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2 7 ♖xf6

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗f6 4 ♙g5
 ♗bd7 5 ♗f3 c6 6 e3 ♖a5 7 ♙xf6

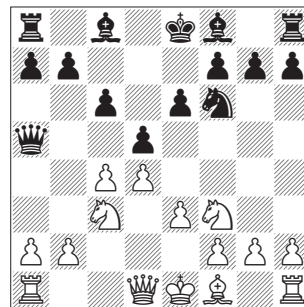
This straightforward exchange is the simplest way for White to counter ...♖a5 and avoid being threatened by an attack on the g5-bishop. Indeed, White can now calmly develop his pieces, while Black still has some problems with his light-squared bishop. The pin on the c3-knight is not yet a serious threat. Black has only one knight, so the manoeuvre ...♗b6-a4 is not available to him. Unfortunately, a disadvantage of this move is the loss of the bishop-pair. This, without a doubt, solves the immediate problems caused by 6...♖a5, but not in the longer run. In general, Black does not have any problems maintaining equality.

7...♗xf6 (D)

After 7...gxf6 8 a3 (8 cxd5 cxd5 9 ♙d3, Kieseritzki-Rubinstein, Barmen 1905, 9...♙b4!? ♁) 8...dxc4 9 ♙xc4 ♖h5 (9...♗g8!?) 10 ♙e2 ♖h6 11 g3 ♙e7 12 ♖c2 b6 (Hodges-Em.Lasker, New York 1892) 13 ♗d1 White has an advantage.

It is worth making a few general comments about Black's possible ideas after 7...♗xf6. He has a number of good plans: the first idea is ...♗e4 (especially after 8 c5 and 8 a3). Another important plan for Black is to play ...♙d6 intending ...e5 or ...dxc4 followed by ...e5 (best after 8 ♖b3, 8 ♖c2 and 8 ♗d2), all the more that there is always a threat of opening the position

W



by Black (an aggressive bishop-pair). The third plan is ...♙b4, when the play often transposes to other variations. Worth mentioning is Line F32, which is a combination of ...♙b4 and ...b6. The position of the d2-knight (making ♗e5 impossible) offers Black easy equality. Nowadays, this variation is a very rare guest in tournament practice.

Now we discuss:

A:	8 c5	21
B:	8 ♖b3	22
C:	8 ♖c2	23
D:	8 a3	24
E:	8 ♙d3	25
F:	8 ♗d2	30

Other moves are less popular:

a) 8 ♖a4? ♖xa4 9 ♗xa4 dxc4 10 ♗c3 (10 ♗e5 b5 11 ♗c5 {11 ♗c3 ♙b7 ♢} 11...♙xc5 12 dxc5 ♗d7 13 ♗xd7 ♙xd7 and White has no compensation for the pawn) 10...b5 11 ♙e2 (11 ♗e5 ♙b7 12 ♙e2 {12 a3 a6 13 0-0-0 c5 --} 12...a6 13 a4 ♗d5 ♢) 11...♙b7 12 0-0

(12 ♗d2 ♖b8 13 ♕f3 c5 ♞) 12...a6 13 a4 ♕d6 and Black is a pawn up.

b) 8 ♕e2 and then:

b1) 8...dxc4 9 ♕xc4 – 8 ♕d3 dxc4 9 ♕xc4.

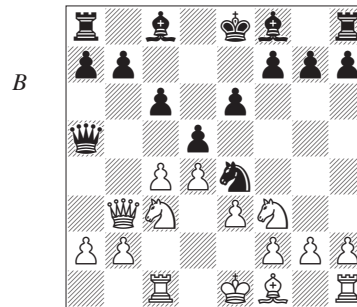
b2) 8...♗e4 9 ♖b3!? (9 ♗c1?! ♗xc3 10 bxc3, Wegerer-Raffalt, Graz 1993, 10...♖xa2 11 0-0 dxc4 12 ♗a1 ♖b3 13 ♖d2 ♖b6 14 ♕xc4 ♞; White does not have full compensation for the pawn) 9...♕d6 10 0-0 ♗xc3 11 bxc3 0-0 12 c5 ♕c7 13 c4 b6 14 cxd5 exd5 15 ♗fc1 ♕d7 =.

b3) 8...♕b4 9 ♖b3 (9 ♖c2 ♗e4 10 0-0 {10 ♗c1 ♖xa2 ♞ Mündle-Shadick, Novi Sad OL 1990} 10...♕xc3 11 bxc3 ♖xc3 12 ♖b1 ♖a5 and Black is a pawn up) 9...dxc4 10 ♕xc4 (10 ♖xc4 0-0 11 0-0 ♗d8 12 a3 ♕d6 =) 10...♗e4 11 ♗c1 ♗xc3 12 bxc3 ♕d6 13 ♗d1 0-0 14 e4 b5 15 ♕d3 e5 16 dxe5 ♕e6 (16...♕c5 17 0-0 ♕e6 18 c4 ♗ad8 with compensation) 17 ♖c2 and now both 17...♕c7 and 17...♕c5!?, intending to continue ...♕g4, give Black good compensation for the pawn.

c) 8 cxd5 exd5 transposes to Line C3 of Chapter 3.

d) 8 ♗c1 ♗e4 (8...♕b4 9 ♖b3 {9 a3 ♕xc3+ 10 bxc3 ♖xa3 ♞ Leenhouts-Najditsch, Rimavska Sobota U-12 Ech 1996} 9...b5 10 cxb5 cxb5, Müller-Mallow, Goch 1995, 11 a3 ♕xc3+ 12 ♖xc3 ♖xc3+ 13 ♗xc3 ♕d7 14 ♕d3 ±/±) 9 ♖b3 (D) (9 ♖c2 ♗xc3 10 bxc3 b6 11 ♕d3 ♕a6 12 ♗d2 f5 13 0-0 ♕a3 =) and here:

d1) 9...♕e7 10 a3 (the alternative 10 ♕d3 ♗xc3 11 bxc3 dxc4 12 ♕xc4 0-0 13 0-0 gives White a minimal advantage, Klevenow-Uhlemann, Bundesliga wom 1993/4) 10...♖b8 11 ♕d3 dxc4 12 ♖xc4 ♗f6 (12...♗xc3 13 ♖xc3



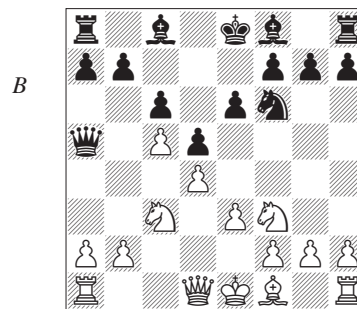
B

±) 13 ♖a4 ♖xa4 14 ♗xa4 is slightly better for White.

d2) 9...♗xc3 10 bxc3 ♕d6 (after 10...♖a3 11 ♖b1 ♖xb3 12 axb3 ♕e7 13 ♕d3 Black has a cramped position but no weaknesses; White is only slightly better, Pollok-Hermann, Bargteheide 1988) 11 ♕d3 b6 12 e4 (12 cxd5 exd5 13 0-0 ♕g4 {13...♕e6!?!}) 14 c4 ♕xf3 15 gxf3 dxc4 16 ♖xc4 ♕xh2+ with a perpetual check) 12...♕f4 13 ♖b1 dxe4 14 ♕xe4 ♕d7 15 0-0 0-0 with an equal position.

A)

8 c5 (D)



B

This space-gaining move is rarely a good idea in the Queen's Gambit, but