

Contents

Symbols	4
Introduction	5
1 e4 c5 Miscellaneous	8
Closed Sicilian: 2 ♘c3	14
Alapin System: 2 c3	20
2 ♘f3 Miscellaneous	30
2 ♘f3 e6 Miscellaneous	34
Kan System	38
Taimanov System	44
2...♘c6 3 ♘c3 e5	59
Rossolimo Variation: 2...♘c6 3 ♗b5	65
Sveshnikov System	73
Accelerated Dragon	77
2 ♘f3 d6 Miscellaneous	82
2 ♘f3 d6 3 ♗b5+	91
Dragon System: Miscellaneous	99
Classical Dragon: 6 ♗e2	105
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 7...a6	113
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 9 g4	117
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 9 0-0-0 ♘xd4	122
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 9 0-0-0 d5	124
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 9...d5 10 ♖e1	128
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 9...d5 10 exd5	132
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 12...e5 13 ♗c5	136
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: ♗c4 Miscellaneous	142
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: ...♗d7 and ...♖a5	150
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: Soltis Variation	156
Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 10 0-0-0	161
Sozin Attack: Miscellaneous	168
Scheveningen: 6 ♗c4 ♗e7	176
Fischer Attack: Early ...♗e7	179
Fischer Attack: 7 ♗b3 ♘bd7	187
Fischer Attack: 7 ♗b3 b5	196
Fischer Attack: 7 ♗b3 ♘c6	213
Velimirović Attack	227
Index of Variations	236

34 ♖e2! ♜xf3 35 c4 would have been a better try.

34...♙e5 35 ♜a5 ♙g7 36 ♖d2 ♖c4+

Maybe 36...♙f8! is a better move.

37 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 38 ♖e2 ♙f8! 39 f4 a3

It's not at all easy for Black to win this position, but now White just blunders a pawn.

40 ♖c1?? ♜xf4 41 ♖d3 ♜g4 42 ♖e2 ♙e7

43 ♜a7 ♖f8 44 ♜a8+ ♖g7 45 ♜a7 ♜xg5 46 ♜xe7 ♜a5 47 ♖b4 a2 48 ♖xa2 ♜xa2+ 49 ♖d3 ♖f6 50 ♜e8 ♖e5 51 ♜b8 g5 52 ♖e3 f5 53 ♜b5+ ♖f6 54 c4 g4 55 c5 ♜a3+ 56 ♖d4 ♜a4+ 57 ♖d3 ♖e5 58 ♜b6 ♜d4+ 59 ♖c3 ♜d1 60 ♖c2 g3! 0-1

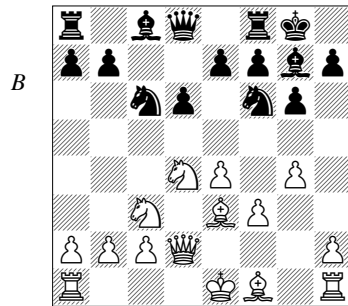
Not a perfect game for one's 45th birthday, but a win is still a win.

Dragon Yugoslav Attack: 9 g4

Game 58 Balcerak – Golubev Senden 1996

1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♖xd4 ♖f6 5 ♖c3 g6 6 ♙e3 ♙g7 7 f3 ♖c6 8 ♜d2 0-0 9 g4!? (D)

While significantly less popular than 9 0-0-0 and 9 ♙c4, this continuation has nevertheless remained important since 1982, when Karpov used it to defeat Miles and Mestel. And lately White has been doing quite well here theoretically. Thus White has three dangerous continuations on his 9th move.



9...h5

The main lines are connected with 9...♙e6 (or the capture on d4 first) – see Games 59 and 60 – and the sidelines are mostly dubious for Black:

a) The immediate 9...d5?! is refuted by 10 g5!, which is the main idea behind 9 g4.

b) The move 9...e6?!, which was successfully introduced in Kochiev-Miles, World Junior Ch, Manila 1974, is also insufficient against best play, I am afraid.

c) After 9...♙xg4?! 10 fxg4 ♖xg4 White has 11 ♖b3! (11 ♙g1 e6! is less clear) with an advantage. For example, 11...a5 12 a4 ♖xe3 (12...d5 does not solve all Black's problems either) 13 ♜xe3 ♖b4 14 0-0-0 ♜c8 15 ♖b1! ♙xc3 16 bxc3 ♜c7 17 ♖b2, etc.

d) One catastrophic game for Black went 9...e5?! 10 ♖b3 (wrong is 10 ♖db5? a6! 11 ♖xd6 ♖d4, but 10 ♖de2 and 10 ♖xc6 bxc6 11 g5! followed by 0-0-0, as in Wang Hao-Salem, Abu Dhabi 2014, are also unpleasant for Black) 10...a5 11 ♙b5 a4?! (just forgetting that the main line here is 11...♙e6, when the standard 12 0-0-0 can be met by 12...a4!?, but 12 g5!? may be better) 12 ♖xa4! d5?! 13 ♖b6 ♙xg4 14 fxg4 ♖xe4 15 ♜g2! +- Zinchenko-Golubev, Alushta 2006.

10 h3

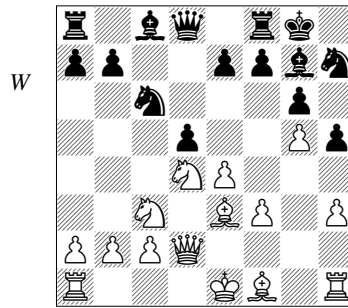
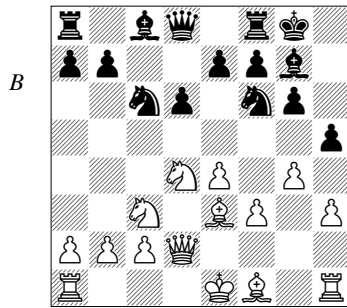
This is a principled move. But also critical is 10 g5?! ♖xh5 11 0-0-0, which is probably slightly better for White but may be playable for Black: 11...♜a5 (11...♖xd4 12 ♙xd4 ♙xd4 13 ♜xd4 ♙e6 is unpleasantly met by 14 ♜d2 ♜a5 15 f4!, as in Iliushenok-Arribas Lopez, Moscow 2016) 12 ♜g1 (or 12 ♖b3?! ♙xc3 13 ♖xa5 ♙xd2+ 14 ♙xd2 with a certain plus in the endgame) 12...♖xd4 13 ♙xd4 ♙xd4 14 ♜xd4 ♙e6 15 h4 ♜ac8 16 ♜g5 ♜c5 17 ♜xc5 dxc5! 18 ♜e5 ♜b6 and if 19 ♖a4 ♜a5, Black is alive.

We now return to 10 h3 (D):

10...d5!?

This novelty of mine was later called 'Golubev's Gambit' in *New in Chess Yearbook*. The idea is that now after g5 the black knight can retreat to h7, attacking the g5-pawn.

After 10...♖xd4 11 ♙xd4 Black's position is worrying: 11...♜a5 12 0-0-0 ♙e6 13 ♖b1 (White can also try to do without this move: 13



a3 ♖fc8 and now 14 f4!? rather than 14 ♖g1 hxg4! 15 hxg4 ♖ab8 16 ♖h1 b5!, transposing to a position known to theory which is acceptable for Black) 13...♗fc8 14 a3 ♖ab8 15 ♕xf6!? exf6 (Dolmatov-Dorfman, Tashkent 1983) 16 ♗b5!? ♗xd2 17 ♖xd2 a6! 18 ♗d4 ♕h6 with a better ending for White, though Black may hope for a draw.

11 g5

Next year I surprised another player with the same idea. Kovchan-Golubev, Ukrainian Open Ch, Alushta 1997 continued 11 ♗xc6!? bxc6 12 e5 (after 12 0-0-0, a line I disliked for a while, Black can play 12...♗c7! with a complicated fight) 12...♗d7 13 f4 (13 0-0-0 only gives Black additional options: 13...♗xe5!? 14 f4 ♕xg4! 15 hxg4 ♗xg4 with the idea 16 ♕d4 e5!) 13...h4! 14 0-0-0 ♗a5!? 15 ♗e1! (threatening ♗xd5) 15...♖e8! 16 ♗xh4 (16 b3!? or 16 ♗b1!? may be more critical) 16...♖b8 with a complex position. White blundered two moves later: 17 a3 (17 ♗e1!? g5!?) 17...♕a6!? 18 ♗g5?? ♖xb2 →.

11 gxh5 ♗xh5 12 exd5 apparently does not refute Black's idea: 12...♗b4 (12...♗g3!? Ceteras) 13 ♕c4 (13 0-0-0 ♗g3!) 13...e5! (now White can't retreat the knight due to ...♗h4+) 14 dxe6 ♕xd4 15 0-0-0 (15 ♕xd4? ♗xd4!; 15 exf7+ ♗h7 16 0-0-0 ♕xe3 17 ♗xe3 ♗c7!?) 15...♕xe3 16 ♗xe3 ♗b6!.

11...♗h7 (D)

12 0-0-0

12 exd5 ♗xd4 13 ♕xd4 ♗xg5! 14 ♕g2 ♕xd4 (or 14...♗e6!? 15 ♕xg7 ♗xg7) 15 ♗xd4 ♗e6! is also playable for Black.

12 ♗xc6 bxc6 13 0-0-0 ♖b8!? gives Black strong counterplay.

12 ♗xd5! is probably the most critical move: 12...♕e6!? (a move popularized by Ceteras; 12...e6?! is insufficient due to 13 ♗xc6 bxc6 14 ♗b4!?) 13 ♗b5 (the alternative is 13 ♗b3

♕xb2) 13...♕xb2 14 ♖d1! ♕g7. Even if White is somewhat better here, it's probably still not a refutation of my gambit.

12...♕xd4

12...♗xd4 13 ♕xd4 e5 14 ♕c5 d4 is riskier, though Black is not without his chances there.

13 ♕xd4 dxe4!

Now the game is more or less equal.

14 ♗xe4 ♗xd4 15 ♗xd4 ♗c7!?

Trying to keep the fight more complicated, Black avoids the exchange of queens.

16 ♕c4?!

White loses control immediately. After more accurate moves he would have been no worse. For example, 16 ♗c3!? ♕e6 (or 16...♕f5 17 ♕d3! ♕xd3 18 ♖xd3 ♖ac8! 19 h4 ♖fd8 20 ♗e4 ♖xd3 21 ♗xd3 ♗c4!? with approximate equality) 17 ♕d3!? (or 17 ♗e3).

16...♕f5! 17 ♗b1?

17 ♗c3? ♖ad8 18 ♗d5 fails to 18...♖xd5! 19 ♗xd5 ♕e6 →. The lesser of the evils was 17 ♕d3 but it may be difficult to make such a move just after playing ♕c4.

17...♖ad8 18 ♗c3 ♖c8

Also good is 18...♖xd1+ 19 ♖xd1 ♖c8.

19 ♕b3 ♗xc3 20 ♗xc3 ♗xg5

Black has a healthy extra pawn and a winning position.

21 ♗d5 ♖fe8 22 ♕a4?! b5 23 ♗e3 bxa4 24 ♗xf5 ♗xf3 25 ♖hf1 ♗e5 26 ♖de1 ♗c4 27 ♗xe7+ ♖xe7 0-1

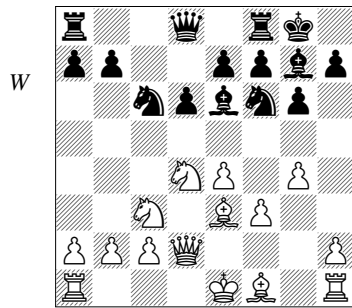
Game 59

Shirov – Golubev

USSR Junior Ch, Jurmala 1985

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 ♗f6 5 ♗c3 g6 6 ♕e3 ♕g7 7 f3 0-0 8 ♗d2 ♗c6 9 g4 ♕e6 (D)

The main difficulty with the move-order 9...♞xd4 10 ♟xd4 ♟e6 is probably 11 h4! (there is also 11 ♞d5!?, first played in Karpov-Mestel, London 1982) 11...♞a5 12 h5 ♜fc8 13 a3 ♞ab8, when after 14 ♟d3! (or 14 ♞h2!?) 14...b5, 15 b4! comes.



10 0-0-0

Instead of this, the exchange on e6 became most topical lately – see Game 60.

10 h4 d5! is considered OK for Black. However, Black should be prepared to meet the little-known and tricky idea 11 e5!?. Bauer-Edouard, French Ch, Saint-Quentin 2015 continued 11...♞xe5 (11...♞d7! invites sacrifices like 12 f4 ♟xg4 13 h5 ♟xh5 14 ♞xh5 gxh5 15 ♞h2, etc.) 12 0-0-0 (avoiding 12 h5 ♞xf3+! 13 ♞xf3 ♟xg4, as in Azarov-A.Mista, Czech Team Ch 2016/17) 12...♞a5 13 ♟e2 (13 a3! is another way of defending against Black's idea of 13...♞xf3 followed by 14...♞e4!) and here Black had to play 13...b5! (Edouard) with decent chances.

10...♞xd4! 11 ♟xd4 ♞a5! 12 a3

Instead, 12 ♞b1 ♜fc8 13 a3 is not particularly challenging: it's a 9 0-0-0 ♞xd4 line with an extra tempo for Black, who has not spent the extra move for ...♞d8-c7-a5 here.

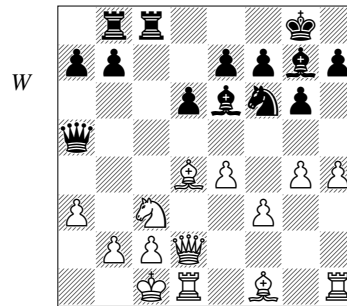
12...♞fc8

An important subtlety is that 12...♞ab8! may be more precise. After 13 g5 ♞h5 14 ♟xg7, 14...♞xg7!?, with decent chances for Black, was played twice by Khalifman in the early 1990s. 13 h4 is answered by 13...b5, when White is more or less forced to go for simplifications with 14 ♞d5, since 14 h5? is strongly met by 14...b4!.

13 h4

13 ♞d5? is premature due to 13...♞xd2+ 14 ♞xd2 ♟xd5 with the idea of 15 exd5 ♟h6.

13...♞ab8 (D)



14 h5

After 14 ♞d5! ♞xd2+ 15 ♞xd2 ♟xd5 (at the GM level Black sometimes tried 15...♞xd5, when 16 exd5 ♟xd5! 17 ♟xg7 ♟xf3 18 ♞h3 ♟xg4 19 ♞g3 ♞xg7 20 ♞xg4 gives him three pawns for a bishop, but White can deviate by 16 ♟xg7!?, with a minor plus) 16 exd5, as played in Karpov-Miles, London 1982, a good answer is known to be 16...b5, when White has no more than a small advantage. Interestingly, 17 h5! ♟h6! had been superficially assessed as bad or a blunder for White in many publications (including mine, sorry!), but in reality Black should be relieved that he has equality after 18 hxg6 ♟xd2+ 19 ♞xd2 fxg6 (19...hxg6 20 ♟xa7! and if 20...♞a8, 21 ♟d4!) and now 20 g5! ♞xd5 21 ♟h3!, etc.

14...b5 15 h6!?

It was considered for a while that after 15 hxg6 Black had to capture with the f-pawn (which is playable), in order to avoid the line 15...hxg6 16 ♞g5!?, in which White had scored many points. (Instead, 16 ♞d5 ♞xd2+ 17 ♞xd2 is innocuous; in this particular position Black should probably play 17...♞xd5!, when 18 exd5 ♟xd5! gives him three pawns for the bishop after 19 ♟xg7 ♟xf3 20 ♞h3 ♟xg4.) In my book *Easy Guide to the Dragon* (1999), five further continuations were examined, all of them winning or nearly winning for White. But it turns out that Black is alive after 16...d5! (in fact played as long ago as Cadden-Boyd, Islington 1968) 17 e5 (White has to avoid 17 exd5? b4) 17...♞d7 18 ♞a2 b4 (or 18...♞a4 19 ♞h2 and now 19...b4) 19 ♞xb4 ♞a4 20 ♞h2 a5 21 ♞a6 ♞b3 22 c3 (instead, 22 ♞xe7?! ♞xf3 23 ♞c7 ♞xc7! 24 ♞d8+ ♞f8 25 ♞xc7 ♞xf1 26 ♞xf1 ♞xd4 is better for Black) 22...♞cxc3+ 23 ♟xc3

♖xc3+ 24 bxc3 ♗xe5! 25 ♜dd2! ♜xa3+ 26 ♖b1 ♜xc3, when he soon wins the exchange and two white pawns, remaining with five pawns for a rook. What a crazy computer line!

15...b4!?

15...♗h8 16 ♘d5 ♜xd2+ 17 ♜xd2 is less exciting but most likely also playable for Black. This first occurred in Tal-Sax, Moscow Interzonal 1982. Black can consider both captures on d5.

There is also Hazai's suggestion 15...♗f8!?

with the idea 16 ♗xf6?! b4!.

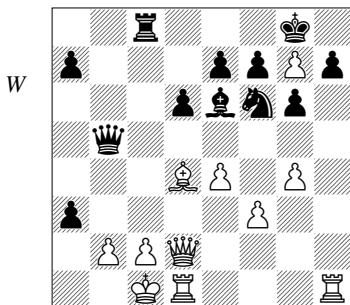
16 ♘b5

Shirov was following fresh analysis by Prodanov from a Bulgarian chess magazine, which I had not seen at the time. 16 hxg7 bxa3 17 ♜h6 (17 ♘b5! ♜xb5 18 ♗xb5 ♜xb5 transposes to the featured game) 17...axb2+ 18 ♖d2 had been wrongly assessed as winning for White by Tal in the *Informator* notes to his game against Sax. But Black has the strong reply 18...♗xg4!!, found by Mestel and introduced in Plaskett-Watson, Brighton 1983. White then has no more than a draw in the variations after 19 ♗xf6 (19 fxg4? e5! -+) 19...♗h5! 20 ♜xh5!, etc. (Plaskett had played 20 ♗d4? and after 20...e5 quickly lost).

16...♜xb5

16...♗b3 may deserve consideration (as does 18...♗b3 a couple of moves later), but, as White can get the same position by the 16 hxg7 move-order, thereby avoiding these ...♗b3 options, I will limit myself to just mentioning them.

17 ♗xb5 ♜xb5 18 hxg7 bxa3 (D)



19 ♜d3

Somewhat more critical is 19 bxa3!, after which Black must decide between 19...♜a4 and 19...♗b3, but probably has a playable position in either case.

19...axb2+

After 19...♜a4! the necessary 20 ♖d2! leads to complications and rough equality: 20...axb2 (or 20...♜xc2+! 21 ♜xc2 ♜xd4+ 22 ♖e1 ♜e3+ 23 ♜e2 ♜b3! 24 ♖f2! and now 24...a2 or first 24...♜b6+) 21 ♗xb2 d5 22 ♜a1 ♜b4+ 23 ♗c3 ♜b6 and if 24 e5, then 24...♘e4+! 25 fxe4 dxe4 26 ♜g3 e3+ 27 ♜xe3 ♜xe3+ 28 ♖xe3 ♜xc3+ =.

Less advisable for Black is 19...♜g5+ 20 ♖b1 axb2 21 ♜a3!?

20 ♗xb2 ♗c4! 21 ♜e3

21 ♜c3 is more cunning, with the idea of 21...♜c6 (21...♜b8! may be preferable) 22 ♜e3! e5 (if 22...♗e2?, 23 ♜d2 ♜b6 24 c4! ♗xc4 25 e5!) 23 ♜xa7!?

21...♗e2! 22 ♜de1

22 ♜d2 ♜b8 23 c4!? ♗xc4 24 e5! dxe5 25 ♜xe5 = was also possible.

22...♗d3 23 ♜h2 ♜b3! 24 ♜ee2! ♗xc2 25 ♜xb3 ♗xb3+

A draw becomes a very likely outcome.

26 ♖d2!? ♘e8!? 27 ♖e3 f6 28 g5

Simpler was 28 ♜e1 =, planning ♜eh1 or ♜a1.

28...♖xg7

After 28...fxg5? White has 29 ♜xh7!.

29 f4 h5

An unnecessary pawn offer. Instead, 29...a5! would have preserved a small advantage for Black.

30 gxf6+ ♖h7 31 e5 dxe5 32 fxe5 fxe5 33 ♗xe5 ♘f6 34 ♗xf6 exf6 35 ♜b2 ♗d5 36 ♖d4 ♜d8 37 ♜bf2 ♗f3+ 38 ♖e3 ♗h5 1/2-1/2

Game 60

Ma. Pavlov – Golubev

Geller mem open, Odessa 2009

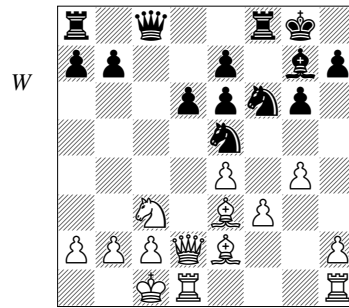
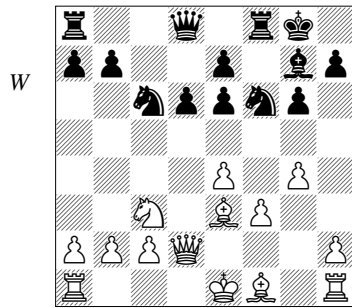
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 g6 6 ♗e3 ♗g7 7 f3 0-0 8 ♜d2 ♘c6 9 g4 ♗e6 10 ♘xe6!?

This line has been known for a long time, but only recently did it start to appear in the practice of some of the world's top players and attract wider attention.

10...fxe6 (D)

11 0-0-0!

Not particularly dangerous for Black is 11 ♗c4 ♜c8! 12 ♗b3 ♘a5! (not 12...♘e5?! 13



♖e2 ♜xf3+ 14 ♜xf3 ♜d5 15 ♜g3!? and if 15...♙e5, 16 ♜xe5 dxe5 17 exd5 with an initiative for White) 13 0-0-0 ♜xb3+! 14 axb3 (worse is 14 cxb3?! ♜d7!, Zo.Varga-Golubev, Romanian Team Ch, Tusnad 1997) and now 14...♜d7 or 14...♜c6!/? (Zo.Varga-At.Schneider, Budapest 1991).

11...♜e5

After 11...♜c8 White can switch to Varga's favourite plan: 12 ♙c4! ♜d7 13 ♙b3!?, as did Short in his game against McShane in London 2010, which continued 13...♜a5 14 h4 with at least somewhat better prospects for White.

12 ♙e2 ♜c8

The impression is that Black does not get a particularly easy position after the more natural 12...♜c8 13 ♜b5!/? ♜d7 (an alternative is 13...a6 14 ♜d4 ♜d7 15 ♙b1, Ponomariov-Radjabov, Khanty-Mansiisk Olympiad 2010, and if 15...b5!?, 16 h4 ♜c4 17 ♙xc4 bxc4 18 c3) 14 ♜d4!/? ♜c4 15 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 16 ♙b1!/? (avoiding 16 h4 ♜fc8 17 c3 b5 18 ♙b1, Vuković-Aronian, Ciocaltea mem, Bucharest 1999, 18...b4! 19 cxb4 ♜b7 with the idea of 20 a3 ♜xe4 21 fxe4 ♙xd4! 22 ♙xd4 ♜xe4+ 23 ♙a2 ♜d5!, when White has to agree a draw or go for 24 ♙a1 ♜xd4 25 ♜xd4 ♜c1+ 26 ♜xc1 ♜xd4, which may be too risky) 16...♜fc8 17 c3 b5 18 ♜c1! a5 19 h4 with some advantage for White, Vallejo-Carlsson, Gibraltar 2010.

We now return to the position after 12...♜c8 (D):

13 ♙b1!/?

After the more direct 13 h4 ♜fd7! (instead, 13...♜c4 14 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 15 ♙h6 b5 16 ♙xg7 ♙xg7 17 h5 favours White) 14 h5 (another option is 14 f4!/? ♜c4 15 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 16 e5, which occurred in Nakamura-Robson, USA Ch, Saint Louis 2012 and further practice showed that 16...♜ad8! 17 exd6 ♜f6 18 ♜d4!

is only marginally better for White) 14...♜c4! (if 14...♜xf3!/, 15 ♜d5!) 15 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 16 hxg6 hxg6 (rather than 16...♜xf3!/? 17 gxh7+ ♙h8 18 g5!) 17 f4 ♙xc3 18 bxc3 ♜xa2 19 ♜h2!/? ♙f7 20 ♜h7+ ♙e8, etc. Black holds, according to the engines and practice.

13 ♜h1 is a calmer option.

13...♜fd7

Here 13...♜c4!/? 14 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 may not be bad.

14 f4 ♜c4 15 ♙xc4 ♜xc4 16 e5

Thus, I fell into some preparation by the opponent, not a nice feeling in modern chess when the position is sharp. Fortunately, my next move was so weak objectively that my opponent had not prepared for it with his *Rybka*, as he told me after the game.

16...g5!/?

It's also true that Black had many normal moves to consider: 16...♜b6!/? (maybe the main line), 16...♜ad8 and 16...♜ac8.

17 exd6

It makes little sense for White to go for 17 ♜e2 ♜xe2 18 ♜xe2 gxf4 19 exd6 fxe3 20 dxe7 ♜f2 21 ♜xd7 ♜e8, etc.

17...exd6 18 f5

After the critical 18 fxg5! d5 Black has some play, but objectively his compensation for the pawn is not fully sufficient.

After playing 18 f5 my opponent offered a draw, which I accepted. Play could have continued 18...exf5 19 gxf5 ♜xf5 (possibly 19...♙xc3! is more precise) and now 20 ♜xd6! with slightly better chances for White. Weaker is 20 ♜d5 ♙h8! with the idea of 21 ♙xg5!/? ♜b6.

1/2-1/2

Speaking about this opening variation (10 ♜xe6) in general, one is advised to be well-prepared before entering these positions with Black. Or try 'Golubev's Gambit' instead.