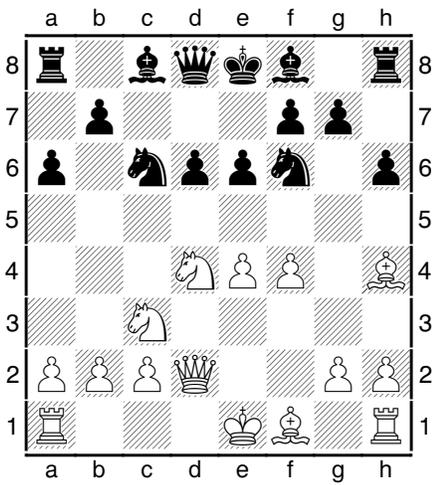
A famous one from the QGD:

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Nxd5??



Sicilian Defence:

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.f4 h6 9.Bh4??



1.e4 e5 2.f4 d6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Bc4 Be7

Strategic ways:

1. Knight maneuvers (these usually make sense when a King-Side attack is playable, at club level at least)

Semi-Slav:

(35) Kan, Ilia Abramovich - Romanovsky, Peter Arsenievich [D46]

URS-ch14 Moscow, 1945

[p. 56]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.e4 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5 10.Bg5 Qe7 11.d5 Rd8 12.Qe2 h6 13.Bh4 Nf8 14.Rad1 Ng6 15.Bg3 Nh5 16.Qc2 Bg4 17.dxc6 bxc6 18.Ne2 Bxf3 19.gxf3 Nf6 20.Qc1 Nh7 21.Rd3 h5 22.h3 Ng5 23.Kg2 h4 24.Bh2 Qf6 25.Rfd1 Kh7 26.Qe3 Bc7 27.Rxd8 Rxd8 28.Rxd8 Qxd8 29.Qxa7 Bb6 30.Qa3 Qd7 31.Ng1 Qd2 32.Ne2 Qe1 33.Bg1 Nxh3 34.Kxh3 Qf1+ 35.Kh2 Bxf2 36.f4 Nxf4 37.Qf3 Bg3+

0-1

Ruy Lopez:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.d3 Bg4? [9.d4!? Bg4!; 9.h3 Bb7 10.d4]

Bg4 is a poor move here. Why?

(a) It does nothing

(b) It helps white win tempi as they go about the normal Ruy Lopez plan:

Example line:

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.d3 [9.d4!? Bg4!; 9.h3 Bb7 10.d4]

9...Bg4? 10.h3 Bh5 [10...Bxf3 11.Qxf3 How should white play?]

11.Nbd2 Na5 12.Be2 c5 13.Nf1 Qc7 14.Ng3 Bg6 15.Nh4 Nc6 16.Ngf5 [Position is by no means "winning" for white, but white has good options (playing an ending with the Bishop pair, playing for a KS attack)]

16...Kh8 17.Nxg6+ fxxg6 18.Nxe7 Nxe7 19.d4 cxd4 20.cxd4 exd4 21.Bf4= [White's a pawn down but in an open position, has the Bishop pair, lots of weaknesses on the light squares, and black has some doubled, isolated pawns on open files to babysit.]

21...Rac8 22.Bb3 Nc6 23.Rc1 Qd7 24.a4 d5 25.axb5 axb5

And Finally, check out GM Igor Smirnov's lecture called "breaking chess stereotypes (part 1)". I'll quickly show you a game he studies in it: Winter – Capablanca from 1919:

(27637) Winter, William - Capablanca, Jose Raul [C49]

Hastings Victory Congress Hastings (5), 1919

[Commentary: *Some German Dude*]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bb5 Bb4 5.0-0 0-0 6.Bxc6 [The idea of this variation comes from Nimzowitsch, A. White intends, after d3, to prepare for the advance f4 as well as the opening of the f-file and the domination of the outpost f5–♖f5 and an attack on the king.]

6...dxc6 7.d3 Bd6 8.Bg5?! [This move does not fit in with the abovementioned plan by Nimzowitsch. The correct way to continue with White's plan would be: a) h2–h3 then g2–g4 and the queen's knight heads off to occupy the outpost on f5 (e.g. ♖c3–♗e2–♗g3–♗f5!) b) the white monarch usually goes to g2 (♠g1) or to h1 (♠g1). c) after this preparation White must carry out the thrust f2–f4 and then attack the king. d) very often the game takes on a positional character after the exchange

of several pieces.]

[18.h3]

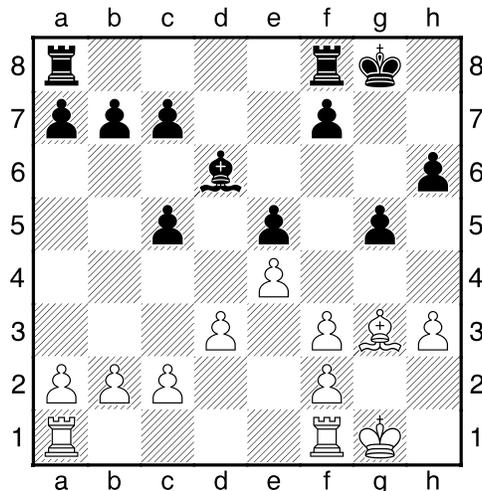
8...h6 9.Bh4 c5 [avoids d3–d4. Vermeidet d3–d4.]

10.Nd5? [10.Nd2= Then ♖c4–♗e3 Nebst ♖c4–♗e3]

10...g5! [Now White has fallen into the trap.]

11.Nxf6+ [11.Nxg5 Nxd5!→ costs a piece.]

11...Qxf6 12.Bg4 13.h3 Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Qxf3 15.gxf3 [



This is a very instructive classic position. White is practically playing a piece down. The g3–bishop is shut in and can only be freed by a pawn sacrifice (e.g. ♖g2, ♗h2, f4 and after ...ef4 White plays f3 and ♗g1), but that costs both time and material. Black's correct plan to realise his positional advantage is simple: attack on the queenside, where with his advantage in space and after a breakthrough to open up the queenside Black has an extra piece (♗d6).]

15...f6 16.Kg2 a5 [Δa4]

17.a4 [It is interesting to note that Black has a bad bishop (seven black pawns are on dark squares and he has a black-squared bishop!!!) but despite that the only possible way for White to save the game would be if the f2–pawn was not there.]

17...Kf7 18.Rh1 Ke6 [Centralisation.]

19.h4 Rfb8 [Black ignores the kingside, because White can achieve nothing there.]

20.hxg5 hxg5 [Opening the h-file doesn't help. The main theatre of operations is the queenside.]

21.b3 c6 [No unnecessary haste! Black calmly prepares the b5–thrust.]

[21...b5? 22.axb5 Rxb5 23.Ra4 Rb4 24.Rha1÷]

22.Ra2 b5 23.Rha1 c4! [The decisive thrust after which the d6–bishop can breathe.] **24.axb5** [24.dxc4 bxc4 25.bxc4 Rb4 And then ♗ab8, ♗c4 → Nebst ♗ab8, ♗c4 →] **24...cxb3 25.cxb3** [25.Rxa5? Rxa5 26.Rxa5 b2→] **25...Rxb5** [The ♗g3 and the ♖g2 are mere spectators, who can only watch the Black pieces conquering the queenside.] **26.Ra4 Rxb3 27.d4 Rb5 28.Rc4 Rb4 29.Rxc6 Rxd4** [A wonderful game on the theme of how to isolate a piece! (♗g3)]

0–1

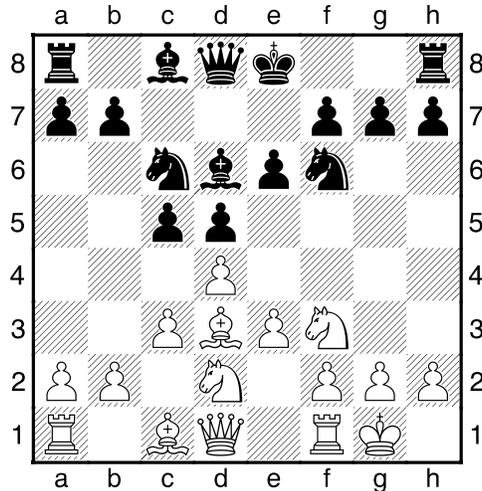
PART 2: Paul Kovacevic -V- Niru, Club Champs 2015:

(2) Kovacevic,P - Niru [D05]

04.03.2015

[The more concepts you have (the more ideas you know) the better of you are, or the more likely you are to play through good plans.Space advantages and swapping pieces.h3 threatening e5.Restricting our opponent's pieces.Reverse chess strategy. You can use general principles, or you can use specific knowledge of an opening setup. Usually you use a combination of both. Why it's useful to know lots of different opening setups.]

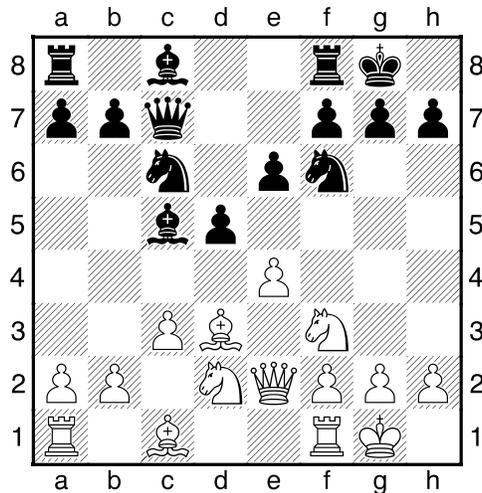
1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.0–0 [Diagram



7...Qc7 [Developing, but soon Black has to pick a setup for the c8 Bishop and show she understands how to make it part of the game.]

[7...0-0! 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 Qc7 10.Qe2 b6; 7...b6!; 7...c4?]

8.dxc5! Bxc5 9.e4 0-0 10.Qe2 [Diagram



]

10...a5? [Securing c5, but not dealing with the bigger issue or the c8 Bishop. It's always better to know specific plans than general ideas, even if they're good positional ideas.]

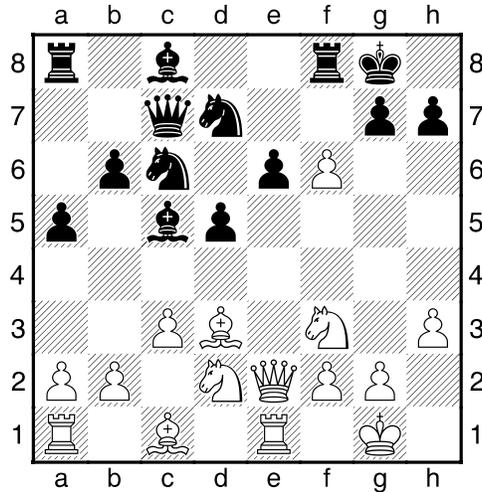
[10...e5!? 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Ne4 (12.Bxh7+ Kxh7 13.Ng5+ (13.Qe4+ Kg8 14.Qxd5 Bb6 15.Re1 Be6 16.Qe4 f6) 13...Kg8) 12...Be7 13.Bd2 f5 14.Bc4 Rd8 15.Ng3 e4 16.Ng5 h6 17.Nh3 Ne5 18.Bb3 Kh8 19.Nf4 Nxf4 20.Bxf4 Bd6 21.Rad1 Nd3 22.Bxd6 Rxd6 23.f3]

11.h3 [Telegraphing his intentions. Whenever someone plays h3 in a position like this they're usually preparing to kick the knight.]

11...b6 [11...e5?! 12.exd5 Nxd5]

12.e5 Nd7 13.Re1 [13.Bxh7+ Kxh7 14.Ng5+ Kg8 (14...Kg6 15.Qg4? (15.Qd3+ Kxg5 16.Nf3+ Kh5 17.Qh7#) 15...Ncxe5) 15.Qh5 Rd8 16.Qxf7+ Kh8 17.Qh5+ Kg8 18.Qh7+ Kf8 19.Qh8+ Ke7 20.Qxg7+ Ke8 21.Qf7#]

13...f6!? 14.exf6 [Diagram

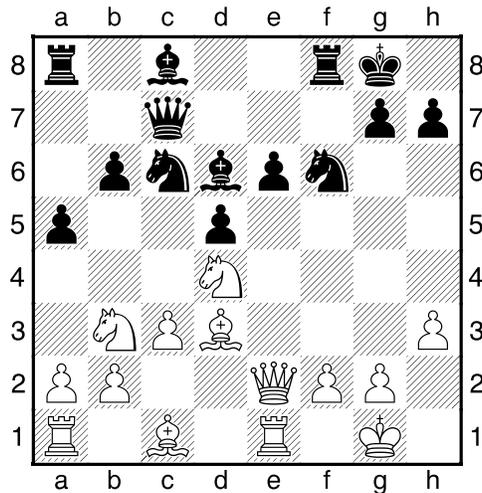


Typical idea in the French defence. Black can recapture 2 ways, which is best?]

14...Nxf6 [Most tempting, but not best, because it misses a key part of the position. After exf6, what is the new most important (positional) issue in the position? It's like a gambit has been thrown down- Black is going to try for e5.]

[14...gxf6? possible in the French 15.Qxe6+ Kh8 16.Qxd5 Nce5 17.Bc2 (17.Be2 Bb7 18.Qe6 Rg8 19.a3 Nxf3+ 20.Bxf3 Bxf2+ 21.Kxf2 Qg3+ 22.Kg1 Bxf3) 17...Bb7 18.Qb3 (18.Qe6 Nxf3+ 19.Nxf3 Bxf3 20.Qf5 (20.gxf3?? Qg3+ 21.Kh1 Qxf3+ 22.Kh2 Rg8)) 18...Bxf3 19.Nxf3 Nxf3+ 20.gxf3 Qg3+ 21.Kh1 Qxh3+ 22.Kg1 Rg8+; 14...Rxf6; 14...Ra7]

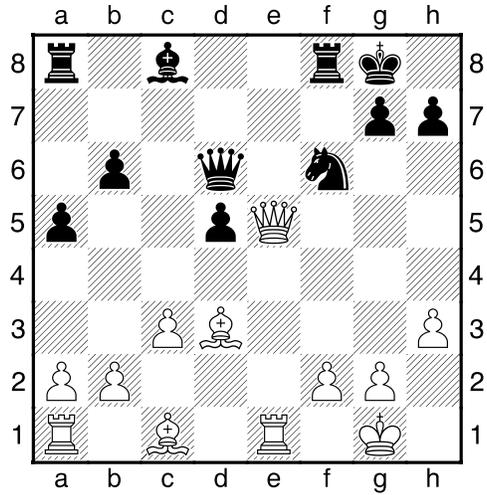
15.Nb3 Bd6 16.Nfd4 [Diagram



If Black had a choice, they really wouldn't want to swap knights. Why?]

16...Nxd4 [16...Ne7 17.Nxe6 Bxe6 18.Qxe6+ Kh8 19.Nd4; 16...e5! Inhibiting our opponent's pieces.]

17.Nxd4 e5 18.Nb5 Qc6 19.Nxd6 Qxd6 20.Qxe5 [Diagram



Position is lost. Black might try Ra7–f7]

20...Qc6 21.Be3 Bb7 [21...Ra7 22.Bd4 Raf7 23.b4! (23.f3)]

22.Bd4 Rae8 23.Qg5 Rd8 24.Re7 [24.Bxh7+ Kxh7 25.Re7 Rg8]

24...Rd7 [24...Rf7 25.Bxf6 (25.Rae1 Rdf8 26.R1e6) 25...Qxf6 26.Qxf6 gxf6 27.Rae1 d4]

1–0