

1 e4 e5
 2 Nf3 Nc6
 3 Bb5 a6
 4 Ba4 Nf6
 5 O-O

The immediate 5 Qe2 can be well answered by 5 ... b5 6 Bb3 Bc5 when it will be difficult for White to ever get a pawn advance to d4 in.

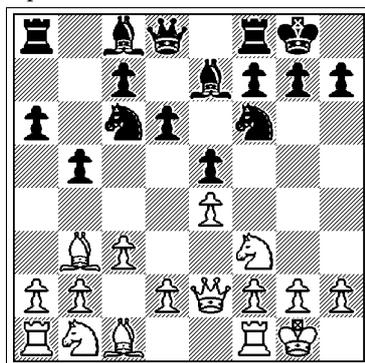
5 ... Be7
 6 Qe2

The Worrall Attack, in which the queen is played to e2 only after Black has committed his bishop to the e7 square.

6 ... b5
 7 Bb3 O-O
 8 c3 d6

This is the solid line. Black also has the aggressive 8 ... d5 when White has two choices:

- a) Accept the pawn offer with 9 exd5 Nxd5 10 Nxe5 as in the OTB game Galdunts v Geller, Moscow 1989 which continued 10 ... Nxe5 11 Qxe5 Bb7 12 d4 Qd7 13 Bc2 f5 14 Re1 Rae8 15 Qe6+ Qxe6 16 Rxe6 Bg5! when Black had good compensation for the pawn
- b) The solid 9 d3 when Camilleri v Read, European Team Championship 1994/95 went on 9 ... Re8 10 Re1 Bb7 11 Nbd2 Qd7 12 Nf1 h6 13 Ng3 Rad8 14 Nf5 Bf8 and Black was putting pressure on the central files.



(position after 8 ... d6)

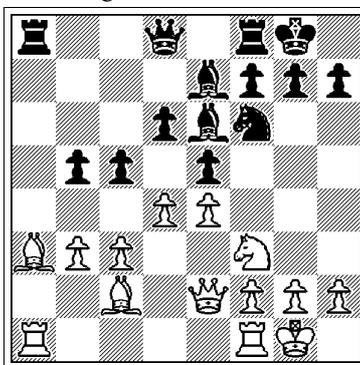
9 a4 Na5
 10 Bc2 Be6
 11 axb5 axb5
 12 Na3

A new move. Previous theory ran 12 d4 Bc4 13 Bd3 Bxd3 14 Qxd3 Nc4 15 Rxa8 Qxa8 16 b3 Qa2! when Black is completely equal. It is clear that to have any chances of playing for a

win, White would need to improve on that line at some point.

12 ... Nc4
 13 b3 Nxa3
 14 Bxa3 c5
 15 d4?

White's best is to accept that his new 12th move has failed to produce his desired play, and accept equality after 15 Qxb5 Rb8 16 Qe2 Bxb3 17 d4. Note that in this line he cannot try to hold on to the pawn with (15 Qxb5 Rb8) 16 Qa4? as 16 ... Bd7 17 Qa7 Bc6 (threatening to win the queen with 18 ... Ra8) forces White to surrender the exchange with 18 Qa6 Bb5.



(position after 15 d4)

15 ... Qc7?

Black has calculated that White would have good play for his pawn after 15 ... b4 16 d5 bxa3 17 dxe6 fxe6 18 Rfd1 Qc8 19 Ra2. For instance 19 ... Qa6 20 Bd3 Qb7 21 Ng5! or 19 ... Ra7 20 Rda1 Qa8 21 Nd2 with 22 Nc4 to follow, are both fine for him.

What Black missed was that after (15 ... b4 16 d5 bxa3 17 dxe6 fxe6 18 Rfd1) 18 ... Qa5!, White does not get enough compensation for his pawn, and the exchange sacrifice 19 Qc4 d5 20 exd5 exd5 21 Rxd5 Nxd5 22 Qxd5+ is clearly insufficient.

Therefore after 15 ... b4!, White has nothing better than 16 cxb4 when Black would reply 16 ... cxd4 and his central advantage would give him the edge.

16 dxe5 dxe5
 17 c4!

Opening up the a1-h8 diagonal for his bishop.

17 ... bxc4
 18 bxc4 Nh5!

The exclamation mark is not so much for this, rather obvious, move in

particular but for the plan it instigates and the next few moves continue.

White will obviously prevent Black from posting his knight on f4, but Black is actually aiming it at the d4 square where it will negate the effect of the bishop which White is about to transfer to b2.

19 g3 Bg4

Pinning the knight is, of course, a good idea, but the real point of this move is to free up the e6 square.

20 Bb2 g6!

The point of the play begun on move 18. The knight will go to d4 via g7 and e6, and it will arrive before White can create any meaningful threats against the pawn at e5.

21 Qe3 Bxf3
 22 Qxf3 Ng7
 23 Rxa8 Rxa8
 24 Qc3 f6
 25 f4 Ne6
 26 fe5 Nd4

In the nick of time, the knight arrives at it's destination. The threat of 27 ... Ne2+ gains the necessary tempo for Black to recapture at e5, and the fact that d4 is such a fine outpost ensures that the advantage of the two bishops, which White has, is only a symbolic one.

27 Qd3 fx5
 28 Bxd4

Acquiescing to the draw.

28 ... exd4
 29 Qf3 Rf8
 30 Qg4 Qe5
 31 Rxf8+ Bxf8
 32 Bd3 Draw agreed