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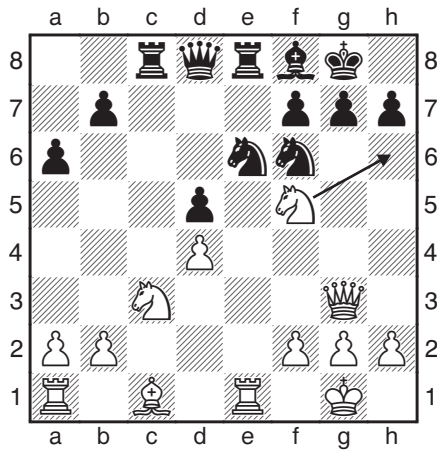
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WINNING MATERIAL WITH ♞h6+

This terrific attacking set-up features *a white queen on g3 and a white knight on f5*. Among other possibilities, you can often win pieces or pawns with *a knight check on the h6-square*.

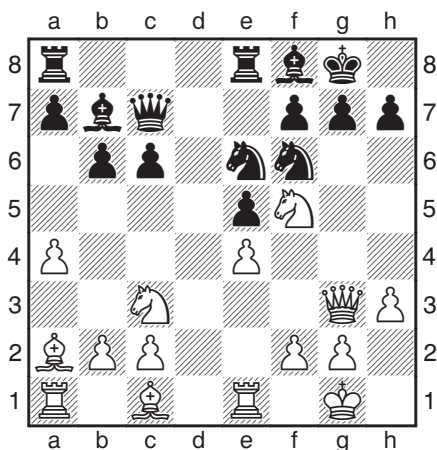


31a) White moves

D.Vinckier-Ann.Busch
French Women's League 2011

The classic trap. White wins the black queen with a knight fork – in just three moves.

1 ♞h6+ Black resigns. The knight can't be taken as the white queen *pins* the g7-pawn against the black king. 1...♔h8 allows 2 ♞xf7+ ♔g8 3 ♞xd8.



31b) White moves

Belikov-Kalegin, Alushta 2007

Here a Russian grandmaster cleverly wins a pawn. Can you work out how?

1 ♞h6+ ♔h8 2 ♚xe5! (very neat – if 2...♚xe5, then 3 ♞xf7+ ♔g8 4 ♞xe5, or worse 2...♚d6 3 ♚xd6!) **2...gxh6 3 ♚xf6+** and White is a pawn up with a great position.

THE h6 EXCHANGE WIN

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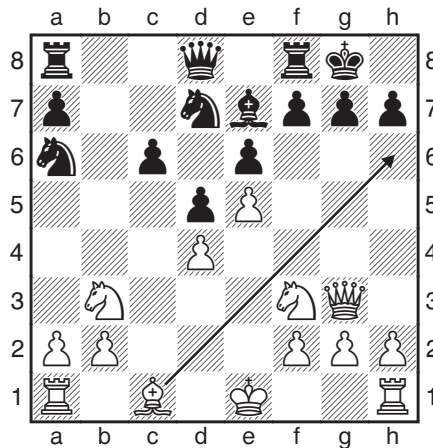
We have already learnt about the phrase ‘winning the exchange’ in Puzzle 27. In this standard theme, White wins a rook (worth five pawns) for a bishop (worth three pawns) – a profitable trade.

32a) White moves

A.Kovaliov-Dmitrenko, Alushta 2003

Moving the bishop to h6 is a standard exchange-winning motif.

1 ♖h6 g6 What else can Black do? Mate in one with ♜xg7 was threatened. **2 ♖xf8** White goes rook for bishop ahead, whichever way Black recaptures on f8.

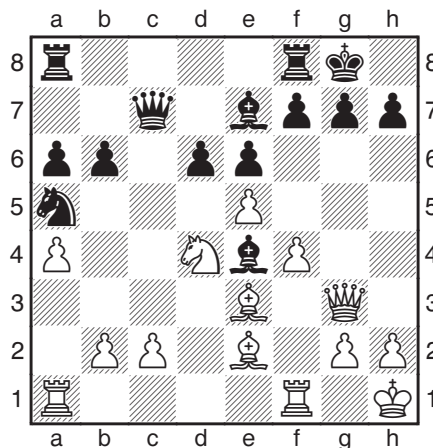


32b) White moves

W.Salamon-A.Jirovec
Austrian League 2007/8

A complex example. Can you see how to attack Black’s ‘Sicilian’ formation?

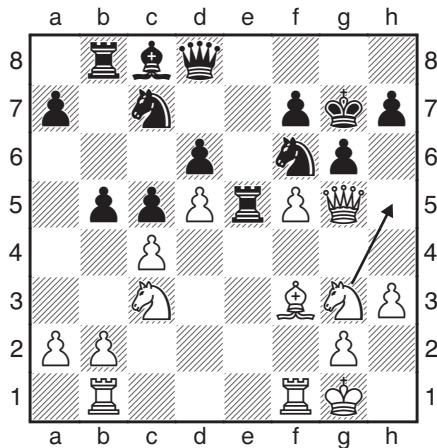
1 f5! exf5 (if 1...dxe5, then 2 f6! ♖xf6 3 ♜xf6 or 1...♔h8 2 fxe6 dxe5 3 ♜xf7) **2 ♖h6 g6** **3 ♖xf8** White’s aggressive kingside play has won rook for bishop.



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THE USEFUL ♞h5+ TRICK

This double-pin motif is a superb weapon to have in your arsenal of tricks. The pattern can arise in quite a number of different opening variations too.

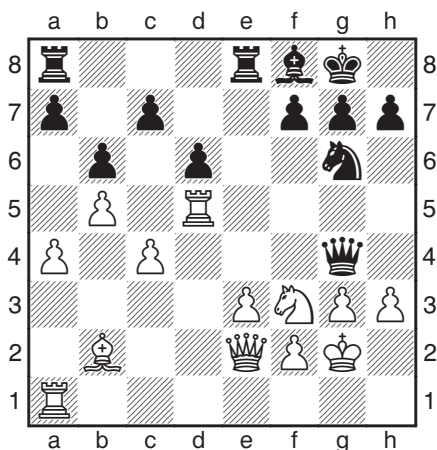


33a) White moves

Strenzke-W.Klotzki, Bargteheide 1989

Two points to note: the black queen is *undefended* and the black g6-pawn is *pinned*.

1 ♞h5+! Black resigns. White's check wins the black knight on f6, as the black king must retreat. Instead 1...♞xh5 loses the black queen to 2 ♖xd8.



33b) Black moves

Man.Pohl-F.Mietner, Füssen 1993

White has just played 1 h3, threatening the black queen. Why was this a bad idea?

1...♞h4+! 2 ♖f1 (the white queen on e2 is undefended, meaning Black wins after 2 ♞xh4 ♖xe2) **2...♖xf3** Black wins a knight since 3 gxh4 ♖h1 is mate.

ANOTHER USEFUL h5+ TRICK

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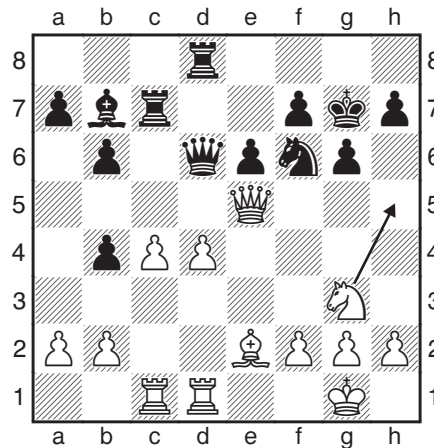
In this theme the white queen is on the *e5-square* – where it *pins* the black knight. So after White plays $\text{N}h5+$, Black must capture with his pawn. This exposes the black king to a queen check on the *g5-square*.

34a) White moves

S.Darr-Womacka, Germany (teams) 2007/8

Black's knight is pinned against his king. This enables White to 'swap' knights in style.

1 $\text{N}h5+$! $\text{g}xh5$ **2** $\text{Q}g5+$ $\text{K}f8$ **3** $\text{Q}xf6$
 White's smart little sequence has left Black's kingside pawns a wreck. Shortly White will capture the h5-pawn for free.



34b) White moves

Belikov-Lutsko, Voronezh 1997

How did White gain a huge attack – even with his rook on g5 threatened?

1 $\text{N}f4$! (1 $\text{N}g3$! is based on the same idea) **1...hxc5** **2** $\text{N}h5+$! $\text{K}h6$ (2... $\text{g}xh5$ 3 $\text{Q}xg5+$ $\text{K}h8$ 4 $\text{Q}xf6+$ leads to a quick mate) **3** $\text{N}xf6$ Black is in big trouble; e.g., 3... $\text{K}c6$ 4 $\text{N}g4+$ $\text{K}h7$ 5 $\text{Q}xg5$!.

