

Contents

Symbols		6
Bibliography		7
Foreword		8
1	The Art of Sacrifice	9
1.1	The Pawn Sacrifice	9
1	Grishchuk – Hraček, <i>Bundesliga 2002/3</i>	Sicilian Defence [B32] 9
2	Grishchuk – Oral, <i>Reykjavik 2000</i>	Sicilian Defence [B32] 11
3	Vallejo Pons – Andersson, <i>Baden-Baden 2004</i>	Sicilian Defence [B46] 14
4	Short – Ye Jiangchuan, <i>Taiyuan 2004</i>	Sicilian Defence [B84] 16
5	Beliavsky – Striković, <i>Čačak 1996</i>	King’s Indian Defence [E71] 20
6	Vallejo Pons – Cvitan, <i>Plovdiv Echt 2003</i>	King’s Indian Defence [E92] 22
1.2	The Exchange Sacrifice	25
7	Movsesian – Kasparov, <i>Sarajevo 2000</i>	Sicilian Defence [B80] 25
8	Shirov – Kramnik, <i>Linares 1998</i>	Sicilian Defence [B66] 29
9	Anand – Sadler, <i>Tilburg 1998</i>	Sicilian Defence [B90] 32
10	Adams – Topalov, <i>Wijk aan Zee 2005</i>	Sicilian Defence [B84] 35
11	Tseshkovsky – Browne, <i>Manila 1976</i>	Sicilian Defence [B84] 38
12	Lautier – Topalov, <i>Elista OL 1998</i>	Nimzo-Indian Defence [E42] 40
13	Korchnoi – Seirawan, <i>Lugano 1986</i>	English Opening [A25] 43
1.3	Exercises	46
2	Manoeuvring Play	49
2.1	The Art of Manoeuvring	49
14	Karpov – Yusupov, <i>Tilburg 1993</i>	Bogo-Indian Defence [E17] 49
15	Anand – Short, <i>Merida 2001</i>	Ruy Lopez [C76] 54
16	Smyslov – Romanishin, <i>USSR Ch 1976</i>	Sicilian Defence [B25] 58
17	Piket – Smirin, <i>Leon Echt 2001</i>	English Opening [A41] 60
2.2	The Second Weakness	63
18	Vallejo Pons – Tkachev, <i>Biel 2002</i>	Queen’s Indian Defence [E15] 64
2.3	Permanent vs Temporary Advantages	66
19	Short – Pogorelov, <i>Gibraltar 2004</i>	Sicilian Defence [B48] 67
2.4	Regrouping	70
20	Leko – Beliavsky, <i>Bled OL 2002</i>	Ruy Lopez [C95] 70
21	Leko – Short, <i>Wijk aan Zee 2005</i>	Ruy Lopez [C95] 72

22	Ivanchuk – Beliavsky, Lvov 2000	Ruy Lopez [C92]	75
23	Anand – Yusupov, Wijk aan Zee Ct (3) 1993	Ruy Lopez [C75]	78
2.5	The King's Destination		82
24	Cvitan – Estrada Nieto, Aosta 2002	English Opening [A20]	82
25	Navara – McShane, Lausanne 2004	Modern Defence [B06]	84
26	Korchnoi – Gretarsson, Reykjavik 2003	Queen's Gambit [D12]	86
27	Vaganian – Yusupov, Istanbul OL 2000	Réti Opening [A07]	88
28	Anand – Timman, Wijk aan Zee 2004	Sicilian Defence [B67]	91
29	Anand – Dreev, Linares 1997	Sicilian Defence [B67]	94
2.6	Exercises		96
3	Simplification		99
3.1	'Strange' Exchanges		99
30	Karpov – Shirov, Biel 1992	Queen's Gambit [D46]	100
3.2	The Queen Exchange		102
31	Torre – Ivanchuk, Istanbul OL 2000	Queen's Gambit [D30]	104
3.3	Exercises		107
4	Pawns, the Soul of Chess		109
4.1	Surrendering Strong Squares to the Opponent		109
32	Kasparov – Nunn, Lucerne OL 1982	Modern Benoni [A67]	109
33	Fischer – Unzicker, Siegen OL 1970	Ruy Lopez [C69]	112
34	Karpov – Adorjan, Lucerne Wcht 1989	Queen's Indian Defence [E15]	115
35	Kasparov – Vallejo Pons, Linares 2004	Queen's Gambit [D45]	117
36	Piket – Korchnoi, Groningen PCA 1993	Queen's Indian Defence [E12]	120
37	Korchnoi – Ionov, Ohrid Ech 2001	Queen's Indian Defence [E12]	122
38	Karpov – Korchnoi, Dortmund 1994	Queen's Indian Defence [E12]	124
39	Cu. Hansen – Short, Skanderborg 2003	Queen's Gambit [D58]	130
40	Timman – Short, El Escorial Ct (3) 1993	Queen's Gambit [D58]	135
41	Short – Kožul, Belgrade 1989	Sicilian Defence [B67]	139
4.2	Kasparov's Pawn-Centre		141
42	Furman – Panno, Madrid 1973	Queen's Indian Defence [E12]	141
43	I. Sokolov – J. Polgar, Hoogeveen 2003	Queen's Indian Defence [E12]	145
44	Radjabov – Leko, Linares 2003	Queen's Indian Defence [E12]	147
45	Malaniuk – Ehlvest, USSR Ch 1987	Queen's Indian Defence [E12]	150
4.3	The French Pawn-Centre		153
46	Rozentalis – Vallejo Pons, Calvia OL 2004	French Defence [C03]	153
4.4	A Special Centre		156
47	Portisch – Kramnik, Biel IZ 1993	Queen's Gambit [D13]	156
48	Gulko – Shabalov, Willemstad 2003	Queen's Gambit [D13]	159

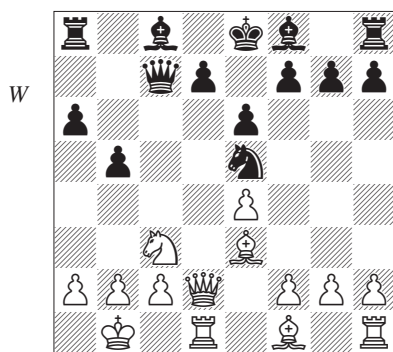
4.5 The Central Breakthrough		162
49 Kasparov – Ponomariov, Linares 2003	Queen’s Indian Defence [E18]	162
50 Bruzon – Topalov, Wijk aan Zee 2005	Sicilian Defence [B40]	166
4.6 Exercises		168
Solutions to Exercises		171
Solutions for Chapter 1		171
Solutions for Chapter 2		175
Solutions for Chapter 3		179
Solutions for Chapter 4		184
Index of Games		189
Index of Openings		191

Game 19 Nigel Short – Ruslan Pogorelov Gibraltar 2004 Sicilian Defence [B48]

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♖c7 5 ♘c3 e6 6 ♙e3 a6 7 ♖d2 b5 8 0-0-0 ♘xd4 9 ♙xd4 ♗e7

This is an ambitious but risky line for Black, who leaves his kingside somewhat unprotected and spends time on non-developing moves.

10 ♖b1 ♘c6 11 ♙e3 ♗e5 (D)



12 f4!

White loses the bishop-pair, which can be a disadvantage in the medium and/or long term, but in return Black lags behind in development, which can be important in the short term. If White makes the most of his activity, the delay in finding a safe spot for the black king will result in White's dynamism being more important in the present case.

The timid 12 ♙f4 is acceptable, but worse than 12 f4.

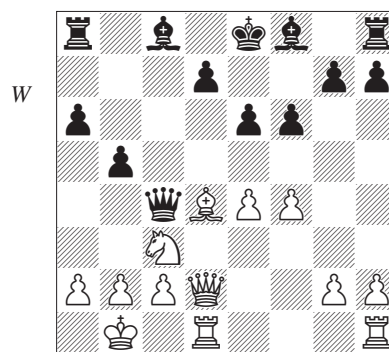
12...♗c4 13 ♙xc4 ♖xc4 14 ♙d4!

Delaying Black's development or forcing some concession. 14 e5 closes the game and is less consistent. According to Short, Black can equalize with 14...♙b4 15 ♖d4 ♖xd4 16 ♗xd4 ♙xc3 17 bxc3 ♙b7 18 ♗hd1 ♙c6.

14...f6 (D)

Against 14...d6 Short states that White can play 15 ♙e5 ♙b7 16 ♙xd6 ♗d8 17 e5, with a slight edge, or the more complex 15 ♙xg7, when after 15...♙xg7 16 ♖xd6 the only move is 16...f5! and White has compensation after 17 exf5 ♖f7 18 ♗he1 ♙xc3 19 bxc3 ♗e8 20 ♖e5,

but the position is not clear – Black should play 20...b4!. Instead, 16...♙f6? is punished by the thematic 17 ♘d5!, when after 17...♙d8 18 b3! ♖xe4 19 ♖c6+ ♖f8 20 ♗he1 (or 20 ♖xa8) White wins material. 17...exd5 18 ♖xf6 ♗g8 19 exd5 is no improvement, as White invades decisively down the e-file.



15 g4!

A transformation of the advantage – by means of this clear and strong continuation, the lead in development turns into an attack against the opponent's king, who will have no better solution than to castle so as not to perish in the centre.

Once a point of contact on g5 is achieved, White heads immediately to open lines. This is much more direct than 15 e5 forcing 15...f5 against which the opening of the g-file with a timely g4 would have to be prepared.

15...♙e7 16 g5 0-0

Of course, with the king in the centre, opening lines is not an attractive prospect. After 16...fxg5 there would follow 17 ♙xg7 ♗g8 18 ♙e5 b4 19 ♘a4, with a great advantage for White, due to the black king not being safe.

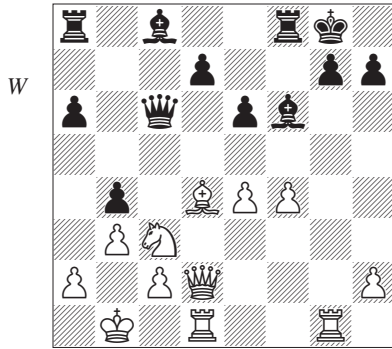
17 b3

Driving away the queen before taking on f6 gives the king a flight square, which can be useful later on, although the immediate 17 gxh6 also has its points.

17...♖c6 18 gxf6 ♙xf6 19 ♗hg1

An important first step has been achieved, i.e., the opening of the g-file.

19...b4 (D)



20 ♖d5!!

A thematic, though always elegant, ‘Sicilian’ sacrifice – the absence from the play of the a8-rook and the c8-bishop makes the sacrifice look good, although of course it is necessary to analyse, the more so when there is a ‘natural’ alternative carrying no risks.

Against 20 ♖e2? Black can play 20...♙xe4! without problems – the queen comes to the defence of the king. 20 ♖a4 is interesting though, since after 20...♙xe4 (20...♜b8 is better, according to Short) 21 ♗xf6 ♜xf6 22 ♖b6 ♜b8 23 ♖xc8 ♜xc8 24 ♜xg7+ ♗xg7 25 ♙xd7+ ♗h6 26 ♙xc8 the black king is unsafe, and this gives White a certain superiority, although this doesn’t seem to be a decisive advantage.

20...exd5 21 e5

This is the idea behind the sacrifice – the pawns will be used as rams to open more lines against the king, thus allowing the white major pieces to show all their power along the g-file.

The subsequent course of the game shows how ineffective the black queenside is, and even the black queen cannot do much in helping the defence.

21...♗e7

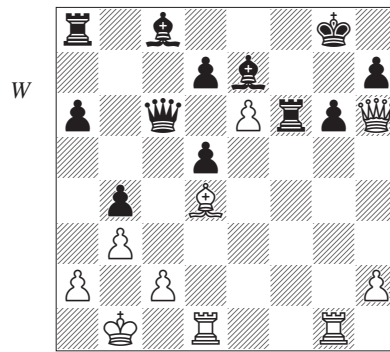
21...♗d8 is weaker because of 22 e6, when Black cannot defend: 22...♜f6 23 f5 dxe6 24 ♙g5, etc. If 22...g6 then 23 f5 followed by ♙h6 wins, and if 22...♗f6 then 23 e7 ♜e8 24 ♗xf6 ♙xf6 25 ♙xd5+.

22 e6 ♜f6

Against 22...♗f6 the simple continuation 23 e7 ♜e8 24 ♗xf6 ♙xf6 25 ♙xd5+, winning, is enough. Also winning is 23 ♜xg7+!! – a

sound sacrifice that gives a winning attack. Play could continue 23...♗xg7 24 ♜g1+ ♗h8 25 f5 ♗b7 26 ♗xf6+ ♜xf6 27 ♙g5 ♜g6 (the only move to prevent immediate mate) 28 fxg6 ♙xe6 29 gxh7 ♙f7 30 ♙e5+ ♗xh7 31 ♙g5, and mate.

Another defence is 22...g6, which has to be met by 23 f5! ♜xf5 (or 23...dxe6 24 fxg6, winning) 24 ♙h6 and after Black’s best defence, 24...♜f6! (D), we arrive at a position deserving its own diagram.



The sacrifice of the rook on g6 is not convincing: after 25 ♗xf6?! ♗xf6 26 ♜xg6+?! hxg6 27 ♙xg6+ ♗g7, White must take the perpetual, because he is too much material down, and 28...♙c3 is threatened.

Neither is 25 ♜df1 correct, for Black has the simple reply 25...♙xe6.

The right way is to use the g1-rook by playing 25 ♜gf1! in order to bring the other rook into play on the e-file. Let’s see some unsuccessful attempts at defence:

a) 25...♙xe6 26 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 27 ♜de1 ♙f7 (or 27...♗g7 28 ♙h4, winning) 28 ♜xf6 ♙xf6 29 ♜e8+ ♗f7 30 ♙f8#.

b) 25...dxe6 26 ♗xf6 ♗f8 27 ♙f4, with material superiority and an attack.

c) 25...♗f8 26 e7! ♗xe7 27 ♜xf6 ♗xf6 28 ♜f1 ♙e6 29 ♜xf6 ♙e7 30 ♙g5!, with a winning attack.

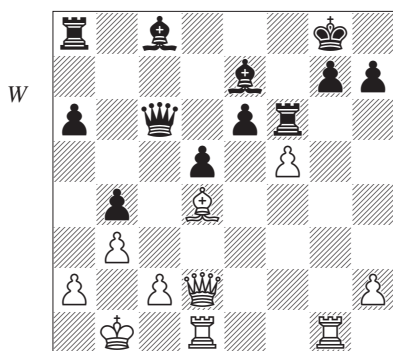
23 f5!

The pawn-storm continues, and once again the way is opened for the white queen towards the kingside.

23...dxe6 (D)

Against 23...h6 the quiet variation 24 h4! dxe6 25 ♙g2 gives White a winning attack. Short points out that this method is clearer than

the sacrifice 24 ♖xg7+!? ♗xg7 25 ♖g2+ ♗f8 26 ♖g1 ♗e8 27 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 28 ♖g6+ ♗e7 29 ♖f7+ ♗d8 (29...♗d6 doesn't work because of the nice tactic 30 e7 ♖c3 31 e8♗+!, with a winning attack) 30 ♖xf6+ ♗c7 31 e7 ♖xf6 32 e8♗+, with a much better ending: his two pieces are active and the passed pawn on f5 is worth more than Black's doubled one.



24 ♖xg7+!

This sacrifice is now the only way to make progress. For instance, after 24 ♖g2 Black defends with 24...g6 25 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 26 fxg6 ♖c3 27 gxh7+ ♗f7, and there is no convincing way of continuing the attack.

24...♗xg7 25 ♖g5+ ♗f7 26 ♖g1 ♗f8?!

This move gives back a great deal of the material advantage. 26...♗d7 doesn't hold either, as it leads to mate after 27 ♖h5+ ♗f8 28 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 29 ♖xh7.

The most resilient was 26...♗e8 and after 27 ♗xf6 ♗xf6 (or 27...♗f8 28 ♖h5+ ♗d7 29 ♖f7+, with a mating attack without any material disadvantage) 28 ♖xf6 ♗d7 29 ♖g7+ (also 29

♖g7+ ♗d6 30 ♖e7+ ♗e5 31 f6 ♖c3 32 ♖g5+ ♗f4 33 ♖g1, with a big advantage) 29...♗d6 30 f6 ♗d7 31 f7 ♖c8 32 ♖d4 a5 33 ♖g8 ♖xg8 34 fxg8 ♖xg8 35 ♖b6+ ♗c6 36 ♖xa5, White has the advantage in the endgame.

27 ♖xf6+ ♗e8 28 ♖g8 ♖d6 29 fxe6 ♖e7

The finish after 29...♗xe6 would come with the crushing 30 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 31 ♖xe6+ ♖e7 32 ♖c6+.

30 ♖h6 ♖b8 31 ♗f6

Short points out another winning path: 31 ♖h5+ ♗d8 32 ♖xd5+ ♗c7 33 ♖e5+! ♗b7 34 ♖e4+! ♗c7 35 ♖f4+. There are other winning moves, such as 31 ♗g7.

31...♖xe6 32 ♖xf8+ ♗d7 33 ♖g7+ ♗c6 34 ♗e5 ♖b7 35 ♖h8!

Finishing all resistance – White threatens 36 ♖f6 and the capture of the c8-bishop.

1-0

This game, in which the temporary advantage clearly prevailed, teaches us many things. King safety is too high a price to pay for long-term advantages. Although it is possible that sometimes the attack can be endured, one has to analyse it very carefully. In this case the scarcity of defenders made the choice dubious.

The sacrifice 20 ♗d5!! and the pawn-storm against the castled king's position with 15 g4! are thematic, and the advances to gain space with 21 e5, 22 e6 and 23 f5! are very nice.

This overwhelming infantry-assault sequence may also be partly due to previous learning. I see a certain similarity between this game and the one we are going to see next, which was one of Kasparov's brilliant victories when he became World Junior Champion.

Garry Kasparov – Ralf Åkesson

World Junior Ch, Dortmund 1980

Queen's Indian Defence [E12]

1 d4 ♗f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♗f3 b6 4 a3 ♗b7 5 ♗c3 d5 6 cxd5 ♗xd5 7 e3 ♗e7 8 ♗b5+ c6 9 ♗d3 ♗d7 10 e4 ♗xc3 11 bxc3 c5 12 0-0 cxd4 13 cxd4 0-0 14 ♖e2 ♖c8 15 ♗b2 ♖c7 16 ♖e3 ♗f6 17 ♗e5 b5 18 f4 ♖b6 19 ♗h1 b4 20 axb4 ♗xb4 21 ♖ab1 a5 22 ♖e2! ♖a7 23 f5 ♖a8 24 d5 exd5 25 ♗g4 ♗xg4 26 ♖xg4 f6 (D) 27 ♗xf6?!

Kasparov is not satisfied by 27 e5 ♗c3 28 e6, with compensation for the sacrificed material and instead plays a speculative idea.

He resorted to sacrificing this bishop, which was going to be neutralized anyway, in more convincing and overwhelming fashion (21 ♗xg7!!) in the later game Kasparov-Portisch, Nikšić 1983.