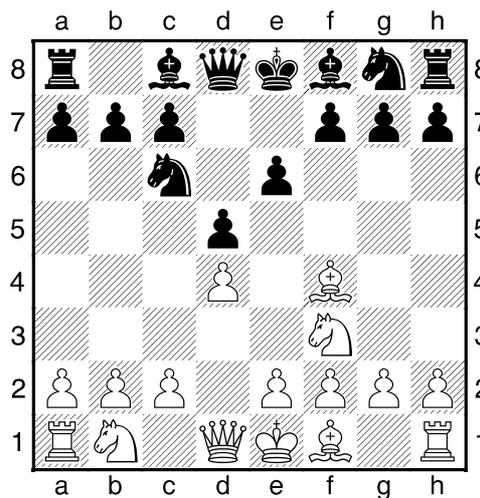


Richard Snow - Patrick Hau
2014 Australian Championship: Challengers

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e6?! [Is this a good move? What good things does it do? What bad things does it do? Was it NECESSARY? In the opening we say "knights before...". Finally, suggest a more principled move.]

3.Nf3! Nc6? [Diagram



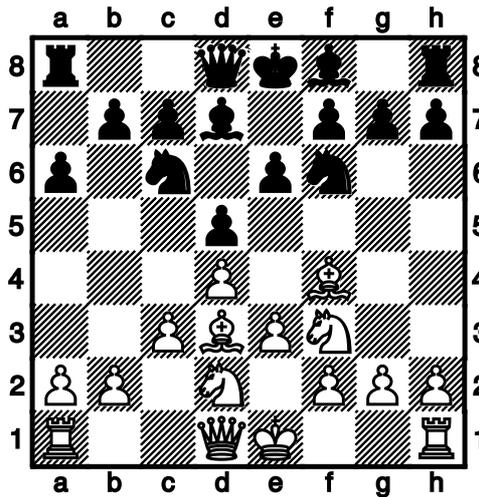
What "pawn break" has been blocked? Why would black want to play the move c5? Is it easy for black to play e5? Black should be worse after this move, try to explain why (in detail)– think about central control.]

4.c3 [This is not a bad move, however, ask yourself this question: What is white's goal in the opening? He has two main pawn moves he would like to play, can you name them? What is a more principled move? Why?]

4...Nf6 5.e3 [If white wants to try to play e4 in one go, how could he achieve this?]

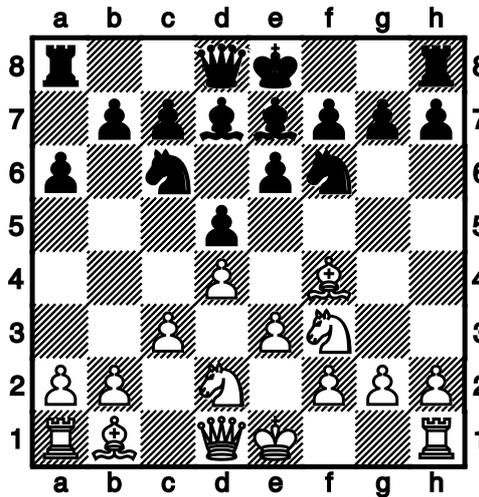
5...a6 [When our opponent wastes time, what should we think about doing?]

6.Nbd2! Bd7 7.Bd3! Be7



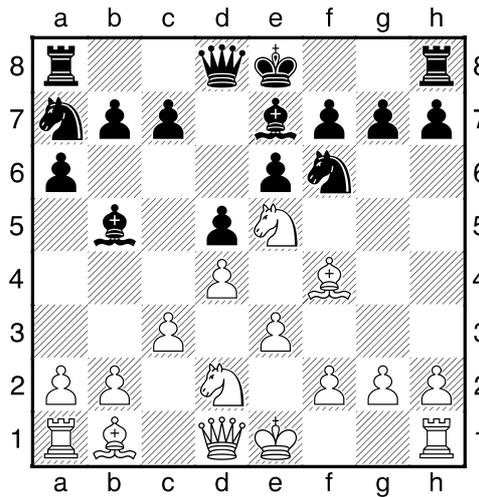
8. **Bb1**?? [Why? This move disconnects the back rank, making the a1 rook more vulnerable to tactics. More importantly though, it is not part of a PLAN for white. White's plan MUST revolve around playing e4 or c4, and taking control of the centre. This is our short term goal, and we don't have to understand what will happen after it. We simply look at the position, say to ourselves: "black has wasted some time with a6, his bishops are passively placed on e7 and d7, his knight is blocking an important break (c5)– I should now open or take over the centre." Suggest 3 candidate moves for white.]

8... **Na7**



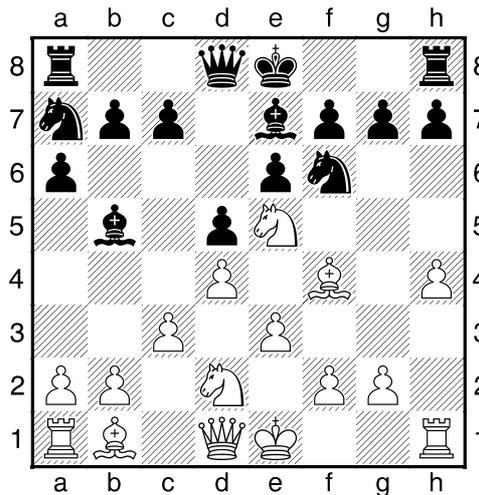
9. **Ne5** [A fine move, however I would prefer to see e4, or 0-0, preparing e4 with a bit more king safety.]

9... **Bb5** [Diagram



What problem has black just given white? How can white (a) solve this problem, and (b) gain space on the Queenside?]

10.h4?? [Diagram



Can white castle on the king-side now? Can white castle on the queenside?]

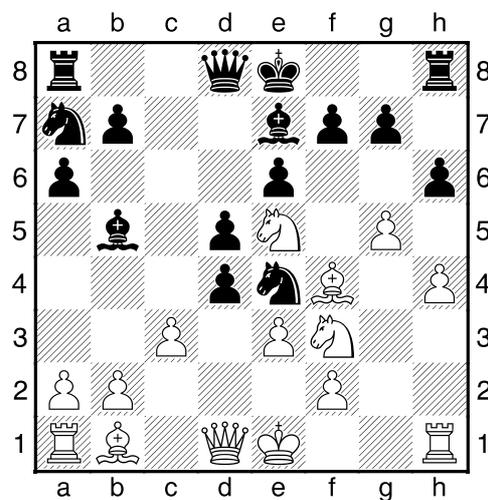
10...c5! [Even though black hasn't castled, and his a7 knight is misplaced, challenging and potentially opening the centre isn't a bad thing, because white is not "better developed." Discuss: (a) What are the differences in an open position and a closed position? (b) Finish the following saying "An attack on the flank is met by...."(c) In a CLOSED POSITION, out of 10, rate the value of the following pieces: the black knight on a7, the white king on e1, the white bishop on b1. (d) in an OPEN POSITION, rate the value of the same pieces.]

11.Nd3 [11.a4 Still possible, however white can't really castle king-side now, even if the bishop moves.]

11...h6 [What colour squares around the king just got weaker? Can you suggest a sacrifice white should keep in mind for the future, given the new weakness of the light squares?]

12.g4 cxd4!! [Excellent move. An attack on the flank, is, on principle, met by opening up the centre. If the centre is open, it is far harder for an attack on the flank to succeed, because your opponent's pieces are free to both attack and defend.]

13.g5 Ne4 [Diagram

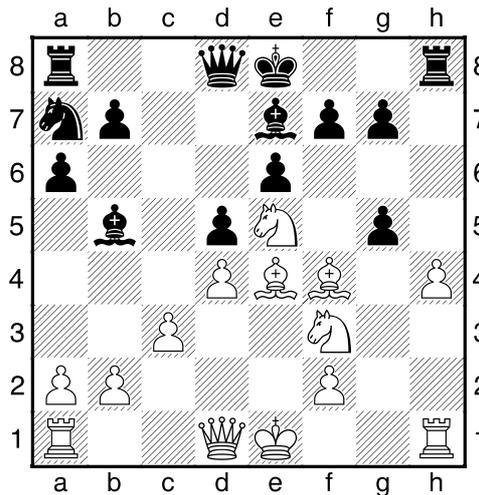


White has a fantastic move here based on the weakening move h6! Very instructive.]

[13...dxc3 14.gxf6 cxb2 15.Bc2 bxa1Q 16.Qxa1 gxf6]

14.exd4 [14.Nxf7!! Kxf7 15.Ne5+ Kg8 16.Qg4 Qc8 17.gxh6 Rh7; 14.g6!! fxg6 Black's position is totally smashed. What happens to the e6, g6, f7 squares? What move caused all this trouble? 15.Nxd4 Qc8 16.Qg4 0-0 17.Rg1]

14...hxg5 15.Bxe4?? [Diagram

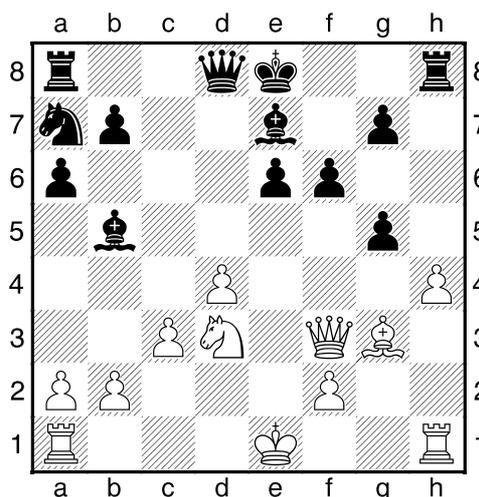


A tactical mistake. (Very instructive– a badly developed back rank is vulnerable to tactics). Why is this a mistake?]

15...dxe4 16.Bg3 [16.Nxg5 Bxg5 17.Bxg5 Qxg5 18.hxg5 Rxh1+ 19.Kd2 Rxd1+]

16...exf3 17.Qxf3 f6 [White would like to complicate the position with Ng6, however it runs into the same tactical problem his 15th move did. After Rh6, he will have 2 threats to deal with, of which he can only resolve one.]

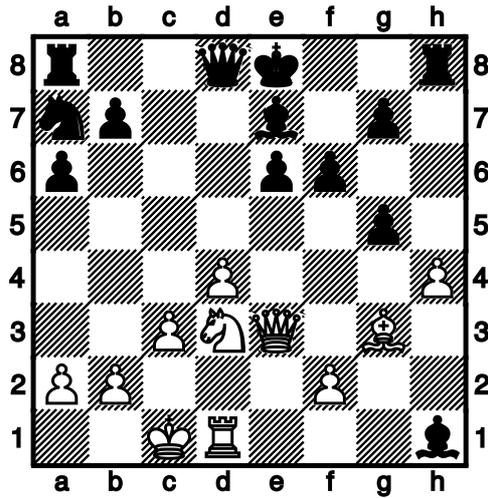
18.Nd3 [Diagram



White is worse and should try to complicate the position with Ng6]

18...Bc6! [What is the name of this tactic?]

19.Qe3 Bxh1 20.0–0–0 Bd5



21. **Kb1?** [White must now play for tricks– try to complicate the position. How can you open up black's king position a bit more?]

21... **gxh4** 22. **Bh2 Kf7** [Suggest a knight move white can try, to keep things messy.]