FIDE Trainers’ Commission

Advanced Chess School
Volume 1
The Bishop Pair

Efstratios Grivas
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Foreword
FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov

Chess has existed as a sport played at a competitive level for centuries. The common code governing the Laws of Chess is relatively recent, and the foundation of Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE), in Paris in 1924, is even more modern. FIDE currently has 182 member federations spread across all continents. Titles for players were introduced by FIDE in 1950, and titles for Arbiters and Organizers followed. From 2005 we are moving to a new phase, with titles for Trainers.

Chess is on the increase in schools across the world. It is part of the mainstream curriculum in many countries. It is a goal of FIDE to make chess an educational tool, and generate worldwide popularity for the game. Examples of the many educational advantages of chess are: shows the need to make people realize the importance of advance planning; develops analytic and accurate thinking; shows the necessity for a combative spirit; teaches fair play and emphasizes the need for preparation and hard work for success. However, with the increasing population of chess players, comes the need for trainers to assist with their development.

This is a new concept of the ever-active FIDE Trainers’ Commission. This series is dedicated to advanced subjects, consisting of 80-page books. We do hope that we will be able to deliver 3-4 such books annually, increasing the level and the education of our trainers worldwide. This series will provide excellent manuals for trainers and fulfils a considerable need in modern chess literature, concentrating on the technical side of the game, but also covering various other topics and providing information. The best trainers will contribute to this series, which will be an essential tool in the preparation of trainers at all levels for the future. It will ensure that the next generation of players will be at a great advantage over those that have gone before.

Symbols

<table>
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<td>+</td>
<td>check</td>
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<td>++</td>
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<td>#</td>
<td>checkmate</td>
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<td>!!</td>
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<td>unclear position</td>
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<td>Black is slightly better</td>
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<td>Black has a large advantage</td>
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<td>_+</td>
<td>Black is winning</td>
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<td>the game ends in a win for White</td>
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<td>½-½</td>
<td>the game ends in a draw</td>
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<tr>
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<td>the game ends in a win for Black</td>
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<td>White to play</td>
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<td>●</td>
<td>Black to play</td>
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Advanced Chess School - Volume I - The Bishop Pair - Efstratios Grivas
The Bishop Pair

**Terminology**

The possession of a pair of bishops (against a bishop and a knight, or a pair of knights) is an important strategic element that may guarantee superiority and even determine the outcome of the game.

The basic requirements for the exploitation of this element are:

1. Open centre (currently or in the future).
2. Presence of pawns on both flanks.

Consequently, possession of the bishop pair does not always guarantee an advantage.

Only after careful examination of the respective pawn structures and the situation in the centre are we able to determine whether possession of this element is an advantage.

Most chess players have a strong liking for the bishop pair regardless of the specific features of the position.

This phenomenon has a simple explanation: a strong positional player can more easily transform the position so as to suit the bishops than to suit a pair of knights.

However, it has to be remembered that it is the pawns (placement, pawn chains), the soul of the game, that determine whether possession of the bishop pair is an advantage.

Two bishops are usually very strong as the main disadvantage of a single bishop, his monochromacity, is compensated by the second bishop.

Jonathan Rowson describes this in his work *The Seven Deadly Chess Sins* as follows: ‘Although the pair of knights can be very effective, we don't see them as “a pair” because there is nothing one knight can do that the other can't in principle...’

There may be something good about “the two knights” in a particular position, but this is purely accidental, for there is no reason in principle why a pair of them should be more than the sum of their parts.

On the other hand, one bishop makes up for the shortcomings of the other, *and takes care of its own shortcomings in the process.*

So what happens when you capture the opponent's bishop is not only that you remove one piece of value, but that you 'weaken’ the other bishop too.’

The strength of the bishop pair (provided of course that the above-mentioned requirements are met) can be exploited either in the middle game or the endgame.

In the middle game, bishops can control many squares and from a distance; this implies better control of the position and the prospect of creating a direct attack, either against the king or against other weaknesses.

Bishops are also able to restrict the opponent's pieces and create severe (and often insoluble) problems to the opponent, exactly due to their long range of action, which allows them to switch quickly from one target to another without even needing to approach it.

In the endgame, the power of the bishop pair is decisive, since the absence of an adequate number of defensive pieces allows the bishops to impose their control on the position almost entirely. It is then possible, by skilful manoeuvring, to restrict the opponent's pieces and highlight weaknesses and entry squares.

Mikhail Gurevich (one of the true aficionados of the bishop pair), wrote in his *FIDE Syllabus - The Bishop pair*: ‘The bishop pair is a powerful weapon. We refer usually to the bishop pair advantage over a bishop and knight, or over two knights. An important point to consider in most positions with the bishop pair is the pawn structure and the existence of pawns on both sides of the board.

‘We will explain how to evaluate the importance of the bishop pair and different techniques of playing with them...

‘First of all let us discuss the importance of the pawn structure. There are many possible pawn structures. We will classify them as following: open centre, semi-open and closed positions.

‘Our general knowledge proves to us that the more the centre is open the bigger
advantage of bishop pair becomes. This is simple. But each of these structures has its own characteristics and techniques of playing with the bishop pair differentiate considerably.’

Just like with any other strategic element, the boundaries between success and failure are not always clearly visible.

The games and examples that follow will help to impose on the reader a deeper understanding of the positive aspects of the bishop pair.

**Historical Approach**

In the middle of the previous century not much respect was paid to the bishop pair, as can be noticed in some of the most famous authors’ surveys.

Janos Flesch in his famous *Planning in Chess* wrote: ‘Throughout human history false dogmas have arisen that greatly influence the politics, the social views and the arts of the particular age. Thus also with chess in its international development.

‘A typical mistake of chess theory and practice in the present age is to overestimate the bishop, and even more so the two bishops, when correspondingly valued against the knight and the two knights! Statistics … have emphasized the superiority of the bishop pair. But all this has come about from a mistaken approach to and a misunderstanding of the middle game. For there is no difference in the value of these pieces whatsoever.’

...‘But, and this is the point, contemporary chess players use the bishop and especially the bishop pair better and with more assurance than did their predecessors.

‘Human beings - owing to their physical build - are less well shielded against attacks from the side than from the front. This disadvantage is more accentuated in our “forward-looking” modern man as he spends a considerable amount of his time behind the wheel or in front of the file or television screen. Perhaps here can be found one of the reasons for overestimation of the bishop’s value … the truth is that chess players of a previous age knew better how to use one or two knights.’

Then it was the turn of Piotr Romanovsky: ‘Thus to the question of whether, in evaluating a position, the factor of the presence of the two bishops for one of the opponents should be taken into account as a particular aspect of the advantage, the right reply, in our view, will be no, it should not. This particular aspect of the advantage does not exist.’

Well, both of them were a ‘bit’ dogmatic and this old debate is no longer such a heated one.

John Watson in his *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy* writes: ‘In a majority of cases, modern chess players prefer the two bishops for the very good reason that they tend to win games. Those rare, completely locked positions, or the more frequent ones in which the side with the knights have countervailing advantages, are a different matter.’

**Statistical Overview**

John Watson, in his *Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy*, goes after some very fascinating statistics, concerning our subject. These statistics were based on the large Megabase database and although there are some years passed by, I believe that they are still valid and can give some a practical idea of the power of the bishop pair.

All theses statistsics assume that the conditions of two bishops v. two knights and level material last at least 6 half-moves: ‘With even pawns the two bishops win against two knights about 40% of the time for either Black or White, whereas the knights win only 15% of the time.

This yields a hefty 63%/37% winning ratio in both cases. Now the normal winning percentage for White/Black is 54%/46% ratio; so the bishop pair creates a 9% improvement for White over the usual percentages, and an amazing 17% improvement for Black!

When we take all cases of two bishops versus two knights, with even material, but including queens and rooks, the winning ratio for the bishops is 62%/38% with White and 57%/43% with Black.’

A very interesting statistical approach…
...‘It is worth pointing out that part of this last winning percentage for the bishop pair is probably due to the fact that the possessor of the knight-pair will do almost anything to avoid the pure ending (without other pieces), and may take risky steps to avoid it. Finally, I should mention Mayer’s observation that Chigorin himself, the two knights defender, scored only 29%/71% in games in which he himself had the knight-pair versus two bishops.

‘The 2.\textit{L} vs \textit{L}+\textit{N} case is similarly successful for the bishops. With no other pieces, White’s winning ratio is 64%/36%; interestingly, this includes wins for Black (with the bishop and knight) in only 8% of the games! When Black has the two bishops versus White’s bishop and knight (again with no other pieces), his percentage is a hefty 62%/38%. When queens and rooks are included (but with even material), White’s winning ratio with the bishop pair goes to 61%/39%, still well above the 54%/46% norm; and Black’s (also with the bishops) is 54%/46%, 8% above average.’

Open Centre

The position with two or more open vertical files in the centre, we may call open positions. This provides the best conditions for the bishop pair and we may use their dominating, long-range powers to develop all kinds of attacks and initiatives...

However, according to Mikhail Gurevich, the most technical, most 'pure' technique of exploiting the bishop pair advantage in positions with an open centre is the Technique of Exchanges.

William Steinitz was a true admirer of the bishop pair and he introduced into practice the Restriction Method. This is quite simple: with the use of the pawns, the side with the bishop pair restricts his opponent’s supply of valuable squares and space for his pieces, especially for the knight(s).

We will start our survey into the magic world of the bishop pair with the open centre in the middle game and more specifically with some masterpieces played by the old masters and especially by the ‘teacher’, ex-World Champion, William Steinitz:

\[ \text{Diagram} \]

Of course Black, with the ideal pawn structure for the bishop pair, holds the advantage. The usual 'restriction method' come to the fore:
\[ 16...c5 17.\textit{Q}f3 b6 \]
Already the d4-square is lost for White.
\[ 18.\textit{Q}e5 \textit{We}6 19.\textit{W}f3 \textit{a}6 20.\textit{Ke}1 \textit{f}6! \]
And e5 is also ‘lost’!
\[ 21.\textit{Q}g4 h5 22.\textit{Q}f2 \textit{W}f7 23.f5 \]
Looks like a good move but the truth is that this pawn will be just too weak.
\[ 23...g5 24.\textit{A}d1 \textit{h}7 25.\textit{W}g3 \]
Or 25.\textit{W}e2 \textit{d}5!
\[ 25...\textit{A}d5! \]
Black could pick up the a-pawn with 25...\textit{A}xd1 26.\textit{W}xd1 \textit{W}xa2 but as White could present some counterplay with 27.h4 g4 28.\textit{A}d7, he preferred to leave it for a later stage...
\[ 26.\textit{W}xd5 \textit{W}xd5 27.\textit{A}d1 \textit{W}xf5 \]
Black maintained his bishop pair and he even won material - the end shouldn’t be far.
\[ 28.\textit{W}c7 \textit{a}5 29.h3 \textit{A}e8 30.c4 \textit{A}f7 \]
31.\textit{A}c1 \textit{e}2 32.\textit{A}f1 \textit{w}c2 33.\textit{g}3 \textit{W}x a2
34.\textit{W}b8+ \textit{h}7 35.\textit{W}g3 \textit{g}6 36.h4 g4
37.\textit{d}d3 \textit{xb}3 38.\textit{c}7 \textit{xd}3
0-1
□ Englisch Berthold
■ Steinitz William
C60 London 1883
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4 Qg7 6.Qe3 Qf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0
Nc7 9.Qd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 11.Nxd5
Qxd5 12.Ne2 Qg4 13.Qxg4 Qxg4 14.Qb3 Qxd2 15.Qad2 a6 16.c3 Qfe8
17.Nb3 (D)

□ Englisch Berthold
■ Steinitz William
C60 London 1883
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.Nxd4 Qg7 6.Qe3 Qf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0
Nc7 9.Qd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 11.Nxd5
Qxd5 12.Ne2 Qg4 13.Qxg4 Qxg4 14.Qb3 Qxd2 15.Qad2 a6 16.c3 Qfe8
17.Nb3 (D)

□ Englisch Berthold
■ Steinitz William
C60 London 1883
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4 Qg7 6.Qe3 Qf6 7.Nc3 0-0 8.0-0
Nc7 9.Qd2 d5 10.exd5 Qxd5 11.Nxd5
Qxd5 12.Ne2 Qg4 13.Qxg4 Qxg4 14.Qb3 Qxd2 15.Qad2 a6 16.c3 Qfe8
17.Nb3 (D)

30.Qf2 gxf4 31.Qxf4 (D)

31...Qg5!
Threatening to exchange White's best defender, the dark-squared bishop. This transformation of one advantage into another is one major advantage of the bishop pair, as it is usually easier for the player with the bishops to exchange one pair of minor pieces.
32.Qxg5
If 32.e3 then 32...Qg6 (and not 32...Qe8+?! 33.Qf2 Qxe1? 34.Qxe1 Qxf4
35.gxf4 Qe6 36.Qf2 Qd5 37.Qe3 Qf1 38.h4 Qc4 39.Qd2 =) 33.Qe2 Qd3+ =.
32...hxg5 33.Qe3 Qf6 (D)

34.h4?
This loses by force as does 34.e2? Qd3+ 35.Qf2 Qd2 -+. White had to try

This is a good example of how to play with the two bishops in an otherwise almost symmetrical position.
17...b6!
This is a typical strategy: Black strengthens his light-squared bishop as it has no counterpart and restricts White's knight at the same time.
18.h3 Qe6 19.Qfd1 c5!
Continuing the active and known strategy of restriction.
20.Qg5 f6 21.a4 Qf7 22.f3 g5 23.Qxd8
Qxd8 24.Ne3 h6
Finally all six black pawns are on dark squares!
25.Qe1 f5
Steinitz wants to grab space on the kingside with ...f4 to follow up with ...a5-a4-a3 or with a further advance on the kingside.
26.f4 Qf6 27.g3 a5!
Planning to create weaknesses on White's queenside with ...a4-a3.
28.Qc1 a4 29.a3 Qc4
This domination of White's knight is called coralling. A serious chess player should know this important motif by heart!
something like 34. \( \text{g}1 \) or 34. \( \text{h}1 \).

34...gxh4 35.gxh4 \( \text{g}8+ \) 36.e2 \( \text{xe}1 \)
37.xe1 e5! 38.e2 xex2 39.xe2
The pawn ending is winning for Black as his active king is more important than White's outside passed pawn.

39...fxe4 40.c4 \( \text{g}4 \) 41.e3 f4+ 42.e4 f3

34...\( \text{g}8+ \) 36.e2 \( \text{xe}1 \)
37.xe1 \( \text{e}5 \) 38.e2 xex2 39.xe2

The pawn ending is winning for Black as his active king is more important than White's outside passed pawn.

39...\( \text{f}4 \) 40.c4 \( \text{g}4 \) 41.e3 f4+ 42.e4 f3

Jose Raul Capablanca was able to study Steinitz and learn to handle the bishop pair with accuracy and efficiency…

□ Capablanca Jose Raul
■ Znosko-Borovsky Eugene

D34 Paris 1938
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.d3 c5 4.exd5 cxd5
5.e2 c6 6.g2 c7 7.e7 8.0-0-0
9.dxc5 \( \text{xc}5 \) 10.e4 \( \text{e}7 \)
11.e3 \( \text{c}4 \)
12.e5 \( \text{c}1 \) \( \text{aw}5 \) 14.e4 \( \text{g}6 \)
15.e7 \( \text{aw}6 \) 16.a3 \( \text{d}7 \)
17.e3 \( \text{c}3 \)
18.e3 \( \text{e}6 \) 19.b4 \( \text{b}6 \) 20.e4 dxec4
21.e4 \( \text{e}8 \) 22.xe6 \( \text{fxe}6 \) (D)

White's bishop pair and superior pawn structure should be enough to cash the point.

23.e6 \( \text{e}6 \) 24.b5 \( \text{ce}8 \)
24...\( \text{aw}5 \) 25.d3 \( \text{c}8 \) 26.d6 \( \text{a}7 \)
27.d7 wins material.

25.e2 \( \text{e}7 \) 26.d6 e8 27.f4
Complete domination!

27...\( \text{h}8 \)!

Black had to get rid of the bishop pair:
27...\( \text{c}7 \) 28.f3 \( \text{e}7 \) 29.d3 \( \text{xd}6 \)
30.xd6 \( \text{xd}6 \) 31.xd6 \( \pm \), although he will not save the game...

28.xf2! \( \text{f}7 \)
28...e5 29.f5 \( \text{f}8 \) 30.cd2 +-
29.xf2 g8 30.xh5 \( \text{d}8 \) 31.e4 \( \text{f}8 \)
32.xf7

1-0

As proved by the previous examples, old masters were excellent at handling the bishop pair. When we talk about this important element, most chess players think about the endgame, but the middle game is also very important, as mentioned in the introduction of the concept.

On the Attack

Fierce attacks can be on the menu and the most critical is not to be the main dish…

□ Grivas Efstratios
■ Barlov Dragan

A55 Kastel Stari 1988
1.d4 \( \text{f}6 \) 2.e4 d6 3.d3 c5 4.e4 \( \text{bd}7 \)
5.e2 c6 6.e2 c7 7.0-0-0 8.e1 \( \text{e}7 \)
9.e4 exd4 10.xd4 \( \text{f}8 \)
11.e1 \( \text{f}6 \)
12.b4 \( \text{b}6 \) 13.e4 \( \text{e}4 \)
14.h3 \( \text{h}6 \)
15.g3 \( \text{g}5 \) 16.b3 a5 17.a3 axb4
18.axb4 \( \text{a}6 \) 19.xxe6 \( \text{xe}6 \) 20.f4 \( \text{ed}7 \)
21.g2 g5 (D)

A very interesting position has arisen after a complicated opening. Black has ceded the bishop pair but he seems to have obtained good play on the dark squares, mostly ‘helped’ by his last move.

22.e5!

The correct reaction. White refuses to weaken his king (22.g3?) or surrender the
very important e5-square (22.fxg5?). Instead, he opens up the position, hoping to benefit from his potentially powerful bishop pair and the weaknesses around Black's king, caused by the ambitious 21...g5. Of course, White will probably lose a pawn but this will be very small payment for obtaining the bishop pair, a weakened black king and the initiative.

22...dxe5 23.fxe5 $g7 24.$bd1 $c8 (D)

25.$e4
White could have proceeded in the same dynamic spirit with 25.$d5!? cxd5 26.cxd5 $e7 (26...$g6? 27.$d3 $f5 [27...$h5 28.g4!] 28.d6+$h8 29.e6 +) 27.d6 $d8 (27...$f8 28.e6 fxe6 29.$xe6 $h8 30.$b5 $d8 31.$d3 $e5 32.$d5 ±) (D)

28.e6! fxe6 29.$xe6 $xe6 (29...$h8 30.$d4! $xd4+ [30...$f6?! 31.d7! $xd7

29.$xe5! $xe5 30.$g3 $e3+ 31.$xe3 $xe3 32.$xd6
White got two powerful bishops for a black rook and he is in full control of the position. The end cannot be far away...

32.$d8 33.$c5 $b3 34.$d4 $b2 35.$e4 $a8 36.$c4 $a1+?! 37.$h2 $c1?!

38.$e8+ 1-0
The case of an ‘early endgame’ is always on the cards but it cannot be really treated as an endgame - a lot of pieces are still on the board. The following example is typical:

**Kalesis Nikolaos**
**Grivas Efstratios**

E81 Corfu 1991


The dust has settled and Black enjoys an undisputed superiority, with the bishop pair in an open position. Tactics are in the air...

19.Nd2 Bb8

As there is nothing serious immediately, Black tries to be creative. He would love to force White to push any of his kingside pawns, so he tries to 'weaken' his opponent's back rank by exchanging a pair of rooks.

20.Ne1

And it is now understandable why White avoids the exchange.

20...Be8 21.Wb1?

Allowing Black to enter a nice combination. 21.Bg1 was a must.

21...Wh5?

Missing that 21...xe3! 22.xe3 xd4 works, due to the loose queen on b1 and White's weak back rank: 23.Wd1 (or 23.Nd3 Wh5) 23...xe3! 24.xd5 Whd5.

22.Wd1 Wh4!

Threatening to win by 23...xe3 24.xe3 xd4.

23.f2 Wg5 24.e2?? (D)

Black now converts his superiority without much effort. 24...xe8+ xe8 25.e2 offers better defensive prospects.

24...ed8!

By exchanging White's defensive d2-rook, the white weaknesses will be accessible to Black, as the defensive white pieces are reducing.


Black won material without losing any of his advantages.


White resigned in view of 33.g1 xe2 34.Wxd5 Ke1 35.Wd8+ Kg7. A crystal clear game, in which Black made exemplary use of his bishop pair.

0-1

The above mentioned element of Technique of Exchanges is rather important; to know what and when to exchange usually determines the result.

A famous game is the following; a World Champion losing against the ‘St. George Defence’ (!) and then a quite instructive one from my database of my earlier years; yes, once I was also a junior!

**Karpov Anatoly**
**Miles Anthony**

B00 Skara 1980
1.e4 a6 2.d4 b5 3.\(\Box f3\) \(\Box b7\) 4.\(\Box d3\) \(\Box f6\)
5.\(\Box e2\) e6 6.a4 c5 7.\(\Box dxc5\) \(\Box xc5\) 8.\(\Box bd2\) b4
9.e5 \(\Box d5\) 10.\(\Box e4\) \(\Box e7\) 11.0-0 \(\Box c6\)
12.\(\Box x2\) \(\Box c7\) 13.e4 \(\Box xc3\) 14.\(\Box xc3\) \(\Box xc3\)
15.\(\Box xc3\) \(\Box b4\) 16.\(\Box xb4\) \(\Box xb4\) 17.\(\Box ac1\)
\(\Box b6\) 18.\(\Box e4\) 0-0 (D)

Chances seems to be balanced as both sides have their pluses and minuses.
19.\(\Box g5\)
19.\(\Box xh7\) is interesting; 19...\(\Box xh7\) 20.\(\Box g5+\) \(\Box g6\)! (20...\(\Box h6\)?) 21.\(\Box c4\) g6 22.\(\Box g4\) \(\Box g7\) 23.\(\Box h4\) \(\Box h8\) 24.\(\Box f4\) \(+\) 21.\(\Box g4\) \(f5\)!
22.\(\Box g3\) \(\Box e7\) 23.\(\Box xe6+\) \(\Box f7\) \(+\).
19...\(\Box h6\) 20.\(\Box h7+\)
20.\(\Box xb7\) \(\Box xb7\) 21.\(\Box e4\) \(\Box xe4\) 22.\(\Box xe4\) should be equal.
20...\(\Box h8\) 21.\(\Box b1\) \(\Box e7\) 22.\(\Box e4?!\)
White underestimates the bishop pair. It was wise to opt for 22.\(\Box d3\) g6 23.\(\Box e4\) \(\Box xe4\)
24.\(\Box xe4\) \(\Box ac8\) =.
22...\(\Box ac8\) 23.\(\Box d3?\)
White should opt for 23.\(\Box xc8\) \(\Box xc8\)
24.\(\Box d3\) \(\Box xe4\) 25.\(\Box xe4\) g6 26.\(\Box d3\) \(\Box c7\) \(+\).
23...\(\Box x1\) 24.\(\Box x1\) \(\Box xb2\) 25.\(\Box e1\) \(\Box xe5\)
26.\(\Box xd7\) \(\Box b4\)
Black has won a pawn and still possesses the bishop pair. White is fighting a lost cause.
27.\(\Box e3\) \(\Box d5\)
Not bad on general grounds but accurate was 27...\(\Box b2\) 28.\(\Box d3\) \(\Box xe4!\) 29.\(\Box xe4\) \(\Box c5\) \(+\).
28.\(\Box xd5\) \(\Box xd5\) 29.\(\Box c3\) \(\Box e8\) 30.\(\Box e2\) g5!
Restriction even when it is not necessary!
31.h4 \(\Box g7\) 32.hxg5 \(\Box hxg5\) 33.\(\Box d3\) \(a5\)
34.\(\Box g3\) \(\Box f6\) 35.\(\Box g4\) \(\Box d6\) 36.\(\Box f1\) \(\Box e5\)
37.\(\Box e1\) \(\Box h8\) 38.f4 \(\Box xf4\) 39.\(\Box xf4\) \(\Box c6\)
40.\(\Box e2\) \(\Box h1+\) 41.\(\Box d2\) \(\Box h2\)
White is losing a second pawn and the end is near.
42.g3 \(\Box f3\) 43.\(\Box g8\) \(\Box g2\) 44.\(\Box e1\) \(\Box xe2\)
45.\(\Box xe2\) \(\Box xg3\) 46.\(\Box a8\) \(\Box c7\) 0-1

\(\Box\) Dimitriadis Konstantinos
A72 Xilokastro 1984
1.d4 \(\Box f6\) 2.c4 e6 3.\(\Box f3\) e5 4.d5 \(\Box exd5\)
5.\(\Box exd5\) d6 6.\(\Box c3\) g6 7.e4 \(\Box g7\) 8.\(\Box g5\) h6
9.\(\Box h4\) a6 10.\(\Box d2\) b5 11.\(\Box e2\) 0-0 12.\(\Box wc2\)
\(\Box e8\) 13.0-0 g5 14.\(\Box g3\) \(\Box a7\) 15.a3 \(\Box a7\)
16.\(\Box ac1\) b4 17.\(\Box xb4\) exb4 18.\(\Box d1\) \(\Box xe4\)
19.\(\Box xe4\) \(\Box xe4\) 20.\(\Box d3\) \(\Box e1\) 21.\(\Box e3\)
\(\Box xf1+\) 22.\(\Box xf1\) a5 23.\(\Box g1\) \(\Box d4\) 24.\(\Box d2\)
\(\Box f6\) 25.\(\Box c4\) \(\Box c5\) 26.\(\Box xa5\) \(\Box d7\) 27.\(\Box b3\)
h5 (D)

28.\(\Box b5!\)
By means of a tactical sequence, White obtains two very significant positional advantages, namely the bishop pair and a passed d-pawn. Usually this is enough for victory and indeed White's position after this sequence is winning.
28...h4 29.\(\Box xc5\) \(\Box dx5\) 30.\(\Box c7!\) h3!
A natural idea to fight against the bishop pair - Black seeks counterplay against the opponent's king.
31.\(\Box xh3!\) \(\Box e4\) 32.\(\Box e1!\)
Exchanging Black's soon to be dangerous pieces is always a good strategy.
32...\(\Box xe1+\)
White wins in case of 32...\( \text{d4} \) 33. \( \text{e8} + \) \( \text{f8} \) 34. \( \text{xe2} \) \( \text{hx3} \) 35. \( \text{e5} ! \).

33. \( \text{xe1} \) \( \text{f8} \) 34. \( \text{e5} ! \) \( \text{g6} \! \) !

Neither does 34...\( \text{xe5} \) 35. \( \text{xe5} \) \( \text{f6} ! \) 36. \( \text{e7} \), \( \text{e7} \) 37. \( \text{e7} \), complicate White's task. Black is obliged to keep the queens on the board in order to seek complications.

35. \( \text{d8} \! \) !

A serious mistake. Simple was 35. \( \text{f1} \) ± and White will prevail.

35...\( \text{h7} \! \) ?!

Black could take advantage of White's previous mistake with 35...\( \text{b1} \) 36. \( \text{g2} \) \( \text{g6} \) 37. \( \text{e5} \) ± .

36. \( \text{f1} \) (D)

36...\( \text{c4} \! \)

After this second consecutive mistake Black is left with no hope and the game was over without too much trouble for White. Black had to opt for 36...\( \text{b1} \) 37. \( \text{e2} \) \( \text{xh3} \) 38. \( \text{d3} \) \( \text{xfl} \) 39. \( \text{xf1} \) \( \text{xf1} \) 40. \( \text{xf1} \) \( \text{f8} \) 41. \( \text{b6} \) ± .

37. \( \text{a5} \) c3 38. \( \text{bxc3} \) b3 39. \( \text{c4} \! \) f6 40. \( \text{b8} \) \( \text{e8} \) 41. \( \text{xb3} \) \( \text{f5} \) 42. \( \text{c5} \) \( \text{g7} \) 43. \( \text{c6} \) \( \text{h6} \) 44. \( \text{c3} \) \( \text{e4} \) 45. \( \text{d6} \) \( \text{e6} \) 46. \( \text{d7} \) \( \text{d5} \) 47. \( \text{f3} \) \( \text{e7} \) 48. \( \text{d8} \) \( \text{a7} \) 49. \( \text{b6} \) 1-0

**Queenless Joy**

Attack without queens can be lethal as well:

\[ \square \text{Carlsen Magnus} \]

\[ \text{Nisipeanu Liviu Dieter} \]

D27 Medias 2011

1. \( \text{d4} \) \( \text{d5} \) 2. \( \text{c4} \) \( \text{dxc4} \) 3. \( \text{e3} \) \( \text{f6} \) 4. \( \text{xc4} \) \( \text{e6} \) 5. \( \text{f3} \) c5 6.0-0 a6 7. \( \text{xc5} \) \( \text{xc5} \) 8. \( \text{xd8} \) \( \text{xd8} \) 9. \( \text{e2} \) \( \text{e7} \) 10. \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{d7} \) 11. \( \text{b3} \) (D)

11...\( \text{d6} \! \)?!

11...\( \text{b6} \) (or even 11...\( \text{a7} \)) must be played. An example is 12. \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{c6} \) 13. \( \text{f3} \) \( \text{h8} \) 14. \( \text{f1} \) \( \text{c8} \) 15. \( \text{g5} \) \( \text{f8} \) 16. \( \text{xe3} \) \( \text{e8} \) 17. \( \text{xd8} \) \( \text{xd8} \) 18. \( \text{e1} \) \( \text{h6} \) 19. \( \text{e4} \) \( \text{e4} \) 20. \( \text{xe4} \) f6 = Kozul,Z-Topalov,V Sarajevo 2001.

12. \( \text{a5} \! \)

A nasty surprise for Black. Although he spent a lot of time here, he is not able to avoid the exchange of one of his bishops for a knight, which will secure White a pleasant, long-lasting advantage. Carlsen said it has been shown that it is relatively easy to play with White and to play for something...

12...\( \text{a7} \) 13. \( \text{c4} \) \( \text{b5} \) 13...\( \text{c7} \) 14. \( \text{b3} \) followed by a check from a3 looks horrible for Black.

14. \( \text{b3} \) ! \( \text{d8} \) 15. \( \text{b2} \) \( \text{xc4} \)

Carlsen thought that Black will have to give up the bishop pair at some point. After 15...\( \text{c6} \) 16. \( \text{f1} \) \( \text{a8} \) 17. \( \text{xd6} \) \( \text{xd6} \) 18. \( \text{xd6} \) \( \text{xd6} \) Carlsen was going to preserve the bishop pair with 19. \( \text{d1} ! \) with a big advantage for White.
16. \textit{\textbf{L}}xc4 \textit{\textbf{N}}c6 17. \textit{\textbf{R}}fd1 \textit{\textbf{K}}a8 18.\textit{\textbf{h}}3 (D)

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{chess_diagram1.png}
\end{center}

Black's position is worse than it looks. White's bishop pair together with the lack of any counterplay makes it difficult to defend, especially in a practical game and especially with little time. White's plan is to advance the kingside pawns, gaining more space and trying to create a weakness in Black's pawn formation. Possibly disappointed by the course of the game, Black failed to put up his usual tough resistance.

18...\textit{\textbf{g}}6?!  
This somewhat strange-looking move is meant to prepare ...\textit{\textbf{N}}d5. But on d5 the knight won't be doing much anyway, while the weaknesses created by the text move will soon be fatal. 18...h5 was preferable, stopping g4, at least for a while. Carlsen said he would play g3 \textit{\textbf{g}}2 etc, and Black has no active play. But it was probably better than the game.

19.\textit{\textbf{g}}4! \textit{\textbf{h}}6  
19...h5 is answered by 20.g5 \textit{\textbf{d}}d7 21.\textit{\textbf{g}}2 with advantage.

20.\textit{\textbf{h}}1 \textit{\textbf{a}}c8 21. \textit{\textbf{a}}c1 \textit{\textbf{d}}5 22.\textit{\textbf{h}}4 \textit{\textbf{e}}8  
Too passive. Something like 22...\textit{\textbf{c}}b4 was called for, trying some counterplay as quickly as possible.

23.\textit{\textbf{g}}5 hxg5?!  
After this inaccuracy the position becomes really difficult. The opening of the h-file doesn't help Black according to Carlsen and now his position is more or less winning. Black must try to keep the kingside closed and 23...h5 was necessary.

24.\textit{\textbf{h}}xg5 \textit{\textbf{e}}7 25.\textit{\textbf{g}}2 \textit{\textbf{b}}6 26.\textit{\textbf{d}}3! \textit{\textbf{b}}4 27.\textit{\textbf{e}}4 (D)

\begin{center}
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{chess_diagram2.png}
\end{center}

And now Black is really lost.

27...\textit{\textbf{a}}xa2  
There was no salvation either in 27...\textit{\textbf{a}}xc1 28.\textit{\textbf{a}}c1 \textit{\textbf{d}}3 29.\textit{\textbf{a}}xd3 \textit{\textbf{a}}xd3 30.\textit{\textbf{d}}4 \textit{\textbf{d}}5 31.\textit{\textbf{c}}8+ \textit{\textbf{d}}7 32.\textit{\textbf{b}}8 \textit{\textbf{c}}7 33.\textit{\textbf{g}}8+--.  

28.\textit{\textbf{x}}d8+ \textit{\textbf{x}}d8 29.\textit{\textbf{h}}1  
Black is temporarily a pawn up, but his position is lost. The bishop pair dominates the board; the rook is going to come to h7 and the knight to e5. Black just can't stand such a pressure.

29...\textit{\textbf{d}}5 30.\textit{\textbf{e}}5 \textit{\textbf{f}}5 31.\textit{\textbf{a}}xd5  
And Black's position has fallen apart. He resigned due to 31...\textit{\textbf{e}}xd5 32.\textit{\textbf{h}}8+ \textit{\textbf{c}}7 33.\textit{\textbf{h}}7 \textit{\textbf{d}}8 34.\textit{\textbf{d}}4 and huge material losses are unavoidable: 34...\textit{\textbf{c}}6 (34...\textit{\textbf{c}}1 35.\textit{\textbf{g}}6 \textit{\textbf{g}}5 36.\textit{\textbf{b}}6+ \textit{\textbf{e}}8 37.\textit{\textbf{h}}8+ \textit{\textbf{f}}7 38.\textit{\textbf{a}}8) 35.\textit{\textbf{h}}8+ \textit{\textbf{c}}7 36.\textit{\textbf{a}}c6+-. 1-0

\textbf{Endgame Training}  
Now we should move to the concept of open centre in the endgame. In general this is the most ‘desirable’ set-up for the bishop pair; an endgame with an open centre is like an invitation to heaven!

The bishop pair is free to act and present its possesor with plenty of positional and tactical possibilities. In practice the defender rarely succeeds in gaining his goal; usually he ends up with nothing.

As said above, the combined power of the
bishop pair in such positions, where no central pawns exist can be compared to two swords controlling the entire board and ‘killing’ anything that comes in their way.

Although this sounds more poetic than chessy, it’s nothing else but the real truth…

□ Seirawan Yasser
■ Korchnoi Viktor

A25 Montpellier 1985
1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.g2 g6 4.c3 g7 5.e3 d6 6.ge2 ge7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 g4 9.h3 h6 10.d5 wD7 11.h2 f5 12.f4 d8 13.c2 c8 14.c1 d8 15.b4 c6 16.de3 e4 17.dx4 xc4 18.exe5 gxf5 19.g1 d5 20.f3 d6 21.g4 e6 22.g3 d3 23.c1 fxg4 24.xg4 g6 25.e4 fxe4 26.exe5 cxd5 27.xd5 e4 28.db3 d7 29.xd1 xd1 30.wxd1 wD6 31.f2 f4 32.xd4 wxf4 33.e1 e5 34.e2 c6 35.f1 e5 36.b5 d4 37.c4+ h8 38.c3 c8 39.xd4 wD4 40.wD4 xD4 41.b3 (D)

56...Lf8!

The h4-pawn is the first real target!

57.g5

If 57.f6 then 57...e7+ 58.g7 h5 59.h6 d1 60.f7 xh4 61.xh5 a4 62.e8 d5 --.

57.d1 58.f2

The attempt to push the h-pawn is not solving the problems: 58.h5 d3! 59.f4 e5! 60.e6 h6+ 61.g6 e4+ 62.f7 a3 --.

58...e5?

58...e7+! was correct: 59.h6 f3 60.h5 e5! (60.f8+ 61.xh7 xh5 62.d3 offers White some survival chances) 61.xh7 xh5 and Black should win.

59.ed3 a4 60.xh7 xh5 61.g8?

White ought to give Black some hard decisions to make. After 61.h5! e7+
62.\textbar f4  \textbar c4  63.\textbar b1  \textbar f8  64.\textbar g5  he would have excellent chances to share the half point, due to his h-pawn counterplay.

61...\textbar e7+  62.\textbar g4  \textbar e2+  63.\textbar f4
Or 63.\textbar h3  \textbar d4  64.\textbar h1  \textbar e5  65.\textbar g3  \textbar f3  and Black dominates.

63...\textbar d4?!
Leaving the h-pawn alive is generally the wrong policy, as White will always present counterplay. 63...\textbar xh4  64.\textbar e3  \textbar h5  → was good enough.

64.\textbar g3  \textbar b5  65.\textbar f7  \textbar d6+  66.\textbar g2 (D)

The ending is of course won for Black but the truth is that he mishandled it many times from now. Just a clear proof of how difficult it is to play such endings...

66...\textbar a5?
Here Black was obliged to find 66...\textbar c4!
67.\textbar xxc4  \textbar bxc4  → and cash the point.

67.\textbar h5  \textbar f4  68.\textbar h3  \textbar e3  69.\textbar g1  \textbar d1  70.\textbar f3+  \textbar e3  71.\textbar e5!
Not 71.\textbar h4?  \textbar g5  72.\textbar f5  b4  73.\textbar h6  \textbar c2  74.\textbar h7  \textbar f6  →.

71...\textbar a4  72.\textbar f1  b4  73.\textbar e1  \textbar e2  74.\textbar e4  \textbar f4  75.\textbar b6  \textbar b2
There was no win even with 75...\textbar d4  76.\textbar f4!  (76.\textbar d7?  a3  →)  76...b3  77.\textbar a3  \textbar g5  78.\textbar axb3  axb3  79.\textbar g6  \textbar d3  80.\textbar d1  b2  81.\textbar b1  (81.\textbar xd3?  \textbar xd3 and White will sooner or later fall into a lethal zugzwang: 82.\textbar b1  \textbar f4  83.\textbar a3  \textbar c1  84.\textbar b1  \textbar h6  85.\textbar a3  \textbar c3  86.\textbar b1+  \textbar b3  87.\textbar e2  \textbar c2  88.\textbar a3+  \textbar c1  89.\textbar f3  \textbar f8  →)  81...\textbar f4  82.\textbar a3  \textbar d6  83.\textbar b1  \textbar f8  84.\textbar d2  \textbar e3  85.\textbar b1  as there is no improvement.

76.\textbar d5?
White again missed a drawing motif: 76.\textbar g6!  a3  (76...b3  77.\textbar xa4+  \textbar xa2  78.\textbar e2  =)  77.\textbar c4+  \textbar e3  78.\textbar xc2  \textbar xc2  79.\textbar a5  \textbar b2  80.\textbar d1  \textbar xa2  81.\textbar c2  =.

76...\textbar e5?
But this is another serious mistake by Black. He should opt for 76...\textbar g3+!  77.\textbar e2  b3  78.\textbar e4  \textbar f4  79.axb3  \textbar xb3  80.\textbar d1+  \textbar a3  81.\textbar e8  \textbar b4  and Black will win the notorious bishop pair v. knight without pawns ending.

77.\textbar e2?
Missing the drawing line: 77.\textbar c3!  \textbar c3+  78.\textbar e2  \textbar b1  79.\textbar c4+  \textbar xa2  80.\textbar b6+  =.

77...\textbar c3?
And Black 'refuses' to win with 77...b3!
78.\textbar b4  (78.axb3  a3  79.\textbar b4  \textbar b1  80.\textbar h6  \textbar c3  81.\textbar h7  \textbar xh7  →)  78...a3!  79.axb3  \textbar b1  →.

78.\textbar g6? (D)
Again White could draw with either 78.\textbar xc3  bxc3  (78...\textbar xc3  79.h6  =)  79.\textbar g6  \textbar b1  80.\textbar xxb1  \textbar xxb1  81.h6  c2  82.h7  c1  \textbar w  83.h8  \textbar w  \textbar c2+  84.\textbar e3  \textbar xa2  85.\textbar d4  or 78.h6  a3  79.\textbar e6  and Black cannot improve.

78...\textbar b3!
But now it's all over.

79.\textbar c3  \textbar xg6  80.\textbar d1+  \textbar e2  81.\textbar e3+  \textbar c1  82.axb3  a3
White resigned. An interesting ending...

0-1
Caruana Fabiano
Kramnik Vladimir

C65 Dortmund 2012
1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 f6 4.d3 c5 5.0-0 d6 6.c3 0-0 7.bd2 e7 8.d4 exd4 9.cxd4 b6 10.b3 d5 11.e5 0-0 12.d3 f5 13.e2 c6 14.b2 xd2 15.xd2 c7 16.e2 f6 17.b4 xe5 18.dxe5 h8 19.h5 e7 20.g5 g6 21.g3 e7 22.e6 f5 23.xe4 dxe4 24.xd7 + f8

Again 43...xg7? fails to 44.h8 #.
44.e8 xg7 (D)

White possesses the bishop pair and he is obviously putting on the pressure.
38...xe6?

This runs into a furious attack. Black's king must run away immediately with 38...g6!
39.xc5 (39.xa7 xe6) 39...xc5 40.xa7 f5 and Black keeps practical drawing chances in both cases.
39.d3+! h6 40.h4

This weaves a mating net. The direct 40.e3+!? g5 41.g8 is even stronger: 41...h4 (41...g7? 42.h8+ h7 43.xh7 #) 42.g6+ h5 43.h3 +–.

40...g6 41.h8+ h7 42.g8! g7

There is nothing else Black can do to postpone resignation. Mate is looming all around: 42...f8? 43.e3+ f4 44.xf4+ g5 45.xg5 # or 42...xd4? 43.g6 #.
43.xe7+ h7

Black is completely lost as White's attack on the light squares increases in strength due to the opposite-coloured bishops.
45...h6 46.a4 h7 47.h6 48.c2 h7

Or 48...f5 49.xf5 gxf5 50.e8 +–.
49.g4 hxg4+ 50.xg4 h6 51.e2 b4 52.e5 h5?! 53.e6 1-0

In the previous game Caruana was on the winning side, but in the next he had to drink the bitter cup of the loser... Well, there are always ups and downs...

Caruana Fabiano
Nakamura Hikaru

E70 Wijk aan Zee 2013
1.d4 f6 2.c4 e5 3.d5 g6 4.c3 g7 5.e4 d6 6.d3 0-0 7.ge2 bd7 8.c2 e8 9.0-0 c7 10.a4 a6 11.f4 b4 12.e3 e6 13.dxe6 fxe6 14.wd2 f6 15.ad1 g4 16.h1 e6 17.h1 xe3 18.xe3 d4 19.e5 dxe5 20.fxe5 xf1+ 21.xf1 d7 22.xd4 exd4 23.xd4 c6 24.g4 e7 25.b3 xe5 26.e2 d8 27.e4 e8 28.f3 b6 29.f4 f7 30.d3 d6 31.e3 h4 32.h3 g3 33.xg3 xg3 34.f3 f7 35.g1 d4 36.e3 g5 37.f2 h5 38.e2 a5 39.e3 d8 40.f3 g7 41.b2 d6 42.b1 f6 43.f1 e7 44.e4 g8 45.h1 h4
46. \( f3 \) 8f8 47. \( d1 \) d8 48. \( f1 \) g6
49. \( e4 \) h5 50. \( f3 \) 8f8 51. \( f2 \) g6
52. \( e4 \) (D)

52... \( c5 \)?

More or less White cannot live with facing the bishop pair. He had to choose between 53. \( xc5 \) bxc5 54. \( f2 \) b8 55. \( d1 \) \( c3 \) \( d4 \) and 53. \( e2 \) \( f4 \) 54. \( xc5 \) bxc5 55. \( c1 \) \( d4 \).

53... \( d8 \) ?\( e2 \)?! (D)

Staying in the pin runs into an amazing refutation. But 54. \( e2 \) does not save Black in the long run due to 54... \( d4 \) 55. \( xc5 \) bxc5 56. \( c1 \) \( d1 \) \( d1 \) 57. \( xd1 \) \( d6 \) 58. \( d2 \) \( e5 \) 59. \( e3 \) \( c2 \) → 56... \( d3 \) 57. \( h5 \) \( f5 \) 58. \( g4 \) \( xb3 \) →.

54... \( g4 \)!!

A mighty tactical blow, which opens the gates of White's castle.

55. \( hxe4 \) \( h3 \) 56. \( d1 \)

The obvious 56. \( g3 \) runs into 56... \( f8 \) 57. \( d3 \) \( f4 \) and White loses a piece due to the pins: 58. \( h4 \) \( xe4 \) 59. \( xe4 \) \( xf1 \) →.

56... \( f8 \)?! (D)

A slight slip. 56... \( h2 \)! 57. \( g3 \) \( h8 \) 58. \( d2 \) \( xe4 \) 59. \( xe4 \) \( h3 \) → was even more precise as Black's rook would have been more active.

57. \( d3 \)?

57. \( c3 \) was forced, but it is not likely that White can survive after 57... \( xe4 \) 58. \( xe4 \) h2 59. \( g3 \) \( f2 \) 60. \( d3 \) (60. \( g5 \) \( b4 \) + 61. \( d4 \) \( b2 \) 62. \( e5 \) \( bxc5 \) 63. \( e5 \) \( bxc5 \) 64. \( c6 \) \( e3 \) 65. \( f4 \) \( e2 \) →) 60... \( h2 \) 61. \( d2 \) \( b3 \) 62. \( c2 \) \( a3 \) 63. \( b2 \) \( a4 \) 64. \( hxh \) \( xc4 \) 65. \( e2 \) \( f6 \) →.

57... \( h2 \)

Or 57... \( f4 \) 58. \( e1 \) \( xe4 \) 59. \( xe4 \) \( xe4 \) 60. \( xe4 \) \( hxe4 \) →.

58. \( h1 \) \( g1 \) 59. \( e2 \) \( xe4 \)!

The advantage of the extra option to exchange one of the bishops at the right moment... Without the knight, White's blockade crumbles immediately as all dark squares in his camp are fatally weak.

60. \( xe4 \) \( f6 \) 61. \( f3 \) \( d8 \)

White resigned due to 62. \( e4 \) \( g5 \) 63. \( f3 \) \( f4 \) 64. \( g5 \) \( xg5 \) 65. \( g3 \) \( f8 \) 66. \( g4 \) \( f4 \) 67. \( b7 \) \( xg4 \) 68. \( e4 \) \( g3 \) 69. \( b7 \) \( f2+ \) 70. \( e1 \) \( e5 \) →.

0-1
The fourth example strongly reminds us of the first; its only difference is the existence of the queens instead of rooks, but both of these pieces are labelled under the word 'major', so they can be handled in almost 'identical' fashion.

\[ \text{□ Schuh Hubert} \]
\[ \text{■ Grivas Efstratios} \]

A31 Strasbourg 1985

1.d4 \( \text{Qf6} \) 2.c4 \( \text{c5} \) 3.\( \text{Nf3} \) cxd4 4.\( \text{Nxd4} \) b6
5.\( \text{Qc3} \) \( \text{b7} \) 6.f3 \( \text{e6} \) 7.e4 d6 8.\( \text{Qe2} \) \( \text{e7} \)
9.\( \text{Qa4+} \) \( \text{Nd7} \) 10.0-0 0-0 11.\( \text{Qd1} \) a6
12.\( \text{Qe3} \) \( \text{Qc7} \) 13.\( \text{Qac1} \) \( \text{Qf6} \) 14.\( \text{Qf1} \) \( \text{Qd7} \)
15.\( \text{Qh1} \) \( \text{Qac8} \) 16.b4 \( \text{Qb8} \) 17.\( \text{Qb3} \) \( \text{Qd8} \)
18.\( \text{Qg1} \) \( \text{Qc7} \) 19.\( \text{Qa4} \) \( \text{Qfd8} \) 20.\( \text{Qc5} \) \( \text{Qd5} \)
21.\( \text{Qb6} \) \( \text{Qf4} \) 22.\( \text{Qb1} \) b5 23.\( \text{Qe2} \) \( \text{Qe5} \)
24.\( \text{Qd6} \) \( \text{Qxb6} \) 25.\( \text{Qxd8}+ \) \( \text{Qxd8} \) 26.\( \text{Qb6} \)
27.\( \text{Qd1} \) \( \text{Qd1} \) 28.\( \text{Qxd1} \) h6 29.\( \text{Qc1} \)
\( \text{Qf7} \) 30.\( \text{Qd4} \) \( \text{Qd7} \) 31.\( \text{Qc3} \) \( \text{Qf6} \) 32.\( \text{Qb3} \)
33.\( \text{Qf7} \) 34.\( \text{Qf4} \) 35.\( \text{Qd4} \) (D)

35...\( \text{Qc4!} \)
Black had no choice but to return his material gain, but in fact his only option is also a pleasant one. In order to regain the pawn, White must simplify into an endgame where Black's bishops dominate, while he also foregoes any chance to 'annoy' Black.
36.\( \text{Qxc4} \) \( \text{Qxc4} \) 37.\( \text{Qxc4} \) \( \text{Qxe4!} \) 38.\( \text{Qxe6+} \) \( \text{Qg6} \) 39.\( \text{Qg4+} \) \( \text{Qh7} \) 40.\( \text{Qf5} \) \( \text{Qd5} \) 41.\( \text{Qe6} \)
\( \text{Qg8} \)
Escaping from a possible future perpetual check (with \( \text{Qg6-e8} \)).
42.\( \text{Qa4} \)
If 42.\( \text{Qg6} \) then 42...\( \text{Qf7} \) \( \pm \).

42...\( \text{Qh5} \) 43.\( \text{Qc2} \) \( \text{a5} \) (D)

Black fixes the target pawn on a light square, where it will always be threatened by the d5-bishop. Black's bishop pair, augmented by the fact that there are no central pawns and that play develops on both flanks, prove deadly. White has no possibility of creating counterplay, and is thus condemned to a slow but certain death.
44.\( \text{Qb3} \) \( \text{h4} \) 45.\( \text{Qd4} \) \( \text{Qe4} \) 46.\( \text{Qf3} \) \( \text{Qg3} \)
47.\( \text{Qd2} \) \( \text{Qc6} \) 48.\( \text{Qh2}?! \)
The desire to get rid of the enemy bishop pair is understandable, but this speeds up the finish. White should have tried 48.\( \text{Qc4} \) \( \text{Qc7} \) \( \pm \).
48...\( \text{Qd7} \) 49.\( \text{Qg3} \) \( \text{hgxg3} \) 50.\( \text{Qf1} \)
50.\( \text{Qc4+} \) \( \text{Qd5} \) 51.\( \text{Qc2} \) \( \text{Qa7} \) does not save White either.
50...\( \text{Qxf5} \) 51.\( \text{Qg3} \) \( \text{Qxh3+} \) 52.\( \text{Qg1} \) \( \text{Qd7} \)
Certainly not 52...\( \text{Qxg3} \) 53.\( \text{Qc6+} \) \( \text{Qf8} \)
54.\( \text{Qxc6} \), when Black has lost the greater part of his advantage.
53.\( \text{Qh5} \) \( \text{Qd4+} \) 54.\( \text{Qf1} \)
54.\( \text{Qh1?!} \) loses on the spot: 54...\( \text{Qa1+} \) 55.\( \text{Qh2} \) \( \text{Qe5+} \),
54...\( \text{Qe4!} \) 55.\( \text{Qf4} \) \( \text{Qxa4} \) 56.\( \text{Qh3} \) \( \text{Qa1+} \)
57.\( \text{Qf2} \) \( \text{Qd4+} \) 58.\( \text{Qg3} \) \( \text{Qe3+} \)
Black resigned: 59.\( \text{Qg4} \) \( \text{f5+} \) 60.\( \text{Qg5} \) \( \text{Qg3+} \).
0-1

An ex-World Champion nearly always handles positions to the maximum accuracy. Here Veselin Topalov is at his best, killing his great opponent rather easily and in no time!
In this line of the 'Slav Defence' Black surrenders the bishop pair to White and accepts the worse pawn structure. As I cannot find any positive in that action, I generally suggest its avoidance.

20.g3 h5
This creates a weakness without offering anything in return. 20...a5 is preferable.

21.\( R_d4 \)
White must repeat moves as 21.\( Lxa7? \) \( R_c3 \) 22.\( R_d3 \) \( Rxa4 \) = loses the advantage.

21...\( a5 \)
With hindsight Black should prefer 21...\( \text{xd8} \) 22.\( \text{d1} \) also seems excellent for White.

22.\( a3+ \) \( e8 \)
22...\( b4 \) is not changing much: 23.\( \text{xd8} \) \( \text{xd8} \) 24.\( b2 \) ±.

23.\( \text{ad1} \) \( \text{xd4} \) 24.\( \text{xd4} \) \( b1 \)
24...\( \text{d8} \) 25.\( \text{xd8}+ \) \( \text{xd8} \) 26.f4 ± is more 'logical' but Black's desire to create some threats or just activate his rook is understandable.

25.\( d3! \) \( e1+ \) 26.\( f2 \) \( f7 \)
If 26...\( \text{d5} \) then 27.\( \text{c5!} \) \( a1 \) 28.\( \text{xa7} \) \( a2+ \) 29.\( g1 \) \( c3 \) 30.\( g6+ \) \( e7 \) 31.\( c5+ \)...
White's opening spatial advantage does not guarantee anything particularly impressive but the combination that follows does!

16. \( \textbf{N} \) \( fxe5! \) \( \textbf{L} \) \( a6 \)

Or 16...\( dxe5 \) 17.d6 \( \textbf{L} \) dxe6 18.\( \textbf{W} \)xd6 ±.

17. \( \textbf{B} \)b3 \( dxe5 \) 18.d6 \( \textbf{L} \)xd6 19.\( \textbf{D} \)xd6 \( \textbf{Q} \)xd6 20.\( \textbf{N} \)xd6 (D)

Now White can claim a pleasant advantage, based on his bishop pair.

20... \( \textbf{Q} \)b7

Preferable was 20...\( \textbf{R} \)b8 although White stands clearly better after 21.\( \textbf{Q} \)c4! \( \textbf{B} \)xc4 22.\( \textbf{Q} \)xc4 \( \textbf{B} \)c6 23.\( \textbf{R} \)d2! ±, as the a5-pawn is rather weak.

21.\( \textbf{B} \)xb7 \( \textbf{Q} \)xb7 22.cxb4 \( \textbf{Q} \)xb4 23.f3

Stabilizing the centre and cutting off any potential black activity. The coming \( \textbf{B} \)c3-b6 will clearly undermine Black's main weakness: the a5-pawn.

23... \( \textbf{D} \)d8

The alternative was 23...\( \textbf{D} \)d7 24.\( \textbf{Q} \)e3 \( \textbf{R} \)fc8 25.\( \textbf{R} \)ed1 \( \textbf{R} \)c7 26.\( \textbf{R} \)d6 ±.

24.\( \textbf{Q} \)e3 \( \textbf{H} \)

Or 24...d3 25.\( \textbf{Q} \)c4 \( \textbf{R} \)d6 26.\( \textbf{R} \)ed1 \( \textbf{R} \)ad8 27.\( \textbf{R} \)xd6 \( \textbf{R} \)xd6 28.\( \textbf{R} \)c1 \( \textbf{R} \)c6 29.\( \textbf{R} \)d1 ±.

25.\( \textbf{R} \)ed1 \( \textbf{R} \)c6 26.\( \textbf{R} \)ac1 \( \textbf{R} \)e8 27.\( \textbf{R} \)f2 \( \textbf{R} \)xd1 28.\( \textbf{R} \)xd1 \( \textbf{R} \)c8 (D)

29.g4!

With the idea h4 and g5. Black has no defence to oppose to the dominating bishop pair.

29... \( \textbf{D} \)d7?!

Blunders usually come in difficult positions...

30.\( \textbf{R} \)b6! \( \textbf{R} \)e6

30...\( \textbf{R} \)a8 31.\( \textbf{R} \)c7 +–.

31.\( \textbf{R} \)xe6 \( \textbf{R} \)xe6

31...\( \textbf{R} \)c2+ 32.\( \textbf{Q} \)e3 \( \textbf{R} \)xe6 33.\( \textbf{R} \)d2 +–.

32.\( \textbf{R} \)d8?!

Simplification guarantees a trivial win.

32...\( \textbf{R} \)xd8 33.\( \textbf{R} \)xd8 \( \textbf{R} \)d7 34.\( \textbf{Q} \)xa5 \( \textbf{Q} \)c5 35.b3! \( \textbf{Q} \)xb3 36.\( \textbf{R} \)xb4 \( \textbf{R} \)d4 37.a5

1-0

What about the newest World Champion?

Well, if you want to become a champion, you must have a broad chess culture, understanding and knowledge about all strategic and tactical elements…

\( \square \) \textbf{Carlsen Magnus}

\( \blacklozenge \) \textbf{Adams Michael}

E36 Khanty-Mansiysk 2007

1.d4 \( \textbf{Q} \)f6 2.c4 \textbf{e}6 3.\( \textbf{Q} \)c3 \( \textbf{B} \)b4 4.\( \textbf{W} \)c2 d5
5.a3 \texttt{xc3+} 6.\texttt{xc3} \texttt{dxc4} 7.\texttt{xc4} b6 8.\texttt{f4} \texttt{a6} 9.\texttt{xc7} \texttt{xc7} 10.\texttt{xc7} 0-0 11.\texttt{f3} \texttt{c8} 12.\texttt{f4} \texttt{bd7} 13.\texttt{d2} \texttt{c2} 14.\texttt{b1} \texttt{ac8} 15.\texttt{b3} \texttt{c4} 16.\texttt{a1} \texttt{a2} 17.\texttt{xc2} \texttt{xb1} 18.\texttt{a1} \texttt{d5} 19.\texttt{d2} e5 20.e3 exd4 21.exd4 \texttt{b8} 22.\texttt{f3} \texttt{c6} 23.\texttt{xc2} \texttt{xb1} 24.\texttt{a1} \texttt{d5} 25.\texttt{b3} \texttt{e6} 26.\texttt{c1} f6 27.a4 a5 28.\texttt{c3} \texttt{a2} 29.\texttt{d2} \texttt{de7} (D)

White's advantage is undisputed. He not only possesses the bishop pair but he is also a pawn up.

30.\texttt{f1}??

But suddenly decides to give up the d4-pawn in order to open the position, where his bishop pair together with the weakness of the b6-pawn will secure the advantage. Of course he could have kept the extra pawn with 30.\texttt{d1} as 30...\texttt{xd4}?! fails to 31.\texttt{xf7+ xf7} 32.\texttt{c4 ec6} 33.\texttt{xb6} +.

30...\texttt{xd4} 31.\texttt{e1} \texttt{de6} 32.\texttt{c4} \texttt{d5} 33.\texttt{b1}!!

An excellent response, predicted in advance.

33.\texttt{f8}!

After 33...\texttt{xc3} 34.bxc3 ± White regains the pawn but this time under more favourable circumstances.

34.\texttt{e1}!!

The bishop pair retreat is only temporary; soon it will be excellently placed with access to many squares...

34...\texttt{e7}

34...\texttt{cb4} 35.\texttt{d1} (35.\texttt{g1}!? \texttt{e8} 36.\texttt{f2}

White's advantage has become really great. The open position helps to the maximum the bishop pair, while Black's fixed queenside weaknesses will prove lethal.

36...\texttt{d7} 37.\texttt{e1+ f8} 38.\texttt{d1 e7} 39.\texttt{e1+ f8} 40.\texttt{d6 e5}

After 40...\texttt{c5} 41.\texttt{xf7 xf7} 42.\texttt{xc5} (or 42.\texttt{b5} ±) 42...\texttt{xc5} 43.\texttt{e4} \texttt{d5} 44.\texttt{d1 e6} 45.f4 g5 46.g3 ± Black will run out of useful moves sooner or later.

41.\texttt{xf7 xf7} 42.\texttt{d1}

Such positions should be avoided for Black, as the bishop pair will sooner or later fully dominate the knight pair.

42...\texttt{e7} 43.\texttt{f4}!!

43.\texttt{a6} ± was more accurate.

43...\texttt{g4}!

Not of course 43...\texttt{xf4}? 44.\texttt{xd8 xd8} 45.\texttt{xb6} +.

44.\texttt{e1+ f8} 45.\texttt{d4 d6}

Again taking on \texttt{f4} loses: 45...\texttt{xf4}? 46.\texttt{xb6 d5} 47.b4! \texttt{axb4} 48.a5 and the knights can't fight against the marginal passed pawn.

46.h3 \texttt{h6}?! Here 46...\texttt{xf4} was worth a try, at the same
time containing a trap: 47.\texttt{Re4} (after 47.\texttt{Re1}? threatening 48.\texttt{Le5} +-- or 47...\texttt{Re8} 48.\texttt{hxg4} \texttt{Ke6} 49.\texttt{h1} +--) 48.\texttt{hxg4} \texttt{Ke6} and it is White who must look for escape) 47...\texttt{Ke6} 48.\texttt{Re6} \texttt{xe6} 49.\texttt{h1} +-- or 47...
\texttt{Ke8} 48.hxg4 \texttt{Ne6} 49.\texttt{Re1} +--] 48.hxg4 \texttt{Ne6} and it is White who must look for escape) 47...
\texttt{Ne6} 48.\texttt{Re6} \texttt{xe6} 49.hxg4 ±

White is clearly better, but winning it might be a difficult task. Such ‘transformations’ in material balance is a usual motif to fight against the bishop pair.

47.\texttt{Re1}!

Back to the right track!

47...
\texttt{Nf5}

47...
\texttt{Nxf4}? 48.\texttt{Le5} +--.

48.\texttt{Lf2} \texttt{e7}

48...\texttt{xf4} 49.\texttt{Re6} \texttt{xe6} 50.\texttt{Re6} ±

49.\texttt{g4} \texttt{h6} 50.\texttt{f5} \texttt{f7} 51.\texttt{g2} \texttt{f4}

52.\texttt{Re6} \texttt{xe6} 53.\texttt{xb6}

In spite of Black's efforts the inevitable happened. Now the extra pawn secures a technical win.

53...\texttt{e4} 54.\texttt{c5}+ \texttt{d7} 55.\texttt{f1}

Even stronger was 55.\texttt{b3} \texttt{g2} 56.\texttt{xb2} \texttt{g2} 57.\texttt{exd6} +--

55...\texttt{xb2} 56.\texttt{b5}+ \texttt{d8}?! More stubborn was 56...\texttt{c7} although after 57.\texttt{b8} (or 57.h4) 57...\texttt{g6} 58.fxg6 hxg6 59.h4 Black's position was difficult anyway.

57.\texttt{b6}+ \texttt{e7} 58.\texttt{h2} (D)

There is no way out for Black any more...

58...\texttt{d5} 59.\texttt{xa5} \texttt{d6} 60.\texttt{d2} \texttt{c5} 61.\texttt{g3} \texttt{c7} 62.\texttt{e3}+ \texttt{b4} 63.\texttt{d2}+

\begin{center}
\texttt{XABCDEFGHY}
\end{center}

\texttt{8-+-+-+-+} (7+-+-mk-zpp' 6-vL-+-zp-+&
5zpL+-+P+-% 4P+-+-snP+$ 3+-+-+-+P#
2-sn-+-+-mK" 1+-+-+-+-!

xabcdefghy

There is no way out for Black any more...

58...\texttt{d5} 59.\texttt{xa5} \texttt{d6} 60.\texttt{d2} \texttt{c5} 61.\texttt{g3} \texttt{c7} 62.\texttt{e3}+ \texttt{b4} 63.\texttt{d2}+

\begin{center}
\texttt{XABCDEFGHY}
\end{center}

\texttt{8-+-+-+-+} (7+-+-mk-zpp' 6-vL-+-zp-+&
5zpL+-+P+-% 4P+-+-snP+$ 3+-+-+-+P#
2-sn-+-+-mK" 1+-+-+-+-!

xabcdefghy

Advanced Training

Endgames with this specific pawn structure can and should be studied in detail.

The next six examples are almost identical to the previous two, but nevertheless they can be instructive and present many new and old ideas.

As has been said, this is a kind of position that one can play with his eyes shut!

□ Gurevich Mikhail

■ Sandipan Chanda

A17 Gibraltar 2006

1.\texttt{c4} \texttt{f6} 2.\texttt{c3} \texttt{e6} 3.\texttt{f3} \texttt{c5} 4.\texttt{e2} 0-0 5.\texttt{a3} \texttt{xc3} 6.\texttt{xc3} \texttt{b6} 7.e3 \texttt{b7} 8.\texttt{e2} \texttt{c5} 9.\texttt{b4} \texttt{d6} 10.\texttt{h2} \texttt{e6} 11.0-0 \texttt{e8} 12.d4 \texttt{xd4} 13.\texttt{xd4} \texttt{xd4} 14.\texttt{xd4} d5 15.\texttt{xd5} \texttt{xd5} 16.\texttt{xd5} \texttt{xd5} 17.\texttt{ac1} \texttt{ac8} 18.\texttt{af1} \texttt{xc1} 19.\texttt{xc1} \texttt{c8} 20.\texttt{xc8}+ \texttt{xc8} (D)

\begin{center}
\texttt{XABCDEFGHY}
\end{center}

\texttt{8-+-+-+-+} (7+-+-mk-zpp' 6-vL-+-zp-+&
5zpL+-+P+-% 4P+-+-snP+$ 3+-+-+-+P#
2-sn-+-+-mK" 1+-+-+-+-!

xabcdefghy

White achieved the exact material that he was aiming for: the bishop pair versus bishop and knight in the endgame. A typical, pleasant advantage, where the game usually goes in White's favour. Although there are no weaknesses in Black's position so far, the fact that White possessed the bishop pair with an open centre and pawns on both sides
of the board, makes this endgame extremely difficult for Black.

21.e4!

Gaining space in the centre is the first stage in White's plan. He should activate his bishops as much as possible, create pawn weaknesses in his opponent's position, on both sides hopefully, centralize his king and create passed pawn(s). Black is facing a long and difficult defence.

21...Nc7

If 21...Nf4 then 22.Lc4 (with the threat b2-e5-b8) 22...g6 23.b5 ±.

22.b5!

Creates the weakness no1; the a7-pawn.

22...f6

With the idea 23...Kf7, 24...e5 and 25...e6, trying to block the position in the centre as much as possible.

23.Lc3

Planning b4-d6-b8.

23...f7

Or 23...e5 24.c4+ f8 25.b4 ±.

24.c4 g6 25.b4 e5 26.e2 b7 26...d7 27.d6 c5 28.f3 e5 29.b8 ±.

27.f3 d7 28.d6 g6 29.f2 f5 30.exf5 gxf5 (D)

30...exf5 was probably a better decision, although after 31.c4+ f6 32.e3 White is clearly better.

31.g4!

This creates a passed pawn on the kingside and by using the classical principle of the two weaknesses, makes Black's position practically undefendable.

31...fxg4 32.fxg4 d5 33.e3 g6 34.h4 h6 35.h5+ g7 36.g3 f6 37.e5 f7 38.f4 g7 39.d4

With the idea e5-d6-c7-b8. 39.b8 d7 40.xa7 e5 41.f3 ± was good as well.

39...e4 40.e5+ f7 41.f4 g7 42.e5 c3 43.d3 f3 44.d6

White continues his plan, and creates the threat of 45.e5+, which is better than 44.xe6 xg4+ 45.d6 ±.

44...a4 45.e5+ g8 46.g5 c5

The only move as after 46...hxg5 47.h6 the h-pawn is unstoppable.

47.g6 e4+ 48.xe6 xg5+ 49.e7

With the threat 50.b8. White wins.

49.e2 b5 50.b8 a6 51.bxa6 bxa6 52.a7 f3 52...b5 53.d3 +-

53.xb6 f5 54.h8 c4 55.d4 d3 56.e3 g7 57.a4 b4 58.d4+ g8 59.a5 d5+ 60.h6 f4 61.e3 f8 62.c6 xh5 63.xh6+ f7 64.d5+!

By this White converts the advantage of the bishop pair into material, with an extra queen in a couple of moves, as Black's pieces are unable to stop the a-pawn. After 64...xd5 65.xd5

Black resigned.

1-0

The next two games of the Serbian GM Branko Damljanovic are quite instructive.

Damljanovic Branko
Barlov Dragan
A14 Pljevlja 1989

1.f3 f6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.g2 e7 5.0-0 0-0 6.b3 c5 7.b2 c6 8.e3 b6 9.e3 b7 10.exd5 xa7 11.xd5 xe5 12.d4 ad8 13.e5 wd6 14.xc5 xc5 15.e2 xe5 16.xb7 wa5 17.xf1 xd1+ 18.xd1 g6 19.fc2 wg5 20.xc4 d8 21.xd8+ xd8 (D)
Queens are on the board but this cannot really help Black to defend.

22. \( \text{a3} \)!

A very strong move which emphasizes Black’s back rank weaknesses. Due to lack of piece coordination Black goes down step by step until his position becomes critical. The initiative rests firmly with White, and he treats the last phase of the game with the utmost accuracy.

22...

23. \( \text{h4} \) \( \text{Qf8} \) 24. \( \text{Qe5} \) \( \text{f5} \)

Black desperately needs fresh air to parry the threat \( \text{Qe8} \), but now a new target (e6-pawn) is created.

25. \( \text{Qe8} \) \( \text{Qf6} \) 26. \( \text{Ld3}! \)

The bishop is transferred to c4, attacking the weak black e6-pawn.

26... \( \text{g6} \) 27. \( \text{c4} \) \( \text{g7} \) 28. \( \text{d6}! \)

This stalemates all Black’s pieces, who now finds himself in zugzwang. Black might as well have resigned here, but under time pressure he instinctively played on.

28... \( \text{b5} \) 29. \( \text{xb5} \) \( \text{f7} \) 30. \( \text{b8} \) \( \text{e7} \) 31. \( \text{f4} \) \( \text{f6} \) 32. \( \text{c7} \) \( \text{h6} \) 33. \( \text{xa7} \)

The black queenside simply felled!

33... \( \text{g5} \) 34. \( \text{hxg5} \) \( \text{hxg5} \) 35. \( \text{b6} \) \( \text{d7} \) 36. \( \text{d4} \) 1-0

□ Damljanovic Branko
■ Ivanovic Bozidar
E25 Pljevlja 1989
1.d4 \( \text{f6} \) 2.c4 \( \text{e6} \) 3.\( \text{c3} \) \( \text{b4} \) 4.f3 \( \text{d5} \) 5.a3 \( \text{xc3+} \) 6.bxc3 \( \text{c5} \) 7.exd5 \( \text{xd5} \) 8.dxc5

Due to the reduced material, White should be careful, but his advantage is obvious.

33. \( \text{a4} \)

Fixing the pawn on b6 - and the knight (its protector) of course!

33... \( \text{f8} \) 34. \( \text{c4} \) \( \text{b7} \) 35. \( \text{g6}! \)

Creation of weaknesses is always welcomed.

35... \( \text{c6}?! \)

35... \( \text{fxg6} \) 36. \( \text{xe6} \) \( \text{c6} \) 37. \( \text{b3} \) just gives White a passed e-pawn, but nevertheless was a forced action.

36. \( \text{gxh7} \) \( \text{xf7} \)

Not better was 36... \( \text{xa4} \) 37. \( \text{xe6} \) and the white pawns will roll.

37. \( \text{f5}! \) \( \text{e7} \) 38. \( \text{xe6} \) \( \text{f8} \) 39. \( \text{b3} \) \( \text{xe6} \) 40. \( \text{xb6} \)

White won an important pawn and now his extra outside pawn will decide.

40... \( \text{g5} \) 41. \( \text{e5} \) \( \text{e6} \) 42.a5 \( \text{g5} \) 43. \( \text{d1} \)

Good enough was 43.a6 \( \text{f4} \) 44. \( \text{c5}+ \) \( \text{d7} \) 45.a7 \( \text{a8} \) 46. \( \text{d6} +. \)

43... \( \text{f4} \) 44. \( \text{g4} \) \( \text{b7} \) 45. \( \text{c5}+ \) \( \text{d8} \)

46. \( \text{d4} \) \( \text{d6} \) 47. \( \text{b6}+ \) \( \text{e7} \) 48. \( \text{a6} \) \( \text{b5} \)

49. \( \text{a7} \) \( \text{c6} \) 50. \( \text{c5}+ \) \( \text{f7} \) 51. \( \text{d6} \) \( \text{e6}+ \)

52. \( \text{c3} \) \( \text{f4} \) 53. \( \text{f3} \) \( \text{d5+} \) 54. \( \text{d4} \) \( \text{e6} \)

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55. \text{g}4+ \text{f}7 56. \text{e}5 \text{a}8 57. \text{d}7
And the threat 58. \text{c}6 is decisive.
1-0

A well educated and higher rated player shouldn't be afraid of playing simple endgames.

\text{\textcopyright Grivas Efstratios}
\text{\textcopyright Kolomvas Ioannis}
A10 Amfissa 2010

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\begin{scope}[scale=0.5]
\end{scope}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

An instructive moment. Black has nothing to hope for in the endgame, so he should preserve queens on the board, in order to try to find some counterplay. Instead he made the usual mistake of the lower rated player - try to exchange whatever moves!
17... \text{wx}d1?!
17... \text{wc}6 18.\text{b}4 \text{fd}8 19.\text{we}2 ∓.
18.\text{fx}d1 \text{fd}8 19.\text{b}4! \text{xd}1+ 20.\text{xd}1
\text{d}8 21.\text{xd}8+ \text{xd}8
Of course White welcomed the proposed exchanges and now the endgame is a formality...

22. \text{f}1 \text{e}5 23. \text{e}2 \text{g}5
Black creates a further weakness, but otherwise the restriction method (f4) will come in handy.
24.\text{h}3 \text{h}5 25.\text{b}3 \text{f}8 26.\text{f}4! \text{gx}f4 27.\text{xf}4
\text{f}6 28.\text{e}3 \text{a}5 29.\text{b}5
Avoiding pawn exchanges.
29... \text{e}7
29... \text{a}4 30.\text{xa}4 \text{e}7 (30... \text{e}4+ 31.\text{d}4
\text{xa}3 32.\text{d}5 +--) 31.\text{d}1 \text{xa}3 32.\text{h}3
simply loses a pawn.
30.\text{a}4 \text{c}5+ 31. \text{e}4 (D)

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\begin{scope}[scale=0.5]
\end{scope}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

White is not only happy for his bishop pair, but for his centralized king as well!
31... \text{e}7 32. \text{d}5 \text{d}3 33. \text{g}3 \text{b}4+
34. \text{e}4
And now White is ready for \text{d}1, picking up a pawn.
34... \text{d}6
34... \text{f}8 35. \text{d}1 \text{a}2 36. \text{d}3 \text{b}4+
37. \text{c}4 +–.
35. \text{e}1 \text{c}5 36. \text{h}4 \text{d}6 37. \text{f}5 \text{e}5
38. \text{f}2 \text{c}7 39. \text{d}4 \text{e}5 40. \text{xb}6
1-0

\text{\textcopyright Van Wely Loek}
\text{\textcopyright Van der Werf Mark}
D46 Leeuwarden 2001

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\begin{scope}[scale=0.5]
\end{scope}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

1.\text{d}4 \text{d}5 2.\text{c}4 \text{e}6 3.\text{c}3 \text{c}6 4.\text{e}3 \text{d}7 5.\text{d}3
\text{gf}6 6.\text{f}3 \text{e}7 7.0-0 0-0 8.\text{b}3 \text{b}6 9.\text{h}2
\text{b}7 10.\text{we}2 \text{we}7 11.\text{a}c1 \text{ad}8 12.\text{e}5
\text{xc}4 13.\text{xc}4 \text{e}5 14.\text{fd}1 \text{xd}4 15.\text{xd}4
\text{xf}4 16.\text{we}3 \text{wg}4 17.\text{g}3 \text{gx}3 18.\text{hx}3
\text{d}8 19.\text{e}2 \text{d}5 20.\text{xd}5 \text{xd}5
21.\text{e}3 \text{c}6 (D)
It looks like Black has not much to solve, but this is not the case, as White can execute a small combination.

22. \textit{d5!} \textit{\texttt{\textit{\textbullet}}}\textit{xd5}

If 22...\textit{exd5} then 23. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f5 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}g5 24. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xg7 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xc1 (24... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}fe8 25. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c2 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d7 26. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd5 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e6 27. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8 28. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}h6 \pm) 25. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xf8 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xf8 26. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xg1 \pm.

23. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd5 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}exd5 24. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f3 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e5 25. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd5 (D)

The position has clarified in White's favour. He obtained the bishop pair with the ideal pawn structure. Black would have to deal with a long defensive battle...

25...\textit{a5} 26. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f3 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}h6 27. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f1 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}fe8 28. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e2 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c6 29. a3?

White missed Black's 'threat'; 29. b5 had to be played: 29... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd1+ 30. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd1 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d8 31. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8+ \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8 32. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e2 \pm.

29... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd1+?

But it seems that also Black had missed his own threat (!), as he didn't go for 29... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d4! eliminating the bishop pair: 30. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd4 (30. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xc6 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xb2 31. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8 32. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d4 =) 30... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd4 31. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c4 b5 32. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d3 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d6 =.

30. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd1 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d8 31. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8+ \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xd8

Back to the 'natural' game track...

32. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f3 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f8 33. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e2 f6 34. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d5 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e7 35. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f4 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d6 36. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c4 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c6 37. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d3

White has avoided any further exchanges and already started to deal with the 'restriction' method.

37...\textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e7 38. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e4 f5+

Maybe Black had to go for 38... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f2 although after 39. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}g4 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c5 40. a4 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}b4 41. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}g5 \pm he would be still in trouble.

39. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f3 g5

39...g6 40. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f7.

40. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e5+?

The simple 40. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}fxg5! \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}hxg5 41. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}g4 \pm would create many problems for Black as he will not be able to hold all his weakness (b6, g5). The bishop pair loves an open centre and generally space to move!

40... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c6 41. a4

Now 41. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}fxg5 hxg5 42. g4 is not possible due to 42... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xa3.

41...g4+!

Of course! Blocked positions help the knight!

42. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}e2 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d7 43. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}g7 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}c8

The black h-pawn is anyway lost (43... \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}h5 44. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f7), so Black improves his knight.

44. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}xh6 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d6 45. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d5 \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}d4 46. \textit{\texttt{\textbullet}}f8 (D)
46...h8?
46...c5 is more tenacious (Black had to keep the option of ...f2 alive), when it is not completely clear if White can win.

47. d3 f6 48. g8!
With the idea h7 and xd6, winning Black's entire kingside pawn structure. Nothing is gained by 48.h6 h8 49.g5 g7 50.h4 h8.

48...e4 49. c4!
In this life you have to work regardless if you are the king!

49...e8
Or 49...xg3 50.d6 f1 51.e6+ e8 52.d6 e3+ 53.c6 ±.

50.a3 d7 51.c1 d8 52.e3 f6 53.f7 (D)

White has rearranged his pieces, improved his king (his extra pawn is not important) and he is ready for the final penetration.

53.e4!!
53.c6 is, once again, more tenacious: 54.e6 e8! (this small tactic is probably what Black missed) 55.d5+ d7 56.a8! (56.b5 c7+ 57.c4 e8 [57...xd5?! 58.xd5 e7 59.d4 +−]) 56...d6 57.b7! c7 (57...e6 58.b5 +−) 58.a6 d6 (58...f6 59.a4 d6 60.c8 d5 61.xf5 +−) 59.g1! +− and Black is in zugzwang.

54.d5 e7 55.e6 xg3 56.f2 e2 57.h4+ e8 58.xd8 xd8 59.e5
And Black is losing the house. The rest was just a formality.

59.e7 60.xf5 g3 61.d3 e3 62.e4 d1 63.e4 f2+ 64.f3 h1 65.d3 f6 66.c2 e6 67.g4 f6 68.h4 e6 69.g5 f7 70.e4 f2 71.d5+ e7 72.f5 h1 73.xf6+ f8 74.f4 e8 75.e5 f2 76.d6 g4 77.e7 xf6 78.f3 e7 79.xb6 d6 80.xa5 d7 81.b5 e5 82.b4 b3 83.a8 d4+ 84.e4 e6 85.a5

1-0

□ Van Wely Loek
■ Leko Peter
E32 Wijk aan Zee 2006
1.d4 f6 2.c4 e6 3.c3 b4 4.wc2 0-0 5.a3 xc3+ 6.wxc3 b6 7.f3 b7 8.e3 d5 9.b4 e5 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.a4 a6 12.b3 a5 13.b3 e4 14.0-0 e4 15.wb5 a6 16.wa5 d5 17.f3 e5 18.wxd8 e8 19.bxc5 xc5 20.e4 (D)

White keeps a small, but steady positional advantage. After the inevitable trade of the rooks the white bishop pair will become an f-factor in the play on two wings.

20...d7?!
The knight is a bit passive on d7 and for that reason preferable was 20...f6!? 21.axc4 fxe4 22.wxe4 xc4 23.wxc4 e5 and a draw is much more likely result than White's win.

21.b1 xc4 22.axc4 e8 23.a3 d2 xe4 24.d5 b4 25.d3 e5 25.h4
25.xe5 deserved attention: 25...xe5
26. \( \texttt{fxb6} \) \( \texttt{Qxd3} \) 27. \( \texttt{Exb7} \) \( f5 \) 28. \( \texttt{b3} \) \( c1+ \) 29. \( \texttt{Qf1} \) \( c5 \) 30. \( \texttt{b8+} \) \( f7 \) 31. \( \texttt{c8} \) \( e6 \) ±, but Van Wely prefers to keep the pressure.

25...\( f6 \) 26.\( h5 \) \( Rc7 \) 27. \( \texttt{N}\text{e4} \) \( \texttt{Ld5} \) 28. \( \texttt{Rc1} \) \( Rxc1+ \) 29. \( \texttt{Lxc1} \) \( \texttt{Nc4} \) Or 29...\( \texttt{Lc4} \) 30. \( \texttt{Lc2} \) \( \texttt{Ld5} \) 31.\( g4 \) ±.

30.\( g4 \) \( g6?! \) 30...\( h6 \) looks ugly, but probably was Black's best.

31.\( \texttt{hxg6} \) \( \texttt{hxg6} \) (D)

32. \( \texttt{N}\text{d2}! \) A fine exchange, reminding Black that the pawn on a6 is a serious weakness.

32...\( \texttt{Qxd2} \) 33. \( \texttt{Nxb2} \) \( f3 \) 34.\( g5! \)

Black can put up a defence after 34. \( \texttt{xa6} \) \( \texttt{Exg4} \) 35. \( \texttt{c8} \) \( f7 \) 36.\( a4 \) \( e7 \) 37.\( a5 \) \( d8 \).

34...\( \texttt{fxg5} \)?

A losing mistake. After the correct 34...\( \texttt{b7} \) 35.e4 \( g7 \) 36.f3 \( c5 \) 37.\( e4 \) \( \texttt{c8} \) 38.\( gxf6+ \) \( \texttt{xf6} \) 39. \( \texttt{e2} \) \( e6 \) ± White would have to work very hard to prove that his advantage is sufficient for a win.

35. \( \texttt{xa6} \)

Now it's all over. White enjoys an extra passed pawn on the queenside. The rest of the game was a formality...

35...\( \texttt{c6} \) 36. \( \texttt{a5}! \) \( f7 \) 37. \( \texttt{d8} \) \( g4 \) 38. \( \texttt{e2} \) \( f3 \) 39. \( \texttt{c4+} \) \( \texttt{e8} \) 40. \( \texttt{c7!} \) \( d1 \) 41. \( \texttt{h5} \) \( e4 \) 42. \( \texttt{a4} \) \( c2 \) 43. \( \texttt{a5} \) \( d3 \) 44. \( \texttt{c6} \) \( e7 \) 45. \( \texttt{h2} \) \( g5 \) 46. \( \texttt{g3} \) \( \texttt{f6} \) 47. \( \texttt{b7} \) 1-0

\[ \text{http://trainers.fide.com} \]
27...\textit{R}xd1! 28.\textit{R}xd1 \textit{L}c5 29.\textit{R}e2 \textit{a}b1 30.a4 \textit{a}2 is an easy win for Black.

28.\textit{a}6!

Setting a (last) trap into which Black fell.

28.\textit{a}xa2!

28...\textit{R}xd1 29.\textit{K}xd1 \textit{L}c5 30.\textit{L}d3!.

29.\textit{R}xc1 \textit{L}xc1 30.\textit{K}d1! \textit{L}xf4 31.\textit{K}c2

And the a2-bishop is a goner. But still Black preserves his advantage as he gets too many pawns for the lost piece.

31...\textit{L}xh2

The correct pawn. Black must create passed pawns.

32.\textit{N}d3 \textit{g}5 33.\textit{B}b2 \textit{a}xb3 34.\textit{B}xg3

White has won a piece for four pawns. Three of them are passed and dangerous. Anyway Black is not in a position to lose and he can calmly improve his position.

35.\textit{B}b7 \textit{g}4 36.\textit{B}c4 \textit{g}6 37.\textit{B}d4

White cannot go after the queenside pawns:

37.\textit{B}e4+ \textit{g}5 38.\textit{B}b5 \textit{h}5 39.\textit{B}a6 \textit{h}4 40.\textit{B}xa7 \textit{xe}5 41.\textit{B}xe5 \textit{f}4 42.\textit{B}xg4 \textit{xe}4 +-

37...\textit{f}5 38.\textit{B}e4+ \textit{g}5 39.\textit{B}c6 \textit{h}5 40.\textit{B}e8 \textit{g}6 41.\textit{B}e4 \textit{b}4 42.\textit{B}f4+

42.\textit{f}3 \textit{g}3 (42...\textit{xf}3 43.\textit{B}x\textit{f}3 \textit{f}5 44.\textit{B}xf7 \textit{xe}5) 43.\textit{f}4+ \textit{g}7 44.\textit{B}g2 \textit{h}3 45.\textit{f}4 \textit{g}2 46.\textit{B}xh3 \textit{a}6 +-

42...\textit{g}5 43.\textit{B}e2 \textit{h}3 44.\textit{B}c6

44.\textit{B}xf7 \textit{f}4! 45.\textit{B}xf4 \textit{h}2.

44...\textit{a}5

White is lost and the end of the game was:

45.\textit{B}e8 \textit{f}4! 46.\textit{B}c6 \textit{h}2 47.\textit{B}d4 \textit{a}4

48.\textit{B}e4

48.\textit{B}c3 \textit{a}3 49.\textit{B}a2 \textit{b}5 50.\textit{B}g2 \textit{d}2 51.\textit{B}d3 \textit{f}1 52.\textit{B}e2 \textit{a}5 53.\textit{B}c1 \textit{f}5.

48...\textit{B}xe5 49.\textit{B}b4 \textit{f}5! 50.\textit{B}xa4 \textit{f}4 51.\textit{B}h1 \textit{f}3 52.\textit{B}c1 \textit{g}3!

0-1

\textit{Some Other Cases}

A pawn weakness or even a lonely central pawn should not be an obstacle to the power of the bishop pair with an open centre.

These facts are not helpful and generally help the defender but still it is difficult…

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textit{Kasparov Garry}
  \item \textit{Timman Jan}
\end{itemize}

\textbf{A29} Wijk aan Zee 2001

1.\textit{c}4 \textit{e}5 2.\textit{N}c3 \textit{f}6 3.\textit{N}f3 \textit{c}6 4.\textit{g}3 \textit{d}5 5.\textit{c}xd5 \textit{\textit{N}xd5} 6.\textit{B}g2 \textit{N}b6 7.0-0 \textit{B}e7 8.\textit{B}b1 0-0 9.\textit{B}b4 \textit{\textit{B}xb4} 10.\textit{B}xe5 \textit{c}6 11.a3 \textit{\textit{B}d}4 12.\textit{\textit{B}xd5} \textit{cxd5} 13.a4 \textit{B}f6 14.d4 \textit{B}f5 15.\textit{B}b5 a6 16.\textit{B}b2 \textit{c}8 17.\textit{B}f4 \textit{B}xe5 18.\textit{B}xe5 \textit{\textit{B}e}8 19.\textit{g}3 \textit{B}e7 20.\textit{g}4 \textit{\textit{B}e}4 21.\textit{\textit{B}f}3 \textit{e}4 22.\textit{\textit{B}e}2 \textit{B}g6 23.\textit{h}4 \textit{f}6 24.\textit{B}f4 \textit{\textit{B}d}7 25.\textit{\textit{B}f}1 \textit{c}6 26.\textit{h}5 \textit{B}f7 27.\textit{e}4 \textit{dxe4} 28.\textit{\textit{B}xe4} \textit{\textit{B}xe4} 29.\textit{\textit{B}xe4} \textit{\textit{B}d}5 30.\textit{\textit{B}f}2 \textit{\textit{B}c}8? 31.\textit{h}6 \textit{g}5 32.\textit{\textit{B}g}3 \textit{\textit{B}e}8 33.\textit{\textit{B}f}1 \textit{\textit{B}xe}2 34.\textit{\textit{B}xe}2 \textit{\textit{B}f}8 35.\textit{\textit{B}d}3 \textit{\textit{B}b}6 36.\textit{a}5 \textit{\textit{B}c}4 37.\textit{\textit{B}f}1 \textit{\textit{B}e}7 38.\textit{\textit{B}c}3 \textit{\textit{B}e}3+ 39.\textit{\textit{B}xe}3 \textit{\textit{B}xe}3 40.\textit{\textit{B}d}3 \textit{\textit{B}c}4 41.\textit{\textit{B}e}1 \textit{\textit{B}g}8 42.\textit{\textit{B}f}2

White stands better, as his bishop pair can be proven stronger compared to Black's minor pieces. As the white king is approaching the centre, his counterpart is obliged to guard his...
h-pawn...

42...b5?

In such cases it is important to reduce the material, so 42...b6! should have been played. After 43.axb6 axb6 White should try 44.a5! (after 44.axa6 Black can try to exchange the bishops: 44...c4? 45.b4 b2 46.e3 c4+ 47.d3 b2+ 48.e2 c4 49.c8 +-) 45.xc4+ [45.b7 d5] 45...xc4 46.e2 f7 47.d3 b6 48.a5 d5 49.c4 e6 50.c5 f4 and Black holds as White cannot break the blockade) 44...c4 (44...c4 45.f5 d5 46.d8 ± and Black is in trouble, as the bishop pair dominates) 45.d8 a5 46.c2! (it is important to stop the passed pawn. 46.axf6?! looks like winning a lot of material, but after 46...a4 47.e7 [47.xg5 a3 48.xc4 xc4 49.c1 a2 50.b2 f7 = as two pawns advantage sometimes is not enough for a win and this is one of these cases...] 47...a3 48.xc4 xc4 49.xa3 Black should hold) 46...d2 47.a5 xf3 48.e3 h2 49.f5 and White is on top but of course the result is far from sure.

43.b4

With the deadly threat f5-c8.

43...b2 (D)

Or 43...e6 44.c4 +-.

If 44...b7?! then the bishop pair can even execute a mating continuation: 45.e6+ h8 46.f8+ d3+ 47.e3 f4 48.g7 #. Yes, the bishop pair can be a very important and strong positional element!

45.e3 d5

45...d1+ 46.d2 f2 47.c5 (47.c8 d3 48.d6 b4 49.f5 +-) 47...h3 48.c8 +-

46.c8 c4+ 47.e2

Important material is lost, so Black resigned.

1-0

□ Heinemann Thies
■ Wilhelm Christian

B53 Hamburg 1996

1.e4 c5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 d6 4.d4 exd4 5.xxd4 d6 7.dxc6 bxc6 7..f5 8.d3 e5 9..f3 exf4 10.xxe4 f6 11..f2 c5 12.0-0 b6 13..c3 d5 14.cxd5 xxd5 15.xd5 xdx5 16.xd5+ xdx5 17.b3 c8 18.e3 b6 19.ac1 f8 20.xc8 xc8 21.xc1 xc1+ 22.xc1 (D)

Of course Black stands better due to his bishop pair, but on the other hand his isolated e-pawn is not a help.

22...c4 23.b3 c6 24.f3

Correct! A typical mistake would be 24.f4? exf4 25.xf4 c5+ as then Black will have only pluses and no weaknesses.

24...f7 25.f2 b4 26.e2 d3 27.c1 c5+ 28.e3 b4 29.c1 e6 30.b2 c5+ 31.e1 g6 32.d2 a6 33.c3 h5 34.d1

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This is a better defence than to allow the bishop pair to attack White's kingside: 34.\( \textsf{Nc1?} \textsf{Ng1} 35.\textsf{h4} (35.\textsf{h3} \textsf{Nf1} \rightarrow) 35... \textsf{Nf1} 36.\textsf{Nd3} \textsf{h2} 37.\textsf{g4} \textsf{g3} \rightarrow. The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!  
34... \textsf{Lf1} 35.\textsf{Nh3} \textsf{Lf1} 36.\textsf{Nd3} \textsf{Lh2} 37.\textsf{g4} \textsf{g3} \rightarrow. 

The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!

34... \textsf{Lf2} 35.\textsf{Le1} \textsf{Lc5} 36.\textsf{h4} \textsf{Le7} 37.\textsf{Lf2} \textsf{Lg3} \rightarrow. The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!

This is a better defence than to allow the bishop pair to attack White's kingside: 34.\( \textsf{Nc1?} \textsf{Ng1} 35.\textsf{h4} (35.\textsf{h3} \textsf{Nf1} \rightarrow) 35... \textsf{Nf1} 36.\textsf{Nd3} \textsf{h2} 37.\textsf{g4} \textsf{g3} \rightarrow. The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!  
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34... \textsf{Lf2} 35.\textsf{Le1} \textsf{Lc5} 36.\textsf{h4} \textsf{Le7} 37.\textsf{Lf2} \textsf{Lg3} \rightarrow. The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!

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34... \textsf{Lf1} 35.\textsf{Nh3} \textsf{Lf1} 36.\textsf{Nd3} \textsf{Lh2} 37.\textsf{g4} \textsf{g3} \rightarrow. 

The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!

34... \textsf{Lf2} 35.\textsf{Le1} \textsf{Lc5} 36.\textsf{h4} \textsf{Le7} 37.\textsf{Lf2} \textsf{Lg3} \rightarrow. The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!

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The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!

34... \textsf{Lf2} 35.\textsf{Le1} \textsf{Lc5} 36.\textsf{h4} \textsf{Le7} 37.\textsf{Lf2} \textsf{Lg3} \rightarrow. The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!

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34... \textsf{Lf1} 35.\textsf{Nh3} \textsf{Lf1} 36.\textsf{Nd3} \textsf{Lh2} 37.\textsf{g4} \textsf{g3} \rightarrow. 

The power of the bishop pair can be truly magnificent!
White’s advantage rests on his bishop pair and his mobile queenside majority.

23. \( \text{d}4! \)

Although White would be better after the rook exchange, Black’s king would come to defend his queenside. Having a pawn majority on the queenside and the bishop pair to support an attack there, White deprives his opponent of any defensive chances.

23... \( \text{c}6 \)

If 23...f6?! then 24.c5 is decisive: 24...e5 25.e3 xd1 26.xd1 bxc5 27.xc5+ –.

24.a5 \( \text{h}8? \)

A mistake in a very difficult position. Better was 24...bxa5 25.xc5+!? (25.xa7 \( \text{d}1 \) 26.xd1 \( \text{d}6 \) 27.d4 28.xa4 \( \text{c}3 \) 30.e2 \( \text{xa}4 \) \(+\) 28.c5?! \( \text{b}5 \) 29.bxa4 \( \text{d}3 \) 30.e2 \( \text{xa}4 \) \(+\) 28.c2 \( \pm\) 25...d6 26.xa7 (26.a1 \( \text{a}4 \) 27.b4 a6 28.b5 axb5 29.cxb5 \( \text{d}5 \) 30.xa4 \( \pm\) 26...b7 27.d3 \( \pm\) 25.b4! f6 26.b5 \( \text{d}7 \) 27.c5!

Black cannot hold his queenside any more. 1-0

**Semi-Open Centre**

With a solitary open file in the centre; the so-called semi-open centre, the strategy of playing with the bishop pair should be different.

As total exchanges, like in the previous case, might lead to drawish, or let us say defendable endgames, the recommended strategy should be *Partial Exchanges* in combination with developing an initiative, or an attack, on a certain side of the board.

The *semi-open centre in the middle game* will be our first stop and we will begin with two games that ‘include’ temporary sacrifices, in order to gain the initiative. More than 100 years ago this concept was well known already!

□ Lasker Emanuel

■ Steinitz William

C68 Montreal 1894

1.e4 e5 2.\( \text{f}3 \) \( \text{c}6 \) 3.b5 a6 4.xc6 dxc6 5.d4 exd4 6.exd4 xd4 7.xd4 c5 8.e2 d7 9.b3 0-0-0 10.f4 \( \text{c}6 \)

11.0-0 \( \text{f}6 \) 12.f3 \( \text{e}7 \) 13.g3 g6 14.fe1 \( \text{d}7 \) 15.d1 b6 16.a1 d7 17.e3 \( \text{g}8 \) 18.b3 (D)

Lasker didn’t get anything serious out of the opening - on the contrary Black stands quite OK, but now he plans c4 and \( \text{c}3-d5 \) with even chances.

18...c4!

An excellent pawn sacrifice, which probably White shouldn’t accept. But anyway then Black would be excellent.

19.xb6 cxb6 20.xc4

Now it’s the bishop pair v. the knight pair - of course White has got a pawn for it, but it is useless at this present stage.

20...\( \text{a}4!\)

Forcing more weaknesses in White’s camp - the d3-square in particular.

21.c3 \( \text{c}5+\) 22.h1 d3 23.e1 a5 24.e4
d5

Lasker again plans to block Black’s bishops with an eventual \( \text{d}5\).

24.f5!

Bishops need open files and diagonals!

25.exf5

Probably preferable was 25.d5 fxe4 26.xe4 (26.xe4 \( \text{xd}5 \) 27.cxd5 28.xd5 \( \text{c}2 \) \( \pm\) 26...e8 27.h3 h5 \( \mp\) 25...gx5 26.h3

White cannot capture the pawn: 26.xf5?! \( \text{xf}3\) 27.d4 (27.e7+ \( \text{xe}7\) 28.xe7 \( \text{f}2 \) \( \mp\) 27...d2 28.xc6 bxc6 \( \mp\).

26...g8 27.e5

White decided to return the pawn. Variations

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as 27. Qxf5  Bxf3! 28.gxf3  Qxf3+ 29. Kh2
g1 # validates his decision!
27...Bxd5 28.cxd5 Bxd5 29. cxd1 Bxd1
30. Bxd1 (D)

30...f4!
Black’s position is still preferable due to his better minor piece and he brought the bacon home some moves later.
31. Kh2 e8 32.a4 c7 33.h4 c6 34.c4
b4 35. h3 Bf5!
The ending is won for Black as the knight doesn’t help...
36. Bxe1 xe1 37. g4 c5 38. e4
e4 39. e4 Bf4 40.g3 Bd8 41.g3+
b4 42. d3 Bxa4 43. c2 Bb4 44.f4
c5 45.f5 Bd6 46.g4 b5 47. d1 e5
48.d3 b4 49.Ba4 d4 50.hb2 b5
51.Bh3 e7 52.g5 a4+ 53.Bxa4 bx4+ 54.Bxa4 e5 55.Bb3 Bxf5
0-1

This is quite a famous game of the 1995 PCA World Championship; the first game that Karpov won and the one that changed the route of the match. White offers his rook...
16...Qd4
But Black cannot accept the offer, as after 16...Bxa1 White can create a fierce attack against the black king (with the help of his bishop pair) starting with 17.Bh5+!
Bhd8 25.Bf3+ Be8 26+] 18...Be5
17...g6 (17...g7?  18.Bxe6+!  Bxe6
19.Bg4+ Bf7 [19...Bd5  20.Bd7+ Bxd6
Bd8 (18...0-0-0?!  19.Bxe6  Bxe5 20.Bxa6+
Bxe7 24.Bf6+ Bf7 25.Bexe6+ Bxd8
Be3 {20...Bxf1+ 21.Bxf1 a3 22.Bf3+
+} 21...Bd6! 2] 20.Bg7 [20...e7

Kasparov Garry
Anand Viswanathan

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This move was played quite quickly by Anand. Black can try other moves, but they also seem to lose:

a) 19...Wxe6 19...Wxe6+ Wc7 20.Wg5 +–.

and now 24.f4! b7 25.f5 +/– and the opening of any of the diagonals a2-g8 or h5-e8 is lethal. In all these long and quite complicated lines the value of the bishop pair cannot be underestimated and especially the power of the light-squared bishop was often to the fore. With his last move Black wants to get rid of the annoying bishop pair.

17.Wg4! Wxa1
Now 17...Wxb3 18.Wxe6+ Wc7 19.Wg5 +– is just curtains, so Black has to accept the offer...

18.Wxe6
Kasparov was still moving more or less instantly and was over an hour ahead on the clock. Clear proof that all was home preparation!

18...Wd8

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Finally White 'loses' his bishop pair but only after winning material!

23...\text{\texttt{Q}}xg4

Necessary as 23...\text{\texttt{Q}}xe7 would allow

24.\text{\texttt{Q}}h4+ \text{\texttt{K}}e8 25.\text{\texttt{Q}}g4 ++.

24.\text{\texttt{Q}}xg4 \text{\texttt{Q}}xe7 25.\text{\texttt{Q}}c1

A star move that abruptly stops Black's counterplay. If Anand were allowed to play ...c5-c4 things would be far from clear. Kasparov spent a lot of time on the final phase of the game. As he put it, "It's been a long time since I went two weeks without a victory, and I didn't want to spoil things after my brilliant novelty."

The only previous time he had experienced such a drought was his first match with Karpov, back in 1984-85.

25...c6 26.f4 a5

26.\text{\texttt{Q}}g8 27.\text{\texttt{Q}}d1 ++ wins.

27.\text{\texttt{Q}}f2 a4 28.\text{\texttt{Q}}e3 b4 (D)

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\draw[very thick,black] (0,0) grid (8,8);
\foreach \x in {0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7}{\foreach \y in {0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7}{\filldraw[black] (\x,\y) circle (0.1);}}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

29.\text{\texttt{Q}}d1

Accurately played. The tempting 29.\text{\texttt{Q}}c4?! would allow 29...a3 and Black is much better than in the game.

29...a3

29...b3 30.axb3 a3 31.g4 ++.

30.g4

Now everything is clear. Black's advance on the queenside has been stymied and Kasparov is ready to roll with his e- and f-pawns.

30...\text{\texttt{B}}d5 31.\text{\texttt{B}}c4 e5

31...\text{\texttt{Q}}f5+ 32.gxf5 \text{\texttt{B}}d1 33.f6+ \text{\texttt{Q}}d7 34.\text{\texttt{B}}xb4 ++.

32.\text{\texttt{Q}}e4 \text{\texttt{B}}d8 33.\text{\texttt{B}}xe5 \text{\texttt{Q}}e6

Or 33...b3 34.\text{\texttt{B}}xb3 \text{\texttt{Q}}xb3 35.axb3 \text{\texttt{Q}}a8 36.\text{\texttt{B}}c7+ \text{\texttt{Q}}f8 37.\text{\texttt{B}}c1 ++.

34.\text{\texttt{B}}d5 \text{\texttt{B}}c8 35.f5 \text{\texttt{B}}c4+ 36.\text{\texttt{Q}}e3 \text{\texttt{Q}}c5 37.g5 \text{\texttt{Q}}c1 38.\text{\texttt{B}}d6

1-0

Of course, sacrificing material cannot always be the case. Very often middle game positions of this type tend to turn quicker to the endgame where the bishop pair possessor feels 'more safe'.

But sometimes you only need to self-destroy your pawn structure!:

\begin{center}
\begin{tikzpicture}
\draw[very thick,black] (0,0) grid (8,8);
\foreach \x in {0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7}{\foreach \y in {0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7}{\filldraw[black] (\x,\y) circle (0.1);}}
\end{tikzpicture}
\end{center}

This is a more or less equal position, although White should not feel happy about his b2-knight. Maybe this is what struck Morozevich...

20...\text{\texttt{B}}d4!

Black strives to open the position for his long range bishops, in the ideal case together with the weakening of White's kingside.

21.\text{\texttt{B}}xe4 \text{\texttt{B}}xe4 22.\text{\texttt{B}}c3?!

White’s position wouldn't be satisfactory either with 22.\text{\texttt{B}}e5?! \text{\texttt{B}}xe5 23.fxe5 \text{\texttt{B}}b7
(23...d8 24...g5 a.b7 $\top$) 24...xf8+ a.xf8 25.d1 wxe5 (25...c3?! 26.wxe3 wif7 [26...wc6 27...a2 $\pm$] 27...f2 wge6 28.wg3 wce2 29.h4 wif7 $\pm$) 26...e3 wce7! 27...e1 $\pm$ but he had to opt for 22.g3 a.b7 and think about improving his badly placed knight and blockade the dangerous e-pawn: 23.d1! (23...e2? c3! [23...e6? 24.we3 $\infty$] 24.wxe3 e5! [24...wc6 25...xe6+ a.f7 26.wf3! a.e8! {26...whe1 $\mp$} 27...f2 wif3+ 28...g1 =} 27...e1 whe1+ 28...f2 wif3+ 29...g1 wxe1 30...xe1 wxf4+ $\leftarrow$) 25.fxе5 [25...xe5 wxe5 26...xe5 $\rightarrow$] 25...wе6 $\rightarrow$+) 23...е5 24.fxe5 wxf1+ 25...е2 wxe5 26...е3 $\infty$.

22...a.b7 23.c4 (D)

White's defence was based on the text move (23...a7 a.fd8 24...d1 g5! $\mp$).

\[ ... g5! \\
An extremely strong move. It's rather difficult to find a sufficient defence.

24...еxb5?

Losing by force. White had to look at the alternatives:

a) 24.c5? a.xf4 25.g3 a.xg3! 26.hxg3 wxe3+ 27...h1 a.f3 28...g1 (28...xf3 exf3 29...f2 whe3+ 30...g1 a.f8 31...g5 $\pm$ $\rightarrow$) 28...whe3+ (28...whe4? 29...whe2 a.h3 30...a.xg5 $\pm$ $\rightarrow$) 29...whe2 a.xe3 30...a.xg5+ a.h8 $\rightarrow$.

b) 24.fxе5? a.xh2+ 25...h1 a.e5 (25...bxc4 26...xf1!+ 27...xf1 a.a6 [27...xc4 28...c1 =] 28...c1 a.xc4 29...d4 a.e8 30...xe4! [30.b5? a.e5 31...xe4 a.d6 32.b6 a.a6 $\rightarrow$] 30...a.d6 [30...a.g3 31...g6 hxe6 32...xc4 wxc4 {32...whe7+?!} 33...g1 wxe2+ 34...f1 whe1+ 35...g1 $\infty$] 33...wxe6+ a.h8 34...h6+ a.e7 35...wxe3 $\mp$] 31...g6 hxe6 32...wxe6+ wxe6 $\rightarrow$) 26...еxb5 (26...е4?! wdf7 [26...exd4 27...xd4 wge3 28...d7 e3! 29...xf8+ a.xf8 30...wxe7 e2 $\rightarrow$] 27...wxe8+ wxe8 28...d1 a.d8 $\rightarrow$+) 26...wge7 27...wxf8+ wxf8 28...b1 wge6! 29...wе2 a.f3! 30...g1 whe5 31...gxf3 exf3 32...d3 (32...f2 wge4+ 33...е1 whe3+ 34...g1 a.g3 $\rightarrow$) 32...d5 $\rightarrow$.

c) 24.g3! (the only valid answer) 24...gxf4 25...xf4! (25...xf4 wе6 26...е5 [26.c5 wе6+ 27...h1 a.e7 $\mp$] 26...е5 27...е4! wеb5 28...е5 wе6+ 29...h1 wе7 $\mp$) 25...wе4 26...е4 wе4 27...е4 wе4 28...е4 bxc4 29...е4 wе4 30...е3 a xe4 $\mp$ where White keeps fair chances for the draw, due to the reduced material.

24...gxf4! 25.b6 (D)

This was White's defence - or at least this is what he had thought it to be!

25...fxе3!

A small combination which immediately decides the game. The tactical solution for White failed, as suddenly the black pawns will roam around promotion squares.

26...е7 a.xf1+ 27...xf1 a.f8+ $\rightarrow$. 

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27...exd2 28.cxb8\( Q \) +\( L \)xb8
White is helpless against the two black pawns that simply move forward with some help from the bishops!

29.\( N \)d1
The other options 29.\( K \)f2\( L \)a7+ 30.\( K \)e2\( L \)a6+ or 29.\( N \)c4\( L \)a7+ 30.\( K \)h1 e3 – also lead to curtains...

29...\( L \)a7+ 30.\( R \)f2\( L \)a6!
And White resigned as he has no response to Black's threat ...e3-e2.

0-1

\[ \square \] Carlsen Magnus
\[ \blacklozenge \] Van Wely Loek
E75 Wijk aan Zee 2013

1.c4 g6 2.d4 \( N \)f6 3.\( N \)c3 \( L \)g7 4.e4 d6 5.\( A \)e2 0-0 6.\( A \)g5 c5 7.d5 (D)

Otherwise Black will play 8... h6 for 'free'.

8...exd5 9.exd5 \( W \)b6
An active continuation. The other line is 9...\( A \)e8 10.\( A \)f3 \( A \)g4 11.0-0 \( A \)d7 12.h3 \( A \)xf3 13.\( A \)xf3 ±, where White, due to his bishop pair and the b4 idea, has won a fair amount of games, for example Polugaevsky,L-Gligoric,S Skopje 1968.

10.\( A \)f3 \( A \)f5 11.\( A \)h4!
11.\( A \)c1 leads to nowhere: 11...\( A \)e4 12.\( A \)xe4 \( A \)xe4 13.b3 \( A \)xf3 14.\( A \)xf3 \( A \)e8+ 15.\( A \)e2 \( A \)d7 Grivas,E-Sahovic,D Athens 1983.

11...\( A \)e4 12.\( A \)xe4 \( A \)e4 13.f3 \( W \)xb2
Here Black could try a recent continuation with 13...h6!? 14.\( A \)hx6 (14...\( A \)e3 \( W \)xb2 15.\( A \)c1 \( W \)f6 ≈ Nodirjanova,N-Nguyen Thi Thanh An Mashhad 2011) 14...\( W \)hx6 15.\( W \)xb2 \( W \)xb2 16.0-0\( A \)e2, where White can win a pawn with 17.\( W \)d2 (17.\( A \)c1!? \( A \)e8 18.\( W \)d4+ 18.\( W \)xd4 \( A \)c1 19.\( A \)c1 \( W \)h4 20.f4 is interesting) 17...\( W \)d4+ 18.\( W \)xd4 \( A \)c1 19.\( A \)ac1 d3 20.\( A \)d1 \( A \)xd1 21.\( A \)xd1 \( A \)d7 22.\( A \)xd3 \( A \)fe8 but Black should have sufficient compensation.

14.\( A \)c1 (D)

7...e6
A more often met line is 7...h6 8.\( A \)f4 e6 9.dxe6 \( A \)xe6 10.\( A \)xd6 \( A \)e8 11.\( A \)f3 \( A \)c6 played firstly in 1971. The most known game (of around 120 published) is: 12.0-0 \( A \)d4 13.e5 \( A \)d7 14.\( A \)xd4 cxd4 15.\( W \)xd4 \( A \)xe5 16.\( A \)xe5 \( W \)xd4 17.\( A \)xd4 \( A \)xd4 18.\( A \)c1 \( A \)ad8 19.b3 \( A \)xc3 20.\( A \)xc3 \( A \)d2 21.\( A \)f3 \( A \)xa2 22.\( A \)xb7 \( A \)b8 23.\( A \)f3 \( A \)a3 24.\( A \)d1 a5 25.\( A \)c1 \( A \)c8 26.\( A \)e1 a4 27.bxa4 \( A \)xc4 28.\( A \)xc4 \( A \)xc4 29.\( A \)c2 \( A \)d5 30.h4 \( A \)c6 31.\( A \)d1 \( A \)a2 32.\( A \)b3 \( A \)a3 33.\( A \)d6 \( A \)xb3 34.\( A \)xc6 \( A \)b1+ 35.\( A \)h2 \( A \)b4 ½-½ Polugaevsky,L-Kasparov,G Bugojno 1982.

8.\( W \)d2

14...\( A \)f5?
Not satisfactory as well is 14...h6?! 15.\( A \)hx6 \( W \)xd2+ 16.\( A \)xd2 \( A \)f6 17.g3 \( A \)h4 18.\( A \)h4 \( A \)f5 19.\( A \)f4, but Black should follow the idea of the late Leonid Yurtaev with 14...\( W \)xd2+ 15.\( A \)xd2 \( A \)xd5! (15...f6? 16.\( A \)f4 ±; 15...\( A \)f5? 16.\( A \)xf5 \( A \)xf5 17.\( A \)b1 b6 18.\( A \)d3 ± Kachiani
Gersinska, K-Berezina,l Istanbul 2000) 16...xe5 e8 and now:
a) 17...he1 a6 18...f4 (18...d3 d7 19.a4 h6 20...e3 b6 Legky,N-Yurtaev,L Soviet Union 1984) 18...f6 19.g3 g5 20...xd6 gxh4 21...xc5 d7 22.a3 hgx3 23.hxg3 e5 24.c4 ! Lerner,K-Yurtaev,L Tallinn 1983.
b) 17...b1 e5 (17...d7 18...b5 e5 19...xd7 xg5 20...xb7 xd5+ 21...c2 ± Lputian, S-Yurtaev,L Volgodonsk 1985) 18.f4 xd5+ 19...c1 c6 20...xb7 d4 21...f3 b4 22...c7 d4 23...xd4 a6 24...h6 ab8 ± Legky, N-Monin,N Tallinn 1985.
c) 17...f4!? f6 18.g3 (18...g3 a6 19.f4 d7 20.g4 b6 21...f3 a4 22...f2 b5 ± Zaichik,G-Yurtaev,L Volgodonsk 1983) 18...g5 19...xd6 gxh4 20...c7 d7 (20...a6 21...xc5 d7 22...c4 ± Sorin,A-Peralta,F Buenos Aires 1998) 21...b5 ± Grivas,E-Kotronias,V Athens 1986. Unfortunately Lock didn't seem to know this idea, as I confirmed later with him in the Press Centre.
15...xf5 gxf5 16...xb2 ...xb2 17...b1!
A logical novelty. Previously 17...c2?! e5 18.f4 d4 19...d3 e8+ was OK for Black in Bukhman,E-Nezhmetdinov,R Daugavpils 1973.
17...c3+ 18...d1
White has a large advantage already, as he will regain his pawn, remaining with the strong bishop pair.
18...e8?!
I think that Black's last chance lay in 18...b6 19...d3 d7 20...e7 e8 21...xd6 e5 22...c2 xd3 23...xd3 ±.
19...xb7 a6 20.a3!
The black knight is a prisoner!
20...ab8 21...xb8
21...xa7 is fine as well, but White has no need to take any risks.
21...xb8 22...d3 d7 23...c2 d4?!
23...f6 was a bit more stubborn, although Black will lose the ending after 24...d2 b8 25...b1 xb1 26...xb1 e5 27...e2.
24...b1 b6 25...f4 e5 26...e1 g7
27...g3! e7 28.f4 f6 29...xe7 xe7
30...e1!
And now the f5-pawn is a goner...
30...h5 31...f6 32...b3 g6 33...h3
And Black resigned as the coming g4 will net White a good pawn for nothing. An easy game for Carlsen, as Van Wely hadn't done his homework...
1-0

Endgame Training
A certain opening is ‘responsible’ for the next four instructive examples on this specific structure under examination. As White mostly tends to go for the endgame, we will classify the examples from now on as the semi-open centre in the endgame.

□ Gulko Boris
▪ Radjabov Teimour
E75 Wijk aan Zee 2001
1...c4 g6 2.d4 Qf6 3...c3 g7 4...g5 0-0 5...d2 c5 6.d5 7.e4 c6 8...e2 exd5 9.exd5 e8 10...f3 g4 11.0-0...bd7 12.h3 xf3 13...xf3 a6 14.a4 (D)

14...e5?!
Since White wants to regroup his f3-bishop anyway, this is a loss of a tempo. The black knight has to retreat sooner or later, because f4 is a threat.
15...e2 Wa5
The queen has to leave this square as well. An alternative is 15...e7 16.a5 Wf8 17...ab1 (17.f4 ed7 18...d3 ±) 17...h6 18...e3 ac8 (18...h7 19.b4 ±) 19.b4...
cxb4 20.\textit{xb4} c7 21.\textit{fb1} e8 22.c5! d8 (22...dxe5 23.\textit{xb7} ±) 23.c6 cxd6 24.b6 c5 25.xc7 0-0 Uhlmann, W-J Kjetzae, J Hamburg 1993.

16.\textit{wc2}
Planning \textit{d2}.

16.h6
This again is helpful only for White. Black is not aware of the correct strategy in this variation.

17.d2 \textit{c7} 18.f4 \textit{d7} 19.e1 e7 20.d1
Also good is 20.d3 e1 21.xe7 22.e6+ 23.xe6 ±.

20...\textit{xe1}
20...\textit{ae8} 21.xe7 xxe7 22.e1 xxe1+ 23.xe1 ±.

21.xe1 e8 22.xe8+ \textit{xe8} 23.g4 \textit{d8}
23...d4+ 24.g2 g7 25.e2 f6 26.a5 ±.

24.e4 e6
24...d4+ 25.g2 e6 26.f3 e7
27.b3 ± with the idea \textit{e2}.

25.e2 e8?!
Exchanging the queens helps White. 25...b6 26.c2 ± was more tenacious, but what about fixing the queenside with 25...a5? Then after 26.b5 f8 27.a3 b6 28.c2 \textit{e8} 29.f3 White will have a free hand on the kingside, while Black can hardly move at all. By correctly using the h4 and g5 advances, White will prevail.

26.xe8+ \textit{xe8} (D)

27.a5!
This is the typical fixing for the whole 'Averbakh Variation' of the KID. Black is doomed to eternal passivity.

27...f8 28.g2 e7 29.g3 d4
29...b6 30.axb6 \textit{xb6} 31.b3 ±.

30.c2 \textit{g7} 31.b3 f5
The alternative was 31.e8 32.e2 ± but Black cannot sit and wait forever. But now White has got a new target on the kingside.

32.e2 f6 33.f3 fxg4+ 34.hxg4 g5
35.g3
35.f5?! e5+ 36.g3 h5 would be fine for Black.

35...gxf4+
This opens up the position for the bishop pair, but there was nothing much to do: 35...f8 36.fxg5 xg5 37.xg5+ hxg5
38.c3 e8 39.f5! (39.e4? h7
40.xc5 dxc5 41.xh7 d6 =) 39...d8
40.e4 +–.

36.xf4 g5 37.e1 e5 38.g6+!
It is useful to exchange a pair of knights as then the remaining bishop pair dominates!

38.xg6 39.xg6 f6 40.h7 e7
41.g6 e8 (D)
41...f6 42.e2 c7 (42...e5?? 43.c3 #) 43.b4 is similar to the game.

42.b4!
This is the decisive breakthrough! White opens a second front on the queenside and plans to attack the b7-pawn.

42...\textit{xb4}
After 42...f6 a sample line goes 43.f5

40.\textit{xc5}
...d8 (43...cxd4 44...xd4 transposes to the game) 44.bxc5 dxc5 45.f2 d2 46.xc5 xa5 47.e3 ±.
43.xb4 f6 44.f5
Threatening c8.
44...d7 (D)
After 44...c1 White must opt for 45.f3! and not for the immediate 45.c8?!
45.e4+ 46.f3 when it is not clear how he will break Black's blockade.

45.xd7!
As Laszlo Hazai comments: The advantage of the bishop pair consists of the possibility of a favourable exchange of it!
45...xd7 46.f3
Black has two weaknesses; the d6- and h6-pawns. The white king will penetrate on f5 and soon zugzwang will arise.
46...d8 47.e4 b6
Looking for some counterplay, as passive defence was also hopeless: 47...g5
48.f5 e3 49.g6 f4 50.c3 e3
51.g7 d2 (51...b6 52.axb6 a5 53.xh6 xh6 54.xh6 a4 55.b7 c7 56.b8w+ xh8 57.g5 ++) 52.xh6 xa5 53.f7 b5
54.exb5 axb5 55.c1 ±.
48.axb6 xb6 49.d2 a5 50.xh6
Material advantage!
50...a4 51.d3
The king has to deal with the passed black a-pawn.
51...e7 52.g5+ f7 53.c3 c5
54.b2
With the idea a2 and c1-a3.

54.g6 55.f4 f6 56.a2 b4
57.c1! e5 58.g5 a5
58...f5 59.a3 a5 60.xd6 xg5
61.a3 ±.
59.a3
An excellent performance by Gulko!
1-0

□ Polugaevsky Lev
■ Uhlmann Wolfgang
E75 Amsterdam 1970
1.e4 f5 2.c3 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 g7
5.e2 0-0 6.g5 c5 7.d5 e6 8.wd2 exd5
9.exd5 e8 10.d3 g4 11.0-0 bd7
12.h3 xf3 13.xf3 a6 14.a4 we7
15.ae1 w8 (D)

16.d1 xe1
17.xe1 e8 18.xe8 xe8 19.c2
For 19.f4 see Uhlmann,W-Gligoric,S Hastings 1971.
19.b6
A more interesting set-up with 19...h5
20.f4 e5 21.we2 h7 22.d2 ed7
23.f4 ± can be seen in Doroshkievich,V-Liberzon,V Riga 1970.
20.b3 bd7 21.f4! xe7
Not much different is 21...e5 22.w2 h6 23.d2 f8 24.f4 ±.
22.we2 f8 23.xe7+ xe7 (D)
24.a5!
The 'usual' fixing! Now White will prepare the b4 and g4 advances.

24...h5
Or 24...dxe2 25.dxe2 b2 26.f3! (27.g4? dxe5!) 27..hxf6 28.g4 ±.

25..d2 dxe8 26.g3 d4 27.g2 g7 28.f4 f5 29.d1 h6 30.f3 f5!
This is the best set-up for Black to defend properly. If 30...g8?! then 31.g4 hxg4+ 32.hxg4 g7 33.g5 ±.

31..d3 d8 32..e3 e7 33..c2
33..g2 f6 34.h4 al 35..e2 d4 36..f3 a1 37..c2 ±.

33..b2 34..e3 f6 35..e1 d4+ 36..f3 h2 37..g2 d7 38..h4 f6
39..e3 f7 40..c2 a1?!
Black had to 'harden' White's g4 advance by 40...h6! 41.b4 (there is nothing much interesting otherwise: 41..f3 d4 42..g2 b2 43..e1 d4 44..d3 f7 45.b4 cxb4 46..xb4 c5 ± or 41..e2 e1 42..f3 f7 43..d3 b2 44..d1 a1 [44...a3?]
45..c3+ e7 46..h4 f8 47..g7 +–)
45..c2 g7 46..e2 f6 47..d3 a1 48..e1 f6 49..g4 hxg4 50..xg4 fxg4
51..h2 h6 52..e2 g3 53..xg3 f5 (=)
41..cxb4 42..xb4 c5! 43..f3 f7
44..d4 c1+! 45..f3 b2 46..b3 (46..xc5?! dxc5 47..e6 a3 =) 46..xb3 47..xb3 d4! 48..c2 f7 49..g4 hxg4+ 50.hxg4 h6! (50..fxy4+ 51..xg4 f6 52..d3 ±) 51..gxf5 xf5! (51...gx5?!
52..g3 ±) 52..e4 c5 53..c3 and White
stands better but far from winning.
41..e2? b2?!
41...h6!.
42..e1?!
Why not 42.g4! hxg4 43..f4 fxg4
44..e6 h6 45..h4 d4 46..f1 +–.
42..a1? (D)
Again 42...h6 had to be tried.

43..g4!
Strong and decisive!
43..hxg4 44..f4 fxg4 45..e6
Even better was 45..f6 h6 46..f2 +–.
45..g7
45...h6 46..h4+ g7 47..e7 +–.
46..f8
46..h6 47..f5+ xf5 48..xf5 f6
49..c8 +–
47..f5 f6 48..c8 d8 49..f5 h5
50..d2 d4 51..e4
Black resigned due to 51..exd4 52..xd4.

1–0

Learning from a defeat is the minimum gain, but what is better than avenging your losses with some identical nice wins?

△ Uhlmann Wolfgang
■ Gligoric Svetozar
E75 Hastings 1970
1.d4 f6 2.c4 g6 3..c3 g7 4.e4 d6
5..e2 0–0 6..g5 c5 7.d5 e8 8..d2 exd5
9.exd5 c8 10..f3 g4 11.0–0 b6
12..h3 xf3 13..xf3 a6 14.a4 e7
15..e1 e8 16..d1 xe1 17..xe1 xe8 18..xe8 xe8 (D)
19. \text{f4} \text{e7} 20. \text{e2} \text{f8} 21. \text{xe7+} \text{xe7} 22. \text{a5}

Uhlmann was so impressed by his defeat at the hands of Polugaevsky (see previous game) that he quickly moves on the 'usual' stuff!

22... \text{e8} 23. \text{d2} \text{h5} 24. \text{f1} \text{d4} 25. \text{b3} \text{g7} 26. \text{c2} \text{e8} 27. \text{e2} \text{h2} 28. \text{f3} \text{g7} 29. \text{f2}

29.g4 is quite interesting. White should be aware of this possibility.

29... \text{f6} 30. \text{c3} \text{d4}+ 31. \text{e2} \text{f5} (D)

32.f4?! 32.g3 \text{f6} 33.f4 was accurate.

32... \text{e8} 33. \text{d3} \text{xc3}?! A quite unexpected move that leaves Black with the knight pair. 33... \text{ef6} would transpose to the previous game format but probably Black could go for the natural variation 33...h4 34. \text{e1} \text{f6} 35. \text{b1} \text{g7} 36. \text{f3} \text{h5} ±.

34. \text{xc3} \text{ef6} 35. \text{e1} \text{f7} 36. \text{e3} \text{e7} 37. \text{c2} \text{f7} (D)

Now White's hands are free all over the board. The bishop pair dominates and what White needs is to open the position by the usual breaks.

38. \text{b4}!

38. \text{d2} \text{e7} 39. \text{c3} \text{f7} 40. \text{f2} \text{e7} 41.b4 was also not bad.

38... \text{xb4} 39. \text{xb4} \text{e5} 40. \text{d4} (D)

32... \text{f6} 33. \text{c3} \text{d4}+ 34. \text{e2} \text{f5} (D)
46. b3 b6! [46... d7 47. f6] 47. axb6 a5 48. b7 d7 49. xf5 d6+ 50. g6 a4 51. a2 e4 52. f5 f8 53. f6 d6 = but probably White can also try to penetrate with his king: 44. e3?! f6 45. f3 g6 46. g2 f6 47. h3 g6 48. h4 f6 49. h5 ±) 44... f7 45. d1 ±. Note that 40... ce4?! loses to 41. g4 hxg4 42. hxg4 xg4 43. xe4 fxe4 44. xdx6 ±.

44... b6?
This loses. Black had to wait with 44... c7 45. xf5 gxf5 46. c2 f6 47. d4 ±. 45. xf5 gx5 46. xc5 xc5
Or 46... bxc5 47. a4 b8 (47... f8 48. a6 g6 49. b7 ±) 48. f3 g6 49. g3 f6 50. h4 g6 51. c6 f6 52. b7 g6 53. c8 ±.

47. axb6 a5 48. c2 c7 49. d2 d8 49... f6 loses to 50. c1 g6 51. a4 f7 52. c6 e7 53. b7 a6 54. b5 b8 55. b2 d8 56. c5! ±.
50. xf5 a4 51. b7 c7 52. c8 c5 53. f5 c4+ 54. c2 b8 55. b3 d2+ 56. a4 xc4 57. f6 e5 58. a5
1-0
I even tried this concept more than once:

- Grivas Efstratios
- Banikas Hristos

E74 Volos 1996
1. d4 f6 2. c4 g6 3. c3 g7 4. e4 d6 5. e2 0-0 6. g5 c5 7. d5 a6 8. a4 wa5
28.g4?!
I tried to be 'smart' and go for a quick g4. But as this falls to a tactical motif, preferable was the 'usual' 28.a5.

28...hxg4 29.hxg4 fxg4
29...g5 was also not bad: 30.gxf5 gxf4 31.exf4 ²e5 ².

30...xc3
This is of course tactically justifiable.

31...xc3 ²f6 32...h3
If 32...c8 then 32...f5! 33...d2 ²f6 and Black has strong counterplay.

32...f5! 33...xf5
White offered a draw due to 33...xf5 34...xf6 (34...xf5? ²e2+ ²→) 34...xf6. ½-½

Another typical pawn structure can be seen in the following two games. In the first we can call this one a ‘KID’ pawn structure.

□ Grivas Efstratios
■ Popchev Milko
A41 Athens 1993
1.d4 d6 2...f3 ²g4 3.e4 e6 4.h3 ²f3
5...xf3 ²d7 6...d3 ²g6 7.0-0 ²e7
8...e2 e5 9.c3 0-0 (D)

White has got the bishop pair but this means not much yet; a lot has to be done before he arrives in heaven!

10.dxe5
Temporarily stabilizing the centre, as White wanted to avoid a future, well-timed ...d5. Also Black will stay without an active plan, at least for most of the game.

21...wb5!
As 21...d3 ²e6 is not much, White opts for an ending in which the bishop pair will show its true force!

21...xb5
What else? If 21...e6 then 22...b3 ²e8 23...e3 ±.

22.axb5 a4
22...d6 23.b3 c6 24.f4 ²fd7 25.bxc6 ²xc6 26...d2 ±.

23...f3
The king is always welcomed in the endgame!
23... R a5 (D)

24.b4
24.b3! ± was even stronger! It must be noted that even 24.e2 Rxb5 25.e4 Rxa4 26.e3 a5 27.xd7 Rxd7 28.d3 ± was not that bad for White. As White has about three good continuations at his disposal, his position is certainly preferable.

24... Rxb5?
Black bites the decoy! He should have opted for 24... R a8 25.e3 (25.d1 Rxd1 26.xd1 e8 27.e4 xc4 28.xa4 xa4 29.xa4 ±) 25...a3 26.a2 c4 27.ea1 ±.

25.e3
Now the poor rook is trapped along the deadly bishops' diagonals!

25... e8 26. ed1

26.f5
The alternative was 26... xd1 27.xd1 d6 when White wins with 28.e2 bc4 29.xa4 f5 30.c5 (30.xc4+ xc4 31.a8+ e7 32.exf5 ±) 30...d2+ 31.g2 xc5 32.bxc5 6xe4 33.a2 ±.

27.xd7 xe4+ 28.e2! xd7 29.xa4 H d5 30.b3 c6 31.a7 e6 32.e5 b5 33.xd5+ cxd5 34.xb7 xe3+ 35.d2
And Black finally resigned!
1-0

It seems that Black's strong centre and his centralized king fully compensates for White's bishop pair.

20... e5
If 20... e7 then 21.e3! (21.c7 dc8 22.xb6 xa4! 23.e3 ±) 21... d7 22. c7 ±.

21. d2 e4
The domination of the bishop pair can be seen after 21... e7 22.c3! ± or after 21... dc8 22.b4+ d7 23.h3+ ±. The black centre is not safe any more...

22. f4+
22.h3! seems to be even stronger.

22... e7 23. c7+ d7 24.h3 xc7 25.cxe7 d7 26.xc7 xd7 27.xb6
The opposite coloured bishops spell no special technical problems with those fear-
some passed pawns.
27...\text{c8} 28.\text{d4} \text{c4} 29.e3 \text{b4} 30.\text{c3} \text{b3} 31.\text{xdg7} \text{c8} 32.\text{a5} \text{b7} 33.\text{a6}
Planning \text{a5}, \text{d4} and \text{b6}.
33...\text{a8} 34.\text{a5} \text{d4} 35.\text{xd4} \text{d5} 36.\text{b6} \text{b1}+ 37.\text{g2} \text{d4} 38.g4
1-0

Closed Centre
In positions with a completely closed (but not blocked) centre, the strength of the bishop pair goes down significantly. We have to make sure that the opponent’s pieces (read knights) have no good outpost squares, and the only way to use the bishops is to place them on the most active squares where they will support the Gaining Space strategy.

In the majority of closed positions, knights are a good match for the long range power of the bishop pair. But the primary thought must be to open up the centre!

We will start (as usual) with the closed centre in the middle game concept.

\text{\tableau}{\text{\textbf{Grivas Efstratios}}} \\
\text{\textbf{Yilmaz Mustafa}}
\text{D11 Mersin 2009}

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.\text{f3} \text{f6} 4.\text{bd2} \text{f5} 5.\text{h4} \text{e4} 6.f3 \text{g6} 7.\text{b3} \text{c7} 8.e3 \text{e6}
9.\text{xdg6} \text{hxg6} 10.\text{bd3} \text{bd7} 11.f4 \text{g5}
12.\text{fxg5} \text{d4} 13.\text{f3} \text{0-0-0} 14.\text{d2} \text{xd2} 15.0-0-0 (D)

20...\text{b6}?
Weakening too much the light squares around the black king. Black should have opted for 20...\text{b6}! 21.\text{xb6} axb6
22.\text{xb2} \text{xb2} 23.\text{xb6} \text{d6}! 24.\text{c5} \text{h4}! (24...\text{xd2}? 25.\text{c1} \pm) with equality.

21.\text{a6}?
White still retains a certain advantage after the text move, but 21.\text{a6}
White's 21st move.
34...<br>

And Black resigned due to 38...<br>

The 'Sicilian Defence' theme can be sometimes classified under the closed centre type, especially when White has captured a piece on d3 with his c-pawn. The following example is typical of this concept:

Bellia Fabrizio
Grivas Efstratios
B33 Vinkovci 1989
1.e4 c5 2.d3 <br>

Advanced Chess School - Volume 1 - The Bishop Pair - Efstratios Grivas
Black has repulsed White's aggression while also catering for the future by obtaining the bishop pair.

21.a3
White cannot expect anything but trouble if he continues 21.f5? b4! 22.fxe6 bxc3 23.exd7 cxb2.

21...Rf7 22.Rc1 Qd8 23.Nce2?! White should have chosen 23.Nf3! intending 24.d4 instead.

23...Qf6! 24.Ng2 Qg7 25.Wg5 e5! 26.Qc6 Black obtains complete control over the position after 26.Wxd8?! Wxd8 27.e6 xc6 28.f6 xc6 d5!.

26...Wc8 27.Qb4 Qb6 28.Wg3 exf4 29.Qxf4 b5 30.axb5 Qe8! 31.c6
And here 31.exd5 Wxd5 32.Qb6 Wc6 33.Qxe4 Wxe4 34.Qf2 g5! is just winning for Black.

31...Qc6 32.Wa1 Qxf4 33.Qxf4 Qe7!
The position slowly clarifies in Black's favour. His bishop pair keeps all of White's possible plans in check.

34.dh5 Wxf1+ 35.Wxf1 f8 36.Wc2 Qc6!
With various threats, such as ...Qh3!

37.d4?!
White's last mistake, fatally weakening the e4-pawn. He had to sit tight with 37.g3.

37...Qh8 38.Qg3 Qg7 39.f2 c8

40.Wd3 We6! 41.Qe2?!
Although ultimately insufficient to change the result of the game, 41.Qc2 would have put up greater resistance.

41...Qe8!
41...Qc4?! was also adequate: 42.Wxc4 Wxe4 43.Qf4 Qh3! ±.

42.Qg3 (D)
White has no defence any more, for example: 42.Qc3 a5 43.b4 (43.Qxb5 Wxe4) 43...axb4 44.axb4 Qc8! 45.Qxb5 Qxb5 46.Wb5 Wxe4 –.

42...Qc6!
White resigned in view of 43.f4 (43.d5 Qxd5) 43...Qg5 44.Qf5 Qxe4 45.Wxe4 Wxe4 46.Qxe4 Qxe4 47.Qf5 Qc5 Qxd4+.

0-1

An excellent example of the the Gaining Space strategy can be observed in the following game. Timman slowly but with a steady hand delivered a blow to the then World Champion Anatoly Karpov.

The latter chose a frequently played variation of the ‘Queen’s Indian Defence’ where Black gives up the bishop pair early:

□ Timman Jan  ■ Karpov Anatoly
E21 Hoogeveen 1999
1.d4 Qf6 2.c4 e6 3.Qc3 Qb4 4.Qf3 b6 5.Wb3 Wc7 6.a3 Qxc3 7.Qxc3 Qb7 8.e3 0-0 9.Qe2 d6 10.0-0 Qbd7 11.b4 c5 12.b2 a5 13.Qd1 axb4 14.axb4 Qb8
This is a typical position arising from various openings like the 'Nimzo-Indian Defence' or the 'Bogo-Indian Defence'. White gets the bishop pair but Black seems to be rather solid.

15. \( \text{N} \) \( d2 \)
The text prevents \( \text{...N} \) \( e4 \) and prepares \( f3 \) restricting further the \( b7 \)-bishop and taking the centre under control.

15... \( \text{Q} \) \( d8 \)
Black reacts with another typical plan; keeping the centre closed, he is preparing for multiple exchanges down the open a-file.

15... \( \text{Q} \) \( e4 \)? would be a blunder: 16. \( \text{N} \) \( xe4 \) \( \text{xe4} \) 17.\( \text{dxc5} \) \( \text{Wg5} \) 18.\( f3 \) –.

16.\( f3 \) \( \text{Axal} \) 17.\( \text{Axal} \) (D)

An interesting strategical decision. White restrains from further exchanges. Keeping queens and a pair of rooks on the board, he believes that control over the a-file is irrelevant and hopes to develop an initiative in the centre. Although White is slightly better in case of 17.\( \text{xa1} \) \( a8 \) 18.\( \text{xa8} \) \( \text{Wxa8} \) 19.\( \text{Wa3} \) \( \text{Wxa3} \) 20.\( \text{a3} \) \( c6 \) but he felt that the limited material simplifies Black's defence somehow.

17...\( \text{xa8} \) 18.\( \text{d3} \) \( \text{Cc7} \)
18...\( \text{exd4} \) 19.\( \text{exd4} \) (19.\( \text{Wxd4} \) \( \text{Cc7} \) =) 19...\( b5 \)?? was an interesting idea, undermining the strength of White's pawn centre.

20.\( \text{exb5} \) \( \text{d5} \) 21.\( \text{Wb3} \) \( \text{g5} \) 22.\( \text{e4} \) \( \text{Cc3} + \) 23.\( \text{h1} \) \( \text{xb4} \) 24.\( \text{c4} \) (24.\( \text{f6} +?! \) \( \text{h8} \) 25.\( \text{g4} \) \( \text{f4} \) 26.\( \text{xb4} \) \( \text{xc3} \) 27.\( \text{fl} \) \( \text{g2} + \) 28.\( \text{xg2} \) \( \text{g4} + \) 29.\( \text{h1} \) \( \text{e5} + \) )
24...\( \text{xb3} \) 25.\( \text{bx3} \) ± is also interesting, but not 18...\( \text{a4} ? \) 19.\( \text{dxc5} \) \( \text{dxc5} \) 20.\( \text{xe7} + ! \) –.

19.\( \text{c2} \) \( \text{Cc8} ?! \)
The text puts pressure over the c-file and forces White to clarify the pawn structure in the centre. But 19...\( \text{e5} \) 20.\( \text{b2} \) ± or 19...\( \text{exd4} \) 20.\( \text{xd4} \) 20.\( \text{b5} \) \( b5 \) 21.\( \text{b3} \) ± destabilizing the centre, were probably better continuations but Black tries to keep the centre as closed as possible.

20.\( \text{dxc5} \) \( \text{dxc5} \) 21.\( \text{b5} ! \)
The pawn structure is fixed now on the queenside; that was Black's main idea. However he has neither active pieces, including the \( c8 \)-rook, nor any active plan left. The bishop pair gives White a prolonged initiative.

21.\( \text{e8} \)
With the idea \( \text{...f6} \), blocking the a1-h8 diagonal. 21...\( \text{e5} \) 22.\( \text{e5} \) ± was possible.

22.\( \text{e4} \) \( \text{f6} \) 23.\( \text{d3} ! \)
White activates all his pieces, developing an initiative in the centre.

23...\( \text{xe4} \)
Practically forced: 23...\( \text{f8} \) 24.\( \text{d6} ! \) \( \text{xe6} \) (24...\( \text{d8} \) 25.\( \text{xe8} \) \( \text{xe8} \) 26.\( \text{d6} \) ± and Black is in trouble) 25.\( \text{xd6} \) \( \text{xd6} \) 26.\( \text{d6} \) \( \text{a8} \) 27.\( \text{c3} \) \( \text{a2} \) (27...\( \text{a3} \) 28.\( \text{e1} \) \( \text{a2} \) 29.\( \text{d3} \) \( \text{a3} \) 30.\( \text{f1} + ! \) )
28.\( \text{d3} \) \( \text{e8} \) 29.\( \text{f1} \) \( \text{a3} \) 30.\( \text{e1} \) ±.

24.\( \text{xe4} \) \( \text{f8} \) (D)
And now we have a case where the bishop pair will fight against the (poorly placed) knight pair!
25. \( \text{Wd3}! \)
With the semi-open centre, White takes the only open central d-file under full control, and avoids rook exchanges.

25... \( \text{Qf7!} \)?
25... \( \text{a8} \) 26. \( \text{a2} \) 27. \( \text{a3} \) \( \text{a7} \) 28. \( \text{c1} \) ±.

26. \( \text{c3} \) \( \text{e7} \)
With the idea ... \( \text{d8} \). An exchange of rooks and (or) queens might allow Black to hold the position or at least it will ease his defence. If 26... \( \text{a8} \) then 27. \( \text{e1!} \) ±.

26. \( \text{c3} \) \( \text{e7} \)
26... \( \text{R} \)
26... \( \text{a8} \) 26. \( \text{b2} \) \( \text{a2} \) 27. \( \text{a3} \) \( \text{a7} \) 28. \( \text{c1} \) ±.

26. \( \text{c3} \) \( \text{e7} \)
27. \( \text{R} \)
27... \( \text{Rd8} \) 28. \( \text{Qe2} \) \( \text{Nc6} \) 28... \( \text{e5} \) 29. \( \text{f4!} \) ±

29. \( \text{f4} \)
Planning \( \text{e4-e5} \), developing an initiative in the centre and on the kingside. Of course 29.e4?! \( \text{e5} \) would be out of the question.

29. \( \text{f7} \)
30. \( \text{e4} \) \( \text{f6} \)
31. \( \text{e5} \) ±.

31. \( \text{e5} \)
White must open up the position in order to prove the dominant character of the bishop pair over the knight pair.

31... \( \text{f5} \)
Keeping the centre closed is forced, but White gains more space, and starts an attack on the kingside. The alternative was 31... \( \text{e7} \) 32. \( \text{h5+} \) \( \text{e6} \) 33. \( \text{exf6} \) \( \text{gxf6} \)

36. \( \text{h4} \)!
Time for decisive action. With his last move White plans \( \text{h5} \) and \( \text{g4} \), attacking Black's king.

36... \( \text{g8} \) 37. \( \text{h5} \) \( \text{f8} \) ±
Hoping to bring the knight to \( \text{h6} \) and then \( \text{g4} \), blocking the kingside. White has no time to lose. Note that if 37... \( \text{f8} \) then 38.\( \text{g4} \) ±.

38. \( \text{g4} \) \( \text{f8} \)?
A decisive mistake in a difficult position. Black should have also avoided 38... \( \text{exg4} \)
39. \( \text{xg4} \) \( \text{e8} \) 40. \( \text{a7} \) \( \text{e8} \) 41. \( \text{h6} \) \( \text{g6} \)
42. \( \text{a8} \) ! \( \text{xa8} \) (42... \( \text{d7} \) 43. \( \text{d1} \) \( \text{d5} \)
44. \( \text{xe8+} \) \( \text{xe8} \) 45. \( \text{exd5} \) +) 43. \( \text{xe6+} \) \( \text{h8} \) 44. \( \text{hxg7+} \) \( \text{g7} \) 45. \( \text{f6+} \) \( \text{g8} \) 46. \( \text{e6} \) ±
but he should have opted for 38... \( \text{f7!} \)?
39. \( \text{gxh5} \) \( \text{xf5} \) (39... \( \text{exf5} \) 40. \( \text{e6} \) \( \text{g6} \) 41. \( \text{h1} \) \( \text{g4+} \)
42. \( \text{hxg4} \) \( \text{fxg4} \) 43. \( \text{wxg4} \) +)
40. \( \text{xf5} \) \( \text{exf5} \) 41. \( \text{g2} \) ! (41. \( \text{e6} \) \( \text{g5} \)
42. \( \text{e3} \) \( \text{e4} \) 43. \( \text{g1} \) \( \text{xc3} \) 44. \( \text{h6} \) \( \text{g6} \) 45. \( \text{e7} \) \( \text{e4} \) =) 41... \( \text{xe7} \) 42. \( \text{e1!} \) ±.

39. \( \text{xf5} \) \( \text{xf5} \)
Or 39... \( \text{exf5} \) 40. \( \text{e6} \) ±.

40. \( \text{xf5} \) \( \text{xf5} \)
40... \( \text{exf5} \) 41. \( \text{e6} \) \( \text{g7} \) 42. \( \text{g2} \) ! ±.

41. \( \text{a8+} \)
Finally Black is losing the knight and the game.

41... \( \text{f8} \)
41...\( \mathsf{\text{Kf7}} \) 42. \( \mathsf{\text{Kh8+}} \) 43. \( \mathsf{\text{a8+ Kf7}} \) 44. \( \mathsf{\text{Kh8}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{b7}} \) 45. \( \mathsf{\text{h6!}} \)
Black resigned due to 45...\( \mathsf{\text{f3}} \) 46. \( \mathsf{\text{axg7+ e8}} \) 47. \( \mathsf{\text{g8+ e7}} \) 48. \( \mathsf{\text{h8+ d8}} \) 49. \( \mathsf{\text{g8+ d7}} \) 50. \( \mathsf{\text{f7+}} \). Another great example of the bishop pair technique with the closed/semi-open centre.
1-0

The ex-FIDE World Champion Alexander Khalifman was always considered a very technical and accurate player.
Here he demolishes his opponent with some fine manoeuvres and positional handling of the bishop pair. Actually at first sight it looked like it was a good position for the knight…

\( \mathsf{\text{Khalifman Alexander}} \)
\( \mathsf{\text{Piket Jeroen}} \)
A11 Groningen 1988
1. \( \mathsf{\text{Nf3}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{f6}} \) 2.g3 \( \mathsf{\text{d5}} \) 3. \( \mathsf{\text{g2}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{c6}} \) 4.0-0 \( \mathsf{\text{f5}} \) 5.d3 \( \mathsf{\text{h6}} \) 6.c4 e6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.\( \mathsf{\text{c3}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{a6}} \) 9.a3 \( \mathsf{\text{e7}} \) 10.b4 \( \mathsf{\text{c7}} \) 11.\( \mathsf{\text{d4}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{h7}} \) 12.\( \mathsf{\text{a4}} \) 0-0 13.\( \mathsf{\text{c5}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{xc5}} \) 14.bxc5 \( \mathsf{\text{d7}} \) 15.\( \mathsf{\text{e2}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{xe6}} \) 16.\( \mathsf{\text{a4}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{e5}} \) 17.\( \mathsf{\text{xe6}} \) fxe6 18.\( \mathsf{\text{a3}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{d8}} \) 19.a5 \( \mathsf{\text{a6}} \) 20.\( \mathsf{\text{ab1}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{f6}} \) 21.\( \mathsf{\text{b2}} \) e5 22.\( \mathsf{\text{e4!}} \)
There is no doubt that White must not allow...e4, after which Black would have chances of an attack on the kingside.
22...\( \mathsf{\text{h8}} \) 23.\( \mathsf{\text{f4!}} \)
Now Black has to solve the situation in the centre, as the e5-pawn is under attack.
23...\( \mathsf{\text{dxe4}} \)
After 23...d4 too, White would gradually break down the black position by means of a combination of pressure along the b-file and preparing for f4.
24.\( \mathsf{\text{dxe4}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{d7}} \) (D)

\( \mathsf{\text{bd1}} \)
From White's point of view it would be good to exchange both his rooks (less counterplay for his opponent!), but this is not yet possible.
25.\( \mathsf{\text{fd8}} \) 26.\( \mathsf{\text{xd7}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{xd7}} \) 27.h3 \( \mathsf{\text{e6}} \) 28.\( \mathsf{\text{h2}} \)
No harm for such moves - Black has no counterplay, so White can afford such stuff!
28...\( \mathsf{\text{d8}} \) 29.\( \mathsf{\text{a1}} \)
Time trouble can also produce such meaningless moves. White's plan is to transfer his bishop to e3. This can be done by playing 29.f3!, when the white queen is relieved from the defence of the e4-pawn, so eventually the rooks can be exchanged. But is the exchange of rooks so important? The answer is yes - as White will 'weaken' his king by playing f4, so any counterplay shouldn't be allowed!
29...\( \mathsf{\text{c7}} \) 30.\( \mathsf{\text{b2}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{d7}} \) 31.\( \mathsf{\text{e2}} \) \( \mathsf{\text{g6}} \) 32.\( \mathsf{\text{f3!}} \)
Finally, White found the correct path!
32...\( \mathcal{N} \)h5 33.\( \mathcal{A} \)c1 \( \mathcal{A} \)f6 34.\( \mathcal{A} \)e3 \( \mathcal{A} \)d5 35.\( \mathcal{A} \)d2

Simpler again was 35.\( \mathcal{A} \)g1 immediately, followed by \( \mathcal{A} \)d2.
35...\( \mathcal{A} \)c7 36.\( \mathcal{A} \)e3 (D)

Now Black is (practically) forced to swap queens and go into a hopeless endgame, in view of the threat f6.
45...\( \mathcal{A} \)d1
45...\( \mathcal{W} \)a2 loses to 46.\( \mathcal{A} \)e3 \( \mathcal{A} \)b5 47.\( \mathcal{W} \)d7.
46.\( \mathcal{W} \)xb2

Even better seemed to be 46.\( \mathcal{A} \)g1 \( \mathcal{A} \)h5 47.e5 ++, but White had a definite plan in his head and just goes for that...
46...\( \mathcal{A} \)xb2 47.\( \mathcal{G} \)g3 \( \mathcal{G} \)g8 48.\( \mathcal{A} \)d4 \( \mathcal{A} \)c4

More tenacious was 48...\( \mathcal{A} \)d3, but after 49.e5 \( \mathcal{A} \)d5 50.e6, followed by \( \mathcal{A} \)f3 and \( \mathcal{A} \)f4, this is losing as well.
49.\( \mathcal{A} \)c3 g6 50.fxg6! \( \mathcal{A} \)xg6 51.\( \mathcal{A} \)f3! \( \mathcal{A} \)f7

Now Black cannot transfer his bishop to e6: 51...\( \mathcal{A} \)f7 52.\( \mathcal{A} \)g4! ++.
52.\( \mathcal{A} \)f4 \( \mathcal{A} \)e7 53.\( \mathcal{A} \)g4 \( \mathcal{A} \)d8 54.\( \mathcal{A} \)e6 \( \mathcal{A} \)a3
55.\( \mathcal{A} \)f6+ \( \mathcal{A} \)c7 56.\( \mathcal{A} \)g7!

The bishops are fully dominant!
56...h5 (D)

36...\( \mathcal{A} \)b5

If Black were to manage positioning his knight on d4, his position would be tenable; but he lacks a tempo.
37.\( \mathcal{A} \)d2! \( \mathcal{A} \)f7

After 37...\( \mathcal{A} \)d4 38.\( \mathcal{W} \)c3 and 39.f4, is strong.
38.\( \mathcal{W} \)d1 \( \mathcal{A} \)xd2 39.\( \mathcal{W} \)xd2 \( \mathcal{A} \)c4 40.\( \mathcal{F} \)f4!

The exchange of the central pawns is profitable for White - his bishops will get stronger.
40...exf4

Unfortunately Black can choose only among unpleasant continuations: 40...\( \mathcal{W} \)f6 41.f5
(also good is 41.fxe5 \( \mathcal{W} \)xe5 42.\( \mathcal{W} \)d7 \( \mathcal{W} \)c7 43.\( \mathcal{W} \)e8+ \( \mathcal{G} \)g8 44.\( \mathcal{F} \)f4 ±) 41...\( \mathcal{A} \)d4
42.\( \mathcal{A} \)xd4 exd4 43.\( \mathcal{W} \)f4 \( \mathcal{A} \)b3! 44.e5 \( \mathcal{G} \)g5 45.\( \mathcal{W} \)xg5 (45.\( \mathcal{W} \)xd4 \( \mathcal{W} \)xf5) 45...hxg5
46.\( \mathcal{A} \)e4 \( \mathcal{A} \)c4 47.\( \mathcal{A} \)c2! ± (47...\( \mathcal{A} \)e2? 48.\( \mathcal{A} \)b3! d3 49.e6 ++) 48.\( \mathcal{A} \)b3! d3 49.e6 ++).
41.gxf4 \( \mathcal{A} \)f7

The material balance is equal, but White practically is a passed pawn to the good in the centre - just compare the e4-pawn with the b7-pawn. The plan now is simple: \( \mathcal{A} \)f2-g3 and \( \mathcal{W} \)e3, and then mobilizing the e- and f-pawns.
42.\( \mathcal{A} \)f2 \( \mathcal{W} \)f6 43.\( \mathcal{W} \)e3 \( \mathcal{W} \)e2 44.\( \mathcal{F} \)f5! \( \mathcal{A} \)c3
45.\( \mathcal{W} \)d4!

57.\( \mathcal{A} \)f5!

It is time for harvest.
57...\( \mathcal{A} \)xf5

No salvation: 57...\( \mathcal{A} \)e8 58.e5 \( \mathcal{A} \)d8 59.\( \mathcal{A} \)f6+ \( \mathcal{A} \)c7 60.e6 \( \mathcal{A} \)c4 61.e7 ++ \( \mathcal{A} \)xa5? 62.e5 #.
Endgame Training

In the chapter closed centre in the endgame concept we will examine some typical pawn structures and the way to handle them.

Although it looks ‘easy’ at first sight, many details are uncovered in the analysis. Great masters say that the beauty of chess is not in what has actually been played, but is just in the analysis...

□ Kramnik Vladimir
■ Illescas Cordoba Miguel
A17 Dos Hermanas 1997
1.\(\text{\textit{c3}}\) \textit{f6} 2.e4 e6 3.\(\text{\textit{c3}}\) \textit{b4} 4.\(\text{\textit{c2}}\) 0-0 5.a3 \(\text{\textit{x}}\)xc3 6.\(\text{\textit{c2}}\) xc3 b6 7.g3 \(\text{\textit{g7}}\) 8.g2 e5 9.b4 d6 10.0-0 \(\text{\textit{d7}}\) 11.\(\text{\textit{c2}}\) \(\text{\textit{e7}}\) 12.d3 \(\text{\textit{xc8}}\) 13.b5 a6 14.a4 axb5 15.axb5 \(\text{\textit{d8}}\) 16.e4 \(\text{\textit{c8}}\) 17.\(\text{\textit{b2}}\) \(\text{\textit{e7}}\) 18.\(\text{\textit{c1}}\) \(\text{\textit{c8}}\) 19.\(\text{\textit{b1}}\)!

A rather blocked position, where the bishop pair shouldn’t be anything special...

22.\(\text{\textit{b7}}\)

With the idea \(\text{\textit{c3-a4}}\), and d4 trying to put pressure on the weak b6-pawn. Actually, White is better here only because his bishop pair is 'supported' by his knight. Just imagine this position without a pair of knights. Because of the blocked, closed centre, the bishop pair advantage would be practically irrelevant, and a draw would be a predictable result. The alternative was 22.f4 \(\text{\textit{c7}}\) 23.\(\text{\textit{f2}}\) d5 ±.

22...\(\text{\textit{e5}}\) 23.\(\text{\textit{xe5}}\)!? (23.\(\text{\textit{f1}}\) ±) 23...\(\text{\textit{dxe5}}\) 24.\(\text{\textit{c3}}\) \(\text{\textit{d6}}\) 25.\(\text{\textit{a4}}\) \(\text{\textit{c8}}\) 26.\(\text{\textit{h3}}\) \(\text{\textit{f8}}\) (26...g5?!?) 27.f4 exf4 28.gxf4 ± and White is better as the a8-bishop and the c8-knight are paralysed by the defence of the b6-pawn.

23.\(\text{\textit{f6}}\) 24.\(\text{\textit{c3}}\) \(\text{\textit{f7}}\) 25.\(\text{\textit{a4}}\) \(\text{\textit{e7}}\) 26.d4!

White expands his centre, focusing on opening up the position.

26...\(\text{\textit{d8}}\)

If 26...\(\text{\textit{c7}}\) then 27.e5!! \(\text{\textit{g2}}\) 28.exd6+ \(\text{\textit{x}}\)xd6 29.\(\text{\textit{g2}}\) ± e4!? 30.\(\text{\textit{a3}}\) \(\text{\textit{c5}}\) 31.\(\text{\textit{xb6}}\) e5 32.\(\text{\textit{a4}}\) \(\text{\textit{e6}}\) 33.f5 ++.

27.d5!

A bit 'illogical' but White feels that it is important to gain maximum space in the centre and make Black's pieces utmost passive.

27..\(\text{\textit{exd5}}\)

27...e5? 28.\(\text{\textit{h3}}\) ++.

28.\(\text{\textit{exd5}}\)

28.exd5!? \(\text{\textit{c7}}\) 29.\(\text{\textit{c3}}\) ± was also good for White, with the idea in case of 29...f5? of 30.e5 dxe5 31.d6 ++.

28...\(\text{\textit{c7}}\)

28...\(\text{\textit{c7}}\) 29.\(\text{\textit{h3}}\) \(\text{\textit{f8}}\) 30.\(\text{\textit{f2}}\) ++.

29.\(\text{\textit{h3}}\) \(\text{\textit{a8}}\)

An unfortunate but forced retreat.

30.\(\text{\textit{e6}}\) \(\text{\textit{f8}}\) 31.\(\text{\textit{f5}}\) \(\text{\textit{c8}}\) 32.\(\text{\textit{f2}}\) (D)
32...d7 33.g4 e7 34.g5
34.h4! was more technical. After 34...xe6
35.fxe6 e8 36.h5 h6 (36...g6 37.hxg6 hxg6
38.g5 +-) 37.. c1 f8 38.. f4 e7
39.. g3 +- with the idea that the knight
 goes to f5, White is winning.
34..fxe6!
34...e8 35.gxf6+ gxf6 36.. c3 d7
(36...xe6 37.dxe6 +-) 37.. e4 e5
38..xe5 dxe5 (38..fxe5 39.f6+ +-) 39.d6+
 d8 40..d5 +-.
35.fxe6
Or 35.dxe6!? c8 36.. f3 ±. The bishop
pair advantage has transformed into the
powerful e6-passed pawn. We will stop the
annotation here, as the rest of the game has
nothing to do with the bishop pair theme.
35..e8 36.gxf6+ gxf6 37.. e3 g6
38..d2 e4 39.. c1 g2 40.. c3 f1
41..h6 g2 42.. f4 f1 43..b2 c7
44..d1 g2 45..e3 e4 46..h6 e8
47..d2 c7 48..e2 e8 49..f2 c7
50..g3 d3 51..g4 e8 52..f4 b1
53..f5+ d8 54..f8 d3 55..e7+ c7
56..e3 e8 57..g4 c7 58..h5 g7+
59..h6 e8 60..h4 e8 61..h5 c7
62..g2 e8 63..f4 e2 64..xf6 xf6
65..g7 e8+ 66..f7 c7 67..e7 h6
68..e6 d1 69..g6 e8 70..f8 e2
71..c1 e6 72..c4 d6 73..h6 c4
74..h7 e4+ 75..e7 a7 76..xe8 a8
77..d7
1-0

□ Sandipan Chanda
■ Vladimir Evgeny
C95 Kalamabakkam 2000
1.e4 c5 2..f3 ..c6 3..b5 a6 4..a4 ..f6
5.0-0 ..e7 6..e1 b5 7..b3 0-0 8..c3 d6
9..h3 ..b8 10..d4 ..bd7 11..bd2 ..b7
12..c2 ..e8 13..f1 ..f8 14..g3 g6 15..a4
..g7 16..d5 ..b8 17..b3 c6 18..c4 xc4
19..xc4 a5 20..a3 ..f8 21..b1 ..c7
22..g2 ..a6 23..b3 ..ab8 24..c1 ..c5
25..xc5 dx5 26..e1 cxd5 27..xd5 ..b4
28..c2 c4 29..e2 ..b6 30..c3 ..d4
31..f3 ..xd2 32..xd2 ..eb8 33..f1
..c5 34..g3 ..d7 35..ge2 ..d6 36..a2
b2 37..xb2 ..xb2 38..ec3 ..c5
39..d1 b4 40..dc3 ..f8 41..b1 ..e7
42..c1 d7 43..a2 ..xb1+ 44..xb1
(D)

The position might mislead. It looks like
White stands well, as he possesses a well-
protected passed pawn. But the truth is that
Black's bishop pair and his generally better
placed pieces will tell in the end - by the
way, the white d-pawn goes nowhere!
44..b3! 45..ac3 ab4 46..f1 c6
The black king will play an important role in
the battle, so he takes his position.
47..e2 c5
47...d4+ 48..d1 c5 49..c1 xc2
50..xc2 d4 = is also good.
48..d1 c8
Black is preparing ...f5 and White has run
out of useful moves and any active plan...
Especially the white knights are a sad and
bitter story.
49..xb3
Or 49..b5 ..d7 50..c1 ..xc3 51..xc3
b4 52..xb3 ..xb3 53..d2 f5 54..f3 ..c4
and the penetration of the black king
decides. White cannot do much about it...
49..xb3 50..c1 ..a6 51..b2 ..f1 52..g3
xh3 53..d2 g2! 54..xb3
54..xb3+ ..e4 55..d1 ..d3 +-.
54...d4
Black's king has become too active and
White is lost.
55..b5+ ..d3 56..c4 ..xe4 57..d6 ..h3!
White's counterplay with the d-pawn came
too late.
58..b6
Tactics are helping the bishop pair: 58.g4 \( \text{hxg4} \) 59.\( \text{Qc3+} \) 60.\( \text{b5+} \) 61.\( \text{xe5} \) 62.\( \text{b2} \) 63.\( \text{d7} \) +–.

58...\( \text{e6+!} \) 59.\( \text{c2} \) 60.\( \text{a8} \) \( \text{xf2} \) 61.\( \text{ac7} \) \( \text{f5} \)

0-1

**The Bishop Pair v. the Knight Pair**

This is a concept that we already analysed in detail in the introduction. Here we will examine some necessary and instructive examples in order to fully understand the pluses and minuses that rule it.

We will start with two old but rather important examples. In both of them the patriarch of Soviet Chess and ex-World Champion M.Botvinnik is involved.

\( \Box \) Flohr Salo

\( \Box \) Botvinnik Mikhail

E38 Leningrad 1933

1.\( d4 \text{c6} \) 2.e4 e6 3.\( \text{c3} \) \( \text{b4} \) 4.\( \text{c2} \) c5 5.\( \text{dx} c5 \) \( \text{a6} \) 6.a3 \( \text{xc3+} \) 7.\( \text{xc3} \) \( \text{xe5} \) 8.f3 d6 9.e4 c5 10.\( \text{c2} \) \( \text{c7} \) 11.\( \text{c2} \) \( \text{xe6} \) 12.\( \text{c2} \) 0-0 13.\( \text{c3} \) \( \text{d8} \) 14.c2 a6 15.\( \text{d} \) \( \text{c1} \) \( \text{cd7} \) 16.\( \text{d} \) \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{b8} \) 17.\( \text{d} \) \( \text{d5} \) 

\( \text{d5} \) 18.\( \text{ex} d5 \) \( \text{xc1+} \) 19.\( \text{xc} \) \( \text{d8} \) 20.0-0 \( \text{xc8} \) 21.\( \text{wd2} \) \( \text{wc7} \) 22.\( \text{c1} \) \( \text{xc1+} \) 23.\( \text{xc1} \) \( \text{xc1+} \) 24.\( \text{xc1} \) \( \text{f8} \) (D)

A very interesting ending. While Botvinnik believed that Black could defend, Flohr was of the opinion that White nevertheless wins. Many theoreticians have analysed it since then, but it still remains unclear whether White's advantage is sufficient, due to the presence of many (fixed) central pawns. What is for sure is that Black will suffer for a long time!

25.\( \text{f2} \) \( \text{e7} \) 26.\( \text{d3} \) \( \text{d8} \) 27.\( \text{e1} \) \( \text{e7} \) 28.\( \text{d2} \) \( \text{c5} \) 29.b4 

29.\( \text{xc5} \) is not advisable, as 29...\( \text{dxc5} \) followed by ...\( \text{e8} \)-\( \text{d6} \) even favours Black.

29...\( \text{ed7} \)

29...\( \text{a4} \) 30.d1 b5? (30...\( \text{b6} \)) is lost for Black according to M.Euwe, who gave the following variation: 31.\( \text{xa4} \) bxa4 32.\( \text{c3} \) \( \text{b7} \) 33.\( \text{c4} \) \( \text{d7} \) 34.\( \text{b5} \) a5 35.\( \text{b6} \) \( \text{a6} \) (35...\( \text{xb6}+?! \) 36.\( \text{b5} \) –) 36.\( \text{b7} \) \( \text{b8} \) 37.f4 f6 38.f5 \( \text{d7} \) 39.g4 (White is preparing for either the g5 break or the sacrifice of his bishop on the kingside, or both!) 39...\( \text{h6} \) 40.h4 \( \text{b8} \) 41.h5! \( \text{d7} \) (and now the zugzwang method) 42.\( \text{g1} \) \( \text{b8} \) 43.\( \text{f2} \) \( \text{d7} \) 44.\( \text{e3} \) \( \text{b8} \) 45.g5! \( \text{fxg5} \) 46.\( \text{d} \) \( \text{e5} \) \( \text{xb7} \) (46...\( \text{h5} \) 47.f6 –) 47.f6! \( \text{gx} \) \( \text{f6} \) 48.\( \text{hxh6} \) –.

30.g3

30.a4! is proposed by M.Shereshevsky and it is more accurate.

30...\( \text{b6} \) 31.\( \text{e2} \) \( \text{bd7} \)

Black should take advantage of White's inaccurate 30th move by 31...\( \text{a4} \) 32.\( \text{b3} \) b5 ±.

32.a4!

Gaining more space on the queenside to limit the scope of the knights.

32...\( \text{b6} \) 33.a5 \( \text{bd7} \)

White's next aim is to play f4 and to advance his kingside pawns.

34.\( \text{c1} \) \( \text{d8} \) 35.\( \text{b2} \) \( \text{e8} \) 36.\( \text{d2} \) \( \text{c7} \) 37.\( \text{e3} \) \( \text{e7} \) 38.\( \text{f1} \) \( \text{b5} \) 39.h4 \( \text{c7} \)

40.\( \text{h3} \)

Immobilizing the d7-knight due to \( \text{c8} \).

40...\( \text{e8} \) 41.f4 f6 42.\( \text{f5} \) g6 43.\( \text{h3} \)

Now f5, followed by fxg6 is threatened.

43...\( \text{h6} \)

43...\( \text{g7} \)?? is pointless: 44.f5 g5 45.\( \text{hxg5} \) \( \text{fxg5} \) 46.f6+ ±.

44.\( \text{c1} \) \( \text{g7} \) 45.\( \text{fxe5} \) \( \text{dxe5} \)

Forced. If 45...\( \text{xe5} \) then 46.\( \text{c8} \)– and if 45...\( \text{fxe5} \) then 46.\( \text{f3} \) h5 47.\( \text{g5} \) \( \text{e8} \) 48.\( \text{h6} \) –.

46.\( \text{f3} \)

White can also think about 46.\( \text{a3} \) \( \text{d8} \) 47.g4 (47.b5 axb5 48.\( \text{f1} \) f5 49.\( \text{xb5} \) \( \text{h5} \)
50.exf5 gxf5 51.f3 ±) 47...h5 48.gxh5
xd5 49.h5 axb5 50.d5 51.d5 ±.
46...h5 47.e3 d6 48.h6 e8 49.g4 hxg4+ 50.xg4 (D)

White has made progress but still there is
nothing clear yet.
50...c7?
A mistake. Black had to opt for 50...e7!
51.h5 (51.e3 d6 52.c5 xc5 53.bxc5
c4 and it seems that White cannot win)
51...gxh5 52.xh5 d6 ±.
51.e3 b5 52.e2 c7 (D)
52...c3+ is not as ‘tricky’ as it looks, as
after 53.d3 xe4? White has 54.xd7 ±.

53.d3 f5
The pawn endgame after 53...b5 54.e6
e7 55.c5+ xc5+ (55...e8 56.d6 ±)
56.bxc5 d4 57.c8 b3 58.c4 d8
59.xb3 xc8 is won for White, as his
king goes to g4 and opens a path with h5.
54.exf5 gxf5 55.xf5 xd5 56.d2
The open centre and passed pawns favour
the bishop pair.
56...f6 57.c4 c6 58.g6
58.g5! looks good: 58...b5+ 59.axb6
d6+ 60.b3 cxd5 61.d3 b6
62.c4 + and the knight pair is stoned.
58...b5+ 59.d3 c7 60.e4+ ed5
61.g5 h5 62.f3 g3 63.d2
After 63.h5! Black's days are numbered.
63...d6 64.g4 f6 65.c8 c6 (D)

66.e1?!
White misses another good chance.
66.xa6! f5 67.c8 e4+ 68.e2 xh4
69.a6 ± was winning.
66...e4+?
This makes things easy. 66...ge4 was
called for: 67.f5 d6 68.g6 d5 ±.
Now White easily wins.
67.d4 gh5 68.f5 d6 69.d2
1-0

This was a painful defeat for Botvinnik but
it seemed that he recovered quickly and for
the good, as he fully understood the power
of the bishop pair v. the knight pair, after
carefully studying and analysing this game.

Just see the following extremely important
game that could have changed chess history
and the numbering of the FIDE World
Champions:
A critical position in a critical stage of the 1951 FIDE World Championship. This was the 23rd game (out of a total of 24) and Bronstein was leading with an 11½-10½ score before it.

35...\textit{L}xc1?!

Black decided to win a (useless) pawn but he had to give the bishop pair v. the knight pair advantage to his opponent. A bad decision that cost Black the title of World Champion! He had to opt for 35...\textit{K}f7 36.\textit{L}c2 (36.\textit{L}xa6? \textit{bxa6} 37.\textit{L}c7 \textit{xc1} 38.\textit{L}c1 \textit{xb3}+ 39.\textit{L}c2 \textit{a5} =) 36...\textit{b4}+ 37.\textit{d}1 \textit{a}6 =.

36.\textit{L}xc1 \textit{L}xb3+ 37.\textit{c}2 \textit{a}5

The knight pair is stuck on the rim and White just has to open the centre.

38.\textit{c}3 \textit{f}7 39.e4?!

Too early. 39.d6 \textit{c}6 40.e4 was the accurate way.

42.\textit{d}6?

White missed 42.\textit{b}1! \textit{c}6 (If Black chose 42...\textit{fxe}4 the game opens up after 43.\textit{fxe}4 \textit{xe}4+ \textit{g}7 and White's bishops obviously prevail. An interesting variation was found by Salo Flohr: 45.\textit{xb}7! \textit{xb}7 46.\textit{c}4 + followed by \textit{b}5-a6-b6 and the a-pawn eventually queens. The other options are 42...\textit{c}4 43.\textit{f}4 with the idea \textit{a}2 and 42...\textit{dxe}4 43.\textit{fxe}4 \textit{g}5 44.\textit{fxf}5 \textit{xf}5 45.\textit{d}6 = 46.\textit{exe}5 \textit{exd}5 44.\textit{a}2 \textit{e}7) 44...\textit{ab}4 45.\textit{b}3 =) 45.\textit{h}4 ±.

42...\textit{c}6 43.\textit{b}1 \textit{f}6?

And now Black in his turn missed 43...\textit{a}7! (with the idea ...\textit{b}5) 44.\textit{exe}5 \textit{exd}5 45.\textit{a}2 \textit{b}5 46.\textit{a}5 (46.\textit{exe}5 \textit{bxa}4) 46...\textit{b}6+! (46...\textit{c}6?! 47.\textit{exe}5 \textit{xa}5 48.\textit{f}4 =) 47.\textit{d}3 \textit{b}5 48.\textit{e}5 \textit{ac}7 49.\textit{e}2 \textit{f}7 50.\textit{b}3 \textit{a}6 =.

44.\textit{g}3?

After 44.\textit{exe}5?! \textit{exd}5 45.\textit{a}2 \textit{c}6 = or 44.\textit{h}4?! \textit{a}8 45.\textit{f}4 \textit{d}7 46.\textit{g}5+ \textit{g}6 47.\textit{exe}5 \textit{exd}5 48.\textit{a}2 \textit{h}6 49.\textit{f}4 \textit{e}7! (49...\textit{f}6?! 50.\textit{e}5) 50.\textit{d}6 \textit{c}8! = White cannot make headway.
44...fxe4
If 44...ab4 then 45.e5+! (45.c7? would only lead to a draw after 45...dxe4 46.fxe4 fxe4 47.exf4 \(\text{x}d5+=\) and Black's king is pushed to g6: 45...g6 (45...ex5 46.dxe5+ ex5 47.xb4 \(\rightarrow\)) after which White wins by 46.d6 a6 47.exd5 exd5 48.a2 \(+\). Other Black's tries are 44...g6 45.exf5+ exf5 46.a2 \(\text{ab}4 47.b3 f6 48.d6 \rightarrow or 44...g5 45.exd5 exd5 46.a2 \(\text{bc}4 47.b3 f4 48.e1 \pm planning \text{d}2-c1-a3, or, finally, 44...e7 45.h4+ f7 46.xe7 \(\text{xe}7 47.exd5 exd5 48.xf5 h6 49.e8 \(+\). 45.fx e4 h6 46.f4 h5
Or 46...g7 47.exd5 exd5 48.a2 \(\text{ab}4 49.b3 g6 50.d6 \(--\).
47.exd5 exd5 48.h4 \(\text{ab}8 49.g5+ f7 50.f5?!)
Accurate was 50.c2! c7 51.d1 g6 52.f3 \(+\).
50.a7
More resistant was 50.e7 but White had a good choice anyway: 51.h3! (51.xe7 xe7 52.g6 c6 53.xh5 a7 54.b4 c6+ 55.b5 xd4+ 56.xb6 \(=\)) 51...bc6 52.g2 g7! 53.xe7 xe7 54.b4 c6+ 55.b5 xd4+ 56.xb6 \(\rightarrow\).
51.f4 bc6 52.d3 c8?!
Black's final mistake. Again he should opt for 52.e7! 53.e7 c6 54.b6 a6 55.e2 f5 draws. 56.xh5 xh4 57.c5 \(\pm\). But Black would have good chances to save the half point.
53.e2 g6 54.d3+?!
54.f3 e7 55.c7 wins.
54.e6 55.e2 g6?!
A better chance can be found in 55.f5! 56.h2 e4 57.g1 d6 58.xh5 f5 59.g6 \(\pm\).
56.e3 e6
Or 56.e87 57.e7 (57.g5 f5 58.xd5 fxd4 59.e4+ f7 60.e3 \(\pm\)) 57...f5 58.xd5 fxd4 59.xb6 \(+\).
57.g5?
And Black resigned due to 57.c6 58.xd5 d6 59.f3 b5 (59...f5 60.c1! b5 61.xc6 bxc6 62.a5 \(+\))
60.f4 f5 61.xc6 bxc6 62.a5 e7 63.b4 f5 (63...d5+ 64.c5 xf4 65.a6 \(+\)) 64.a6 d5+ 65.c5 xf4 66.a7 c7 67.xc6 \(+\). This win allowed Botvinnik to equalize the score and retain the title as the last game of the match ended in a draw (12-12).
1-0

*Not Always a Weakness*

The knight pair cannot always be considered a weakness; an important role belongs to other pieces of its army respectively and if activity and centralization is obtained, then there is little to be afraid of.

The following analysis can certify it.

\[ \text{Khenkin Igor} \]
\[ \text{Gyimesi Zoltan} \]
\[ \text{D21 Germany 2005} \]
\[ 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e3 c5 4.d5 e6 5.c3 exd5 6.xd5 \(\text{xd}5 7.xd5 \(\text{d}6 8.d2 \(\text{e}7 9.xc4 xd5 10.xd6+ e7 11.xc8+ xc8 (D) \)
\]

![Diagram](image)

This is an interesting endgame, White has the bishop pair v. the knight pair but otherwise Black has no problems, no weakness, no poorly placed piece, so this position must be playable for Black.

12.g3

White players usually develop the bishop on g2. The main alternative is 12.d2 c6 13.0-0-0 d8 14.g3 \(\pm\) or 12.g5+f6 13.0-0-0 d8 14.e4 fxg5 15.exd5 \(\pm\).
12... Nc6 13. g2
Or 13. h3 d8 14.0-0 d6 15.e4 db4
16. f4 d8 17. fdl xd1+ 18. xd1 d8 19. a1 d4 ½-½ Baron Rodriguez,J-Cifuentes Parada,R Zaragoza 1999.
13... d8
Black firmly controls the d-file.
14. g5+ f6 15. d2
def8 16.0-0
def8 17. fc1 is another White try: 16...
fe8 17. e5 h6 21.a3 d5 22.d2 c7 23.c3 b5 = Babula,V-Luch,M Warsaw 2005. 16... 
Rfe8 17. fc1 b6 18. f1 a5 19. e1
White has also tried 19.ad?! g5 20.e3 e5 21.b3 (Scarani,A-Valverde Lopez,M ICCF email 2001) 21...g4 or 19.e1 g6 20. ab1 db4 21.a3 a6 (21...a2? 22. c4 ± Psakhis,L-Speelman,J Hastings 1987) 22.b4 axb4 23.xc6 xc6 24.axb4 c7 =.
19...g6 20.h4 h5 21. ab1 f7 22.a3
Black is rather active in the centre and his pieces well-placed. On the other hand, no-
one can underestimate the bishop pair... So the players, each being afraid of the other's position, called it a draw.
½-½

A weakness in the pawn structure can nearly always compensate the potential weakness of the knight pair. Other elements, such as open-file possession and activity can be useful. Next is a game for the World Championship and our most recent example.

□ Anand Viswanathan ■ Topalov Veselin
E04 Sofia 2010
1.d4 f6 2.e4 e6 3.d3 d5 4.g3 dx4
5. g2 a6 6.e5 c5 7.a3 xd4 8.axc4
c5 9.0-0 0-0 10. g5 h6 11.xf6 xf6
12. d3 a7 13. a4 c6 14. ac1 e5
15. xc6 b5 16. c2 xc6 17. cxe5 e4
18. wc6 b7 19. xe4 xc4 (D)

This is the position that Topalov was aiming for. Material is even and both sides can claim some pluses and minuses. White has the better pawn structure (due to Black's isolated d-pawn and weak queenside) and Black the bishop pair versus the knight pair. It seems like a fair battle, although I prefer a bit more the bishop pair...

20. c2!
By the text move, White takes full control of the c-file and simultaneously protects his e-pawn. The self-pin of the d3-knight is not important.

20... fe8
Naturally, Topalov casts an eye on the e-file and the backward e2-pawn.

21. fc1 f6
As we have mentioned, this is called the bishop pair 'restriction method' first employed by William Steinitz. The idea is simple: push the enemy knights behind and restrict them of any good squares by using healthy placement of the pawns.

22. d7
After 22. c6?! b6 the knight pair would be stuck, not really doing anything of importance.

22... f5! 23. c5 b6
After 23... c5 24. xc5 xd3 25.exd3 e2 26. 5c2 a8 27. f1 e5 the game would be dead drawn. Topalov can perfectly continue the game with the text move and this proves the validity of his position - that he can try for two results. 23...a5 was the other option but it is
advisable for Black to delay the movement of the pawn, which is always a responsible decision (pawns can't go backwards).

24. \( \text{Qxb7} \! \) !

White's duty is to create threats and exploit his doubled rooks on the c-file; so his e5-knight has to move somehow from its good but useless e5 outpost.

24... \( \text{Nd7} \) !

Black covers the square c6, stopping a white rook invasion and defends against White's threat of \( \text{Qxd6} \). But preferable was 24... \( \text{g4}! \) 25.f3 (maybe 25. \( \text{Qf1} \) \( \text{e7} \) is preferable) and only now 25... \( \text{Nd7} \) as then White couldn't immediately move his d3-knight and the weakness on e3 cannot be underestimated.

25. \( \text{Qf4} \) !

The main alternative was 25. \( \text{Qd6} \) \( \text{e6} \) 26. \( \text{Qf5} \) (26. \( \text{Qc8} \) \( \text{d8} \) 27. \( \text{Qf1} \) \( \text{h7} \) \( \infty \)) 26... \( \text{h7} \) \( \infty \).

25... \( \text{ab8}?! \) !

Topalov wants to be practical but he cannot live fighting against the doubled white rooks on the c-file. He had to opt for exchanging the major pieces with the natural 25... \( \text{Rac8} \) 26. \( \text{Qd6} \) (26. \( \text{Qxe8} \) \( \text{xc8} \) 27. \( \text{Qxe8+} \) \( \text{Qxe8} \) 28. \( \text{Qd6} \) \( \text{d7} \) \( \infty \)) 26... \( \text{xc2} \) 27. \( \text{Qxc2} \) \( \text{e5} \) \( \infty \).

26. \( \text{Qd6}?! \) !

26. \( \text{Qc5!} \) forces 26... \( \text{Qxe5} \) (26... \( \text{Qc8} \) 27. \( \text{Qd2} \) \( \text{d8} \) 28. \( \text{Qfe6} \) 27. \( \text{Qxc5} \) \( \text{g5} \) 28. \( \text{Qd5} \) \( \text{f7} \) 29. \( \text{Qc2!} \) \( \pm \). If White exchanges one of the black bishops, he will stay a bit better. In general, White wants to exchange as many pieces as possible because then the d4-pawn would become a real weakness, while the e2-pawn can be easily defended with \( \text{Qf1} \) for example.

26... \( \text{Qe5!} \) 27. \( \text{Qc8} \) \( \text{a5} \) 28. \( \text{Qd3} \) !

28. \( \text{Qa7?!} \) \( \text{be8} \) would be just bad for White.

28... \( \text{Qe8} \) 29. \( \text{Qa7} \) !

White could also go for 29. \( \text{Qd6} \) \( \text{e6} \) (29... \( \text{Qe7} \) 30. \( \text{b4} \) \( \text{b6} \) 31. \( \text{Qc8} \) \( \pm \) 30. \( \text{Qf5} \) \( \text{b6} \) (the exchange sacrifice with 30... \( \text{Qxe2} \) is about equal: 31. \( \text{Qxh6+} \) \( \text{gxh6} \) 32. \( \text{Qxe2} \) \( \text{f5} \) 33. \( \text{Qd1} \) [33. \( \text{b4} \) \( \text{xd3} \) 34. \( \text{Qd2} \) \( \text{xb4} \) 35. \( \text{Qxd3} \) \( \text{c3} \) 36. \( \text{Qf1} \) 33... \( \text{g4} \) 34. \( \text{d2} \) \( \text{xd2} \) 35. \( \text{Qxd2} \) 31. \( \text{b4} \) \( \text{be8} \) 32. \( \text{Qf1} \) \( \text{d8} \) \( \infty \).

29... \( \text{Qb6} \) 30. \( \text{Qc6} \) \( \text{Qb7} \)

The problem for Black is that after 30... \( \text{a8} \) 31. \( \text{Qf4} \) \( \text{f5} \) 32. \( \text{d2} \) he cannot defend his isolated pawn. But Black could accept White's (temporary) pawn sacrifice with the natural 30... \( \text{Qxe6} \) 31. \( \text{Qxe6} \) \( \text{xe2} \). Probably the game will end in a draw after 32. \( \text{Qf1} \) \( \text{e7} \) (32... \( \text{d2} \) 33. \( \text{Qc8+} \) \( \text{Qxe8} \) 34. \( \text{Qxe8+} \) \( \text{h7} \) 35. \( \text{Qc6} \) \( \text{a5} \) [35... \( \text{Qd8}?! \) 36. \( \text{Qxa6} \) \( \text{xd3} \)? 37. \( \text{Qe2} \) \( \pm \) 36. \( \text{Qaxf6} \) \( \text{c3} \) 37. \( \text{Bxc3} \) \( \text{xd3} \) 38. \( \text{Qxd4} \) \( \text{xd4} \) 33. \( \text{Qb4} \) d3 34. \( \text{Qd5} \) \( \text{eb7} \) 35. \( \text{Qxb6} \) \( \text{xb6} \) 36. \( \text{Qxb6} \) \( \text{xb6} \) 37. \( \text{Qc8+} \) \( \text{f7} \) 38. \( \text{d8} \) \( \text{c6} \) 39. \( \text{Qxd3} \) \( \text{c2} \) 40. \( \text{a3} \) \( \text{xb2} \) 41. \( \text{Qxa6} \) and maybe that's why Topalov was not attracted to it.

31. \( \text{Qcb4}! \) \( \text{a5} \) 32. \( \text{Qd5} \) !

And White finally eliminates the black bishop pair!

32... \( \text{a4} \) !

32... \( \text{Qf5} \) was also OK.

33. \( \text{Qxb6} \) \( \text{xb6} \) 34. \( \text{Qc5} \) \( \text{f5} \) 35. \( \text{Qd2} \) (D)

So, after 13 consecutive knight moves (!), White decided to change a bit and move something different! The main difference that took place during the last moves is the elimination of the black bishop pair, but at least Black kept his good bishop, accepting to exchange the worse one. His pressure against the e-pawn is enough to keep the dynamic balance, but probably there is nothing more than a draw to come sooner or later.

35... \( \text{Qc6} \) 36. \( \text{b4} \) \( \text{xb3} \) 37. \( \text{axb3} \)
Correctly avoiding 37.\(\text{B}\)xb3?! d3! 38.\(\text{B}\)xe6 (38.exd3? \(\text{B}\)xc1+ 39.\(\text{B}\)xc1 \(\text{B}\)e1+) 38... dxe2 39.\(\text{B}\)c1 e1\(\text{B}^+\) 40.\(\text{B}\)xe1 \(\text{B}\)xe1+ 41.\(\text{K}\)g2 \(\text{B}\)e6 as the black bishop is a better minor piece than its counterpart.

37...\(\text{b}\)4!
Black has to act actively! After the passive 37...\(\text{R}\)d8?! 38.b4 only Wh ite would have chances.

38.\(\text{B}\)xd4 \(\text{B}\)xe2 39.\(\text{B}\)xb4 \(\text{B}\)h3 (D)

White has an extra pawn but Black has strong compensation due to White's weak back rank and the activity of his rooks.

40.\(\text{B}\)c4 \(\text{B}\)d6 41.\(\text{B}\)e4
Or 41.\(\text{B}\)h4 \(\text{B}\)c2 42.\(\text{B}\)a1 \(\text{B}\)a2 43.\(\text{B}\)e1 \(\text{B}\)e2 = which verifies the previous note for the weak white back rank.

41...\(\text{B}\)b2 42.\(\text{B}\)e1
White is 'forced' to 'accept' the draw.

42...\(\text{B}\)d2 43.\(\text{B}\)e4 \(\text{B}\)d4 44.\(\text{B}\)c5 \(\text{B}\)dd2 45.\(\text{B}\)e4 \(\text{B}\)d3!?
Topalov feels like he has to try all his chances before he agrees to a draw. After 45...\(\text{B}\)d4 46.\(\text{B}\)c5 we would have another draw by threefold repetition.

46.\(\text{B}\)b1!
Anand immediately goes for his best, securing the draw. A blunder would be 46.\(\text{B}\)c5? \(\text{B}\)f3 and White would be in deep trouble...

46...\(\text{B}\)xb3 47.\(\text{B}\)d2 \(\text{B}\)b4
Or 47...\(\text{B}\)xb1 48.\(\text{B}\)xb1 \(\text{B}\)d3 (48...\(\text{B}\)xb1+ 49.\(\text{B}\)b2 \(\text{B}\)f7 50.f3 =) 48.f3 g5 49.\(\text{B}\)xb2 \(\text{B}\)xb2

This is a quite pleasant position for White. The possession of the bishop pair against the knight pair in a not fully blocked position is an ideal weapon to cash points. At least this is what the statistics say!

22.e3 \(\text{B}\)d7 23.\(\text{F}\)f1 \(\text{B}\)e7 24.\(\text{B}\)e2 \(\text{B}\)de8 25.g4!

After the centralization of his king, White proceeds with the 'restriction method'. This is best done by the advance of both his kingside and queenside pawns.
25... $\text{Be} 6$ 26.h4 $\text{Bd} 6$ 27.$\text{f3}$ $\text{Bd} 5$ 28.$\text{d5}$ $\text{Ba} 6$
28...f6 29.$\text{g2}$! $\text{Bd} 7$ 30.a3 ±.
29.a3!
29... $\text{Rh} 5$ gives Black an unexpected tactical chance: 29... $\text{Bb} 4$ 30.a3 $\text{Bg} 3$+.
29...$\text{a5}$
After 29... $\text{Bc} 5$ 30.g5! $\text{Bb} 3$ 31.$\text{g1}$ White's attack is quite strong.
30.b4 axb4 31.axb4 $\text{Bc} 5$ 32.b5!
Also possible was 32.$\text{Bc} 3$ ± but White wants to take advantage of the a-file. The c5 outpost is irrelevant as nearly all Black's pieces are passive.
32...$\text{Bc} 5$ 33.$\text{Rd} 1$ $\text{Bf} 6$ 34.$\text{Rd} 1$
It would a bad idea to surrender the bishop pair: 34.$\text{Bx} f 6$ gxf6 35.$\text{Ba} 7$ $\text{Bg} 7$ and Black might hold.
34...$\text{Bf} 4$ 35.$\text{Ba} 7$ $\text{Bf} 8$ (D)

36.g5!
An active solution! But also the solid 36.$\text{Bl} 1$ would do the job: 36... $\text{Bg} 8$ 37.$\text{Bd} 2$ $\text{Bf} 8$ 38.$\text{Be} 2$ $\text{Bg} 8$ 39.$\text{Bf} 1$ (39.$\text{fl}$? $\text{Ce} 3$!)
39... $\text{Bf} 8$ 40.$\text{f3}$ $\text{f6}$ 41.$\text{e4}$ ±.
36...hxg5 37.hxg5 $\text{Bxg} 5$ 38.$\text{Bc} 6$ $\text{Cc} 8$
39.$\text{Bh} 1$ $\text{Bg} 8$ 40.$\text{Ba} 1$!
A fine retreat, preparing the rooks' doubling on the h-file. Black can do little to avoid defeat...
40...$\text{Cc} 6$
After 40...f6 White wins by 41.$\text{d5}$+ $\text{Bf} 7$
42.$\text{ag} 1$ $\text{Bf} 8$ 43.$\text{h7}$+.
41.$\text{Bh} 4$ f6
Or 41... $\text{h7}$ 42.$\text{ah} 1$ $\text{Ef} 8$ 43.$\text{e} 4$ g6
44.$\text{Bd} 5$ $\text{d8}$ 45.$\text{f4}$+.
42.$\text{Bg} 1$ $\text{f7}$ 43.$\text{d5}$
Avoiding a little trick: 43.$\text{f4}$?! $\text{h3}$! But now the bishop pair is fully dominating.
43...$\text{Bc} 8$ 44.$\text{h8}$+ $\text{Bf} 8$ 45.$\text{f4}$ $\text{Bg} 6$
45... $\text{gh} 7$ 46.$\text{g8}$+.
46.$\text{Bf} 3$
46... $\text{xe} 6$ $\text{xe} 6$ 47.$\text{Bxg} 7$+ also wins, but White is in no hurry!
46...$\text{f5}$ 47.$\text{Bg} 6$! $\text{Bc} 5$ 48.$\text{Bxg} 7$ $\text{f7}$
49.$\text{Bf} 8$
Black loses too much material: 49... $\text{xf} 8$
50.$\text{xf} 8$+ $\text{xf} 8$ 51.$\text{g8}$+ ±.
1-0

There have been many cases in chess history that the possession of the bishop pair versus the knight pair even merited the sacrifice of a good pawn and not a useless one as in the game Botvinnik,M-Bronstein,D Moscow 1951.

□ Polgar Judit
■ Shirov Alexei
C13 Prague 1999
1.$\text{e} 4$ $\text{e} 6$ 2.$\text{d} 4$ $\text{d} 5$ 3.$\text{Cc} 3$ $\text{Cc} 6$ 4.$\text{Bg} 5$ $\text{dxe} 4$
5.$\text{Bxe} 4$ $\text{Bc} 7$ 6.$\text{Bxf} 6$ $\text{Bxf} 6$ 7.$\text{Bf} 3$ 0-0
8.$\text{Bc} 4$ $\text{Cc} 6$ 9.$\text{Bb} 5$ $\text{Bd} 7$ 10.$\text{Wd} 2$ $\text{Bc} 7$
11.0-0 $\text{Bf} 5$ 12.$\text{Bxe} 5$ $\text{Bxb} 5$ 13.$\text{c4}$ $\text{Bc} 6$
14.$\text{Bc} 1$ $\text{c5}$ 15.$\text{Bxe} 5$ $\text{Wxd} 2$ 16.$\text{Bxd} 2$ $\text{Bd} 8$
17.$\text{Bb} 3$ $\text{Ba} 8$ 18.$\text{Ba} 4$ $\text{b6}$ 19.$\text{Ba} 1$ $\text{Bxd} 1+$
20.$\text{Bxd} 1$ $\text{Bc} 7$ 21.$\text{Bd} 6$ $\text{Bf} 8$ 22.$\text{Bxb} 6$ $\text{Bxd} 6$
23.$\text{Bxc} 7$ $\text{Bc} 7$ (D)

White has won a pawn but the black bishop pair is compensating this small deficit.
24.c5
It is understandable that White doesn't wish to fall into a passive position, just defending. After 24...\textit{d}d4 g5 (24...\textit{x}xe5 25.fxe5 \textit{xc}4 26.b3 \textit{d}5 $\neg$ 25.g3 \textit{xe}5 26.fxe5 \textit{xc}4 27.b3 \textit{d}5 $\neg$ White has good chances to hold the endgame but nothing more of course.

24...\textit{g}5
The immediate 24...f6 was possible: 25.\textit{d}d4 (25.\textit{c}c6 \textit{xe}4 26.\textit{xa}7 \textit{e}3+ 27.\textit{h}1 \textit{c}4 $\neg$) 25...\textit{e}7 26.\textit{ec}6+ \textit{d}7 $\neg$.

25.\textit{d}c6?! 
25.g3 is called for: 25...\textit{xf}4 26.\textit{gx}f4 \textit{f}6 27.\textit{d}d4!, merely transposing to the above variation with the g-pawns missing.

25...\textit{gx}f4?! 
25...\textit{xf}4! was much better: 26.\textit{xa}7 \textit{e}3+ 27.\textit{h}1 \textit{c}4 $\neg$.

26.a4?! 
This allows the bishop pair to dominate. 26.\textit{xa}7 \textit{e}5 27.\textit{f}2 \textit{xb}2 28.\textit{f}3 (28.c6 \textit{e}7 29.\textit{f}3 \textit{d}6 $\neg$) 28...\textit{e}5 29.\textit{e}4 \textit{c}7 30.\textit{d}4 \textit{f}5+ 31.\textit{f}3 \textit{c}4 $\neg$ was a natural continuation, but even better was 26.\textit{bd}4! e5 27.\textit{c}e2 \textit{e}8 28.\textit{xa}7 \textit{d}7 29.\textit{b}4 \textit{c}4 30.\textit{b}3 \textit{e}6 31.\textit{f}2 $\neg$.

26...\textit{c}4! 27.\textit{d}d2 \textit{d}5 28.\textit{xa}7 
Or 28.\textit{b}4 \textit{b}7 29.\textit{c}2 (29.c6 \textit{a}8 30.\textit{c}c4 \textit{e}7 31.\textit{a}6 \textit{b}6+ $\neg$) 29...\textit{a}5 $\neg$.

28.\textit{a}5 (D)
Black slowly but with a steady hand dominates over the knight pair.

30.\textit{b}5 \textit{xc}5+ 31.\textit{f}1 \textit{f}3! 
Undoubles the f-pawns and also creates a pair of passed pawns.

32.\textit{gx}f3 \textit{xf}3 33.\textit{d}d2 \textit{d}5 34.\textit{e}2 \textit{e}7 
35.\textit{d}3 \textit{f}5 36.\textit{c}3 \textit{b}7 37.\textit{e}4 \textit{e}3 
38.\textit{d}3 \textit{g}1 39.\textit{b}4?! 
Good or bad, White should not allow another passed pawn. 39.h3 e5 40.b4 e4+ 41.\textit{e}2 \textit{d}4 42.\textit{b}5 \textit{f}6 $\neg$ had to be played.

39...\textit{xe}2 40.b5 h5! 41.a5 h4 42.\textit{e}2 
Or 42.a6 \textit{g}2 43.b6 (43.\textit{c}4 h3 44.b6 \textit{b}8 $\rightarrow$) 43...h3 $\rightarrow$.

42...h3 43.a6 \textit{g}2?! 
43...\textit{c}7!! 44.\textit{f}3 \textit{a}8 was curtains.

44.\textit{f}2 \textit{d}6 45.\textit{f}3 
Black wins even after 45.\textit{a}4 \textit{a}8 46.\textit{f}3 h2 47.\textit{xd}2 \textit{e}2 48.b6 \textit{d}5 $\rightarrow$.

45.\textit{c}5+ 46.\textit{g}3 \textit{f}4+ 47.\textit{g}4 
Or 47.\textit{xf}4 \textit{d}6+ 48.\textit{e}3 h2 49.\textit{d}xe2 \textit{xh}2 50.\textit{f}2 \textit{h}1 51.b6 \textit{d}6 $\rightarrow$.

47...\textit{g}1! 48.b6 
48.\textit{xf}4 h2 49.\textit{xd}2 \textit{xe}2 50.\textit{g}4 \textit{g}1 $\rightarrow$ or 48.\textit{xg}1 h2 $\rightarrow$.

48...\textit{xf}3+ 49.\textit{xf}3 h2 50.\textit{g}2 \textit{f}3+ 
And White resigned due to 51.\textit{h}1 \textit{f}2 52.a7 \textit{f}1 \textit{w} 53.a8 \textit{e}3+ 54.\textit{xe}2 \textit{f}4 $\#$.

0-1

\textbf{The Bishop Pair Fails!}

So far we have been singing the praises of the power of the bishop pair. But this is not always the case, as chess has never been a dogmatic game or at least this is what we want to believe for our royal game!

Many times we have noted that the most important factor is the pawn structure in order to evaluate correctly the position and decide about our strategy, plans and moves.

This concept also applies to the bishop pair and here we shall see some cases where the bishop pair just fails, as its possessor didn’t evaluate correctly the resulting pawn structure.

Remember that most chess players just fall in love with the bishop pair and ignore other important factors. My advice is for respect and correct judgement; love will come anyway!
Remember that there are no absolute rules!
In our first example, White just forgot the above and gave no respect to Black’s knights…

□ Gesos Pavlos
■ Grivas Efstratios
B51 Athens 1998
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Qc6 3.b5 d6 4.0-0 Qd7
5.e1 Qf6 6.c3 a6 7.Qf1 Qg4 8.h3 Qxf3
9.Wxf3 g6 10.d3 Qg7 11.a3 0-0 12.Qc2
Qd7 13.Qg3 (D)

Here White's bishop pair is not doing much as the light-squared bishop is still doomed to passivity. The pawn structure is not 'helpful' and besides all the above, Black has an easy plan: expanding on the queenside.

13...b5 14.Qg5
14.Qe3 looks more natural: 14...Qc8 (14...Wb6 15.Qd2 b4 16.Qe3 bxc3 17.bxc3
Qf8 18.Qac1 Qd8 = Tempone,M-Adla,D
Qxd4 17.Qxd4 Qxd4 18.cxd4 Qb6
19.Qad1 Qc2 20.Wb3 Qfc8 = Faase,R-
Rogers,I Netherlands 1995.

14...b4! 15.Qd2
White should strongly consider sacrificing a pawn in order to activate his bishop pair: 15.d4 bxc3 16.bxc3 cxd4 17.cxd4 Qd4
18.Qxd4 Qxd4 19.Qab1 Qc2.
15...a5 16.Qab1 Qb8 17.Qe3 a4 (D)

18.Wec1?!
Too passive. The energetic 18.Qf5 was called for: 18...Qe5 (18...gx5?? 19.Qh6)
19.f4 Qf6 20.Qh6+ Qh8 21.Qg4 Qg7
22.c4 and although Black controls important dark squares, things are far from clear.

18...a3!
Breaking down White's queenside.

19.bxa3
A better try was 19.b3 Qxc3 20.Qxc3 bxc3

19...bxc3 20.Qc1
Or 20.Qxb8 cxd2! 21.Qxd8 Qxc3 22.Qa1

20...Qb2! 21.Qc4 Qxa2 22.Qxc3 Qde5
Further exchanges of important pieces (everything else than the badly placed fl-
bishop) can only improve Black's position.

23.Qa1 Qa1 24.Qa1 Qxe4 25.Qxg7
Qxg7

26.Qxc4 Wc5 27.Wc3+ Qxc3 28.Qxc3

Qa8
Black's ending is won as his superior pawn structure and superior minor piece will do the job.

29.Qf3 Qf6 30.Ke2 Qb8 31.Qe3 Qb1
32.Qd3 Qg1 33.Qe2 Qe1+ 34.Qe2
34.Qf2 Qa1 35.Qc3 Qa2+ 36.Qg3 Qe5

34...Qd4 35.Qa2 Qxe2 36.Qd2
36.Qxe2 Qa1 →.
36...Qg1! 37.a4 Qd4 38.Qc3 Qc1+
39.Qd2 Qh3+
0-1

Advanced Chess School - Volume 1 - The Bishop Pair - Efstratios Grivas
In the next game Black gave up his bishop, correctly judging the resulting position and later he even gave his second one in order not to allow any counterplay. Brave decisions, based on logic and ‘feeling’. The latter is mostly based on knowledge…

**Stein Leonid**
**Hort Vlastimil**
B10 Sousse 1967

1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.\(\text{N}d2\) g6 4.g3 \(\text{g}7\) 5.\(\text{g}2\) e5 6.\(\text{gf}3\) \(\text{e}7\) 7.0-0 0-0 8.b4 a5 9.bxa5 \(\text{Q}a5\) 10.\(\text{b}2\) d4 11.a4 \(\text{Q}c7\) 12.c3 dxc3 13.\(\text{L}xc3\) \(\text{R}d8\) 14.\(\text{N}c4\) \(\text{L}e6\) 15.\(\text{N}e3\) h6 16.\(\text{Q}b1\) \(\text{N}a6\) 17.\(\text{N}c4\) (D)

17...\(\text{L}xc4!\)
Here Black correctly evaluates that his knights will be more precious than the white bishop pair; later he will even give up his second bishop.

18.dxc4 c5
The natural follow up which secures the squares d4 and b4 for the black knights. Note that the text move weakens the squares d5 and b5 respectively but the white knight is too far away to benefit. So, this important detail should have been taken into account before Black give up the bishop pair.

19.\(\text{e}1\) \(\text{c}6\) 20.\(\text{d}2\) h5!
The meaning of the text move is simple: not to allow the white knight to come to d5!

21.\(\text{f}1\) \(\text{h}6\) 22.\(\text{e}3\) \(\text{xe}3\) 23.\(\text{xe}3\) \(\text{ab}4\)
Unfortunately for White, his bishop pair is useless. Black not only controls important squares but his pieces are generally more active.

24.\(\text{f}3\) \(\text{d}6!\)
The entire d-file will be used by Black and not only the d4-square.

25.\(\text{b}2\) \(\text{ad}8\) 26.\(\text{g}2\) \(\text{e}7\) 27.\(\text{h}4\) \(\text{e}6\)
28.\(\text{e}2\) \(\text{d}4!\)
As the knight is a very tactical piece, it easily helps Black’s position to improve!

29.\(\text{c}1\)
29.\(\text{xb}4\) \(\text{b}6\) 30.\(\text{a}2\) \(\text{xb}4\) \(\text{f}6\).
29...\(\text{d}7\) 30.\(\text{a}5\)
Now ...\(\text{b}6\) will not be possible any more, but the a-pawn got weaker...

30.\(\text{dc}6\) 31.\(\text{a}1\) \(\text{d}8\) 32.\(\text{wa}4\) \(\text{e}7!\)
32...\(\text{e}8\) 33.\(\text{wb}5\) would allow White some counterplay - there is no need for that.

33.\(\text{b}1\)
33.\(\text{wb}5\) \(\text{a}2\) 34.\(\text{e}1\) \(\text{d}6\) 35.\(\text{a}6\) \(\text{d}4\) \(\text{f}6\).
33...\(\text{a}8\) 34.\(\text{wb}5\)
Even the exchange sacrifice with 34.\(\text{xb}4\) \(\text{xb}4\) 35.\(\text{xb}4\) \(\text{xb}4\) 36.\(\text{wb}4\) doesn’t help White: 36...\(\text{c}7\) 37.\(\text{a}3\) \(\text{d}6\).

34...\(\text{xa}5\) 35.\(\text{wb}6\) \(\text{d}7\) 36.\(\text{xb}4\) \(\text{xb}4\)
37.\(\text{d}3\) \(\text{a}2\) 38.\(\text{d}1\) \(\text{d}4\) 39.\(\text{d}1\) \(\text{a}6\) 40.\(\text{wb}5\) \(\text{b}3\)
40...\(\text{xb}5\) 41.\(\text{xd}7\) \(\text{e}6\) 42.\(\text{xb}5\) \(\text{a}2\) should be enough for victory but there was no need to give up this excellently placed knight for a lousy queen!

0-1

A tragedy can be seen in the following example. White was on the defending side but he overlooked Black’s response, producing a ‘famous’ blunder!

**Spassky Boris**
**Fischer Robert**
E41 Reykjavik 1972

1.\(\text{d}4\) \(\text{f}6\) 2.\(\text{c}4\) \(\text{e}6\) 3.\(\text{c}3\) \(\text{b}4\) 4.\(\text{f}3\) \(\text{c}5\)
5.\(\text{e}3\) \(\text{e}6\) 6.\(\text{d}3\) \(\text{xc}3\) 7.\(\text{xc}3\) \(\text{d}6\) 8.\(\text{e}4\) \(\text{e}5\)
9.\(\text{d}5\) \(\text{e}7\) 10.\(\text{h}4\) \(\text{b}6\) 11.\(\text{f}4\) \(\text{g}6\) 12.\(\text{g}6\) \(\text{xe}6\)
fxg6 13.\(\text{xf}6\) \(\text{d}5\) 14.\(\text{c}3\) \(\text{b}6\) 15.0-0 0-0
16.\(\text{a}4\) \(\text{a}5\) 17.\(\text{b}1\) \(\text{d}7\) 18.\(\text{b}2\) \(\text{b}8\)
19.\(\text{bf}2\) \(\text{e}7\) 20.\(\text{c}2\) (D)
White has the bishop pair and a passed d-pawn, while Black’s kingside pawns are doubled and his b6-pawn is weak and backward. But Black stands fine (!) and this can be explained by the blocked centre and the immobility of the bishop pair.

20...g5 21.\textit{\textbf{\textit{L}}d2 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}e8!} 22.\textit{\textbf{\textit{L}}}e1 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}g6}

Black has started to build pressure against the white weak pawns; those on a4 and e4.

23.\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}d3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}h5

Sooner or later, the rooks must be exchanged; Black cannot 'face' for ever the combined force of the white rooks down the f-file.

24.\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xf8+ \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}xf8 25.\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xf8+ \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xf8 26.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d1!

According to J.Timman this is better than 26.g3?! \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}f6 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}g6 or 26.\textit{\textbf{\textit{g}}}3?! \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}f4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}f4.

26...\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}f4 (D)

But here a 'famous' blunder took place!

27.\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}c2??

27.\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}b1 was OK, when 27...h5! (27...g4!?)

28.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d2 (28.h3?! g4 29.hxg4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}xg4 30.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}xg4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}xg4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xg4 31.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}xg4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}xg4) 28...g4 29.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}xe4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xf4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xf4 28...g4 29.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}e1 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}f6 was \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}.

27...\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xa4!


0-1

A case of full knight pair domination will be examined in the final example of this chapter. White correctly saw that the blocked pawn structure and the immobilization of the bishop pair can only be to his benefit and he just went for it.

\begin{center}
\textbf{Geller Efim}
\end{center}

\begin{center}
\textbf{Ivkov Borislav}
\end{center}

\textit{C97} Budva 1967

1.e4 e5 2.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}f3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}c6 3.\textit{\textbf{\textit{L}}}b5 a6 4.\textit{\textbf{\textit{L}}}a4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}f6

5.0-0 \textit{\textbf{\textit{L}}}e7 6.\textit{\textbf{\textit{R}}}e1 b5 7.\textit{\textbf{\textit{L}}}b3 0-0 8.c3 d6

9.h3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}a5 10.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}c2 c5 11.d4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}c7 12.\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}bd2

\textit{c8} 13.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}f1 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}f8 14.\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}g5 \textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d7 15.b3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}b6

16.\textit{\textbf{\textit{R}}}c1 \textit{\textbf{\textit{A}}}e6 17.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d2 f6 18.c4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}b7

19.dxe5 dxe5 20.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}d7 21.\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}e2 \textit{\textbf{\textit{B}}}xc4

22.bxc4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}d8 23.\textit{\textbf{\textit{R}}}b1 \textit{\textbf{\textit{R}}}b8 24.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}a5 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}a7


\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}xb8 31.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}e3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}b7 32.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d5 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}e6 33.\textit{\textbf{\textit{B}}}xc6

\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}xc6 34.\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}c2 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}f7 35.\textit{\textbf{\textit{B}}}b3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d6 36.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}d2

h6 37.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}f1 g6 38.g4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{B}}}c8 39.\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}f3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}e7

40.\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}f3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}e8 41.\textit{\textbf{\textit{A}}}h4 \textit{\textbf{\textit{G}}}g7 42.\textit{\textbf{\textit{N}}}f5

\textit{\textbf{\textit{Q}}}f8 44.\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}b3 \textit{\textbf{\textit{B}}}b7 45.\textit{\textbf{\textit{W}}}xb7+ \textit{\textbf{\textit{X}}}xb7 (D)
In this position the knight pair dominates. The pawn structure is fixed and blocked and the central pawns make the life of the bishop pair truly difficult! But how to proceed? White will need his king in order to cash the point.

46. \( \text{K}f1 \text{c6} \) 47. \( \text{e2} \text{e6} \) 48. \( \text{d2} \)

The white king will try to penetrate through the queenside; the only valid path he has at his disposal.

48... \( \text{a4} \) 49.f3

49. \( \text{Nc7+} \) is not winning a pawn as it seems at first sight: 49...

50. \( \text{Kd7} \) 50. \( \text{Nxa6?} \) (50. \( \text{Nd5}\) is not a shame but a must!) 50...

51. \( \text{Ke6} \) but rather losing the knight!

50... \( \text{Lc6} \) 50. \( \text{Nd2} \) \( \text{Ld7} \) 51. \( \text{Kc2} \) \( \text{Le8} \)

52. \( \text{Kb3} \) \( \text{Ld7} \) 53. \( \text{Nd5} \) \( \text{Lc6} \) (D)

54. \( \text{a3!} \)

And this simple waiting move puts Black into zugzwang!

54... \( \text{a5} \)

Black's alternatives also losing: 54... \( \text{f7} \) 55. \( \text{c7} \) a5 56. \( \text{b5} \) \( \text{e6} \) 57. \( \text{a4} \) \( \text{e8} \)

58. \( \text{xa5} \) \( \text{d7} \) 59. \( \text{b6} \) \( \text{f7} \) 60. \( \text{e3} \) ++ or 54... \( \text{b7} \) 55. \( \text{a4} \) \( \text{e8} \) 56. \( \text{a5} \) \( \text{b7} \)

57. \( \text{b6} \) \( \text{c8} \) 58. \( \text{c7}+ \) ++.

55. \( \text{b3} \) \( \text{d7} \)

There is not much that Black can do any more: 55... \( \text{a4+} \) 56. \( \text{a3} \) \( \text{d7} \) 57. \( \text{c7+} \) \( \text{f7} \)

58. \( \text{b5} \) \( \text{xb5} \) 59. \( \text{xb5} \) c4+ 60. \( \text{xa4} \) \( \text{c5} \)

61. \( \text{hx6+} \) ++ or 55... \( \text{f7} \) 56. \( \text{c7} \) \( \text{d7} \) 57. \( \text{b5} \) ++.

56. \( \text{xf6+} \) \( \text{e6} \) 57. \( \text{d5} \) \( \text{d7} \) 58. \( \text{c3} \)

And Black resigned as the coming \( \text{b5} \) is hard to meet. A sample line could be 58... \( \text{c7} \) 59. \( \text{b5+} \) \( \text{b6} \) 60. \( \text{bd6} \) and h6 is lost.

1-0

**The Bishop Pair v. the Exchange**

The bishop pair can be an excellent compensation for sacrificing or losing (blunders exist!) the exchange, especially when the opponent has a knight. Their combined power, in cooperation with other pieces, can form a deserved line of defence.

\[ \square \text{Spassky Boris} \]

\[ \square \text{Fischer Robert} \]

E80 Belgrade 1992

1.d4 \( \text{Nf6} \) 2.c4 \( \text{g6} \) 3.\( \text{Nc3} \) \( \text{g7} \) 4.e4 \( \text{d6} \) 5.f3 \( \text{c5} \) 6.dxc5 \( \text{dxc5} \) 7.\( \text{Qxd8+} \) \( \text{Kxd8} \) 8.\( \text{Le3} \)

9.\( \text{c7} \) 9.\( \text{ge2} \) \( \text{b6} \) 10.\( \text{f3} \) \( \text{c7} \) 12.\( \text{f4} \) \( \text{e6} \) 13.\( \text{h3} \) \( \text{e7} \) 14.\( \text{hf1} \) \( \text{h6} \) 15.e5

16.\( \text{g4} \) \( \text{f6} \) 17.\( \text{g3} \) \( \text{f6} \) 18.\( \text{ce4} \) \( \text{fxe5} \) 19.\( \text{f5} \) \( \text{xe4} \) 20.\( \text{xe4} \) \( \text{gf5} \) 21.\( \text{gf5} \) \( \text{f6} \)

22.\( \text{g1} \) \( \text{xd1+} \) 23.\( \text{xd1} \) \( \text{f6} \) 24.\( \text{fxe6} \)

25.\( \text{fl} \) \( \text{exf5} \) 26.\( \text{xf5+} \) \( \text{g7} \)

27.\( \text{xe5} \) \( \text{d6} \) 28.\( \text{e4} \) \( \text{xe2} \) 29.\( \text{e2} \) \( \text{h5} \)

30.\( \text{e7+} \) \( \text{f6} \) 31.\( \text{f7} \) \( \text{d5} \) 32.\( \text{f3} \) \( \text{h4} \)

33.\( \text{f3} \) \( \text{g8} \) 34.\( \text{g4} \) \( \text{h3} \) 35.\( \text{h4} \) \( \text{h2} \)

36.\( \text{f4} \) \( \text{f8} \) 37.\( \text{xe5+} \) \( \text{g6+} \) 38.\( \text{e4} \) \( \text{xe5} \) \( \text{f2} \) (D)

White is an exchange down but his bishop pair is strong and forms a wall of problems for Black who needs to play his best in order to cash the point.

39... \( \text{e8+} \) 40.\( \text{f5} \) \( \text{e6} \) 41.\( \text{f6} \) \( \text{d4} \)

42.\( \text{d6} \) \( \text{e4} \) 43.\( \text{d7} \) \( \text{e2} \) 44.\( \text{a4} \) \( \text{b2} \)
54. b8 a5 46. a7 xb3 47. e5
White tries to combine his active pieces and save the day. As things are more difficult than they look, Black has to be accurate.
47... c3+ 48. d6 d2 49. e6 b4 50. c6
But finally White's activity is not enough compensation for his material deficit.

A bad miscalculation. Black had to opt for 50... xc4 51. xc4 xc4 52. xb6 (52. xb6 xa4 53. xc5 g6 54. b6 a2 55. c4 a4 +) 52... xa4 53. xc5 a1 (53... a2 54. c4 a4 55. b4 g6 56. c3 f5 57. c1 e4 58. a3 d4 59. xa4 c4 a4 +) 54. b5 a4 55. d4 d1 56. c5 d5 57. c4 xc5+ 58. xc5 a3 +.
51. d5
The careless 51. xb6? returns the favour: 51... d4+ 52. xc5 xe6+ +.
51... xa4
51... d4+ 52. c7 =.
52. xb6 a1 53. xc5 a4
Black cannot win even after 53... xc5 54. xc5 a4 55. d6 a3 56. c5 d1 57. c6 a2 58. c7 a1 59. e8 f6+ 60. e6 =.
54. b4 a3 55. c5 d4+ 56. d7 d1 (D)

After his mistake on the 51st move Black played well and he created the maximum problems for White. Unfortunately for him, the bishops are strong and achieve their targets when combined!
57. xa3!! c2

Or 57... b5 58. b4! (58.c6? xd5+ 59. e6 d1 +) 58... xd5+ 59. e6 =.
58. c6 xd5+
58... xa3 59. c7 xd5+ 60. c6 d1 61. c8 c1 +. 59. d6
Draw agreed: 59... d4 60. c7 xd6+ 61. xd6 b5+ 62. d7 xc7 63. xc7. ½-½

□ Chraibi Mohcine
■ Winnicki Alice
B54 Hamburg 2005
(Based on notes by Karsten Mueller)
1.e4 c5 2. f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. exd4 a6 5. c3 e6 6. e3 w7 7. d2 f6 8. e2 d7 9.f3 e7 10.g4 d5 11.g5 d7 12.f4 c4 13. xc4 xc4 14.b3 c7 15.f5 e5 16.0-0-0 d7 17. fxe6 fxe6 18. c2 d6 19.g1 a3 20. wxe3 a5 21. b1 0-0 22. w3 b8 23. f4 w5 24. g4 c8 25. d2 h6 26. d2 b5 27. w d4 c5 28. cxe5 cxe5 29. d4 d7 30. e2 c5 31. c3 f1+ 32. b2 h5 33.b4 f6 34.axb5 xc4+ 35.c3 f6 (D)

White has won the exchange but Black's compensation is excellent as she has at her disposal the bishop pair, a pawn, an active rook and certainly a much better pawn structure. So, the position should be dynamically balanced.
36. gg2?!
A bit passive. White should think of 36.e5 dxe5 37. xe5 b5 38.c4 e8 39. ge4 or
36. \texttt{f4} \texttt{h1} 37. \texttt{ff2} \texttt{b5} 38. \texttt{e3} \texttt{c7}
39.e5 \texttt{dx5} 40. \texttt{ex5} when White's knight has found a good post, which is very important.

36...\texttt{b5} 37. \texttt{d2} \texttt{f3}?
37...\texttt{c7}?! according to the old positional rule that 'the worst placed piece should be improved' was more precise.

38. \texttt{c2}?
Again it was better to improve the prospects of the knight: 38. \texttt{g3} \texttt{f1} 39.e5! \texttt{dx5} 40. \texttt{c5} and White is not worse: 40...\texttt{c4} 41. \texttt{h3} \texttt{g5} 42. \texttt{d7} \texttt{f2}+ 43. \texttt{a1} \texttt{fl}+ =.

38...\texttt{c4}?
38...\texttt{a4}+ 39. \texttt{b2} \texttt{c6} would be very unpleasant for White due to his weak pawns.
A sample variation could go as 40.e5 (40. \texttt{g4} \texttt{h5} 41. \texttt{g3} \texttt{xe4} or 40. \texttt{ge2}? \texttt{b5} 41. \texttt{c2} \texttt{g5} –) 40...\texttt{dx5} 41. \texttt{b4} \texttt{b5} 42. \texttt{c2} \texttt{c4} †.

39.a3 \texttt{f1}†!
Again, activating the king with 39...\texttt{c7} is of primary importance.

40. \texttt{b2}! \texttt{b5}
40...\texttt{a2} was called for, but White can keep the balance with 41. \texttt{d1} \texttt{f4} 42. \texttt{f2} \texttt{c7} 43. \texttt{g4}.

41. \texttt{xd6} \texttt{f3} 42. \texttt{xe6}?! Without the c3-pawn White's king lacks shelter, which will be his undoing in the end.
42. \texttt{d1}! \texttt{c7} 43. \texttt{xe6} \texttt{c4} 44. \texttt{xf6} \texttt{gxf6} is about equal.
42...\texttt{xc3}+ 43. \texttt{d1}
The other king's moves also offer nothing:

43. \texttt{b1} \texttt{d7} 44. \texttt{d6} \texttt{c6} † or 43. \texttt{d2} \texttt{b3} †.

43...\texttt{d7} 44. \texttt{d6} \texttt{c7} 45. \texttt{dd2}
45. \texttt{d3}?! \texttt{a4}+ 46. \texttt{e1} \texttt{c1}+ 47. \texttt{d1} \texttt{a1} gives Black a strong bind. A real nightmare for the poor pinned knight.

45...\texttt{xa3} 46. \texttt{c2}+?! 46. \texttt{c4}?! \texttt{a4}+ 47. \texttt{h4}+ 48. \texttt{e2} \texttt{b5} 49. \texttt{c2} (49. \texttt{g7}+ \texttt{c6} 50. \texttt{c2} \texttt{a2}! 51. \texttt{d1} \texttt{a4} 52. \texttt{e3}+ \texttt{xc2}+ 53. \texttt{xc2} \texttt{a4} 54. \texttt{h7} \texttt{xe4} †) 49...\texttt{f6} † but probably White should be able to hold.

46...\texttt{b8}?! 46...\texttt{c6} † certainly looks more promising.

47. \texttt{c5}
47.e5 \texttt{xe5} 48. \texttt{c4} doesn't solve White's problems due to 48...\texttt{a1}+ 49. \texttt{d2} \texttt{c6}! (49...\texttt{f5} 50. \texttt{xe5} \texttt{xc2} 51. \texttt{g7} [51. \texttt{xc2}?! \texttt{a2}+ –] 51...\texttt{a2} †) 50. \texttt{e2} \texttt{f6} †.

47...\texttt{h3} 48. \texttt{gc2} \texttt{e3} (D)

49.e5
49. \texttt{d2} \texttt{xe4} 50. \texttt{c4} \texttt{e8} 51. \texttt{d3} \texttt{d7} is horrible for White. But he should have tried 49. \texttt{c4}?! \texttt{xe4} 50. \texttt{b6} \texttt{a7} 51. \texttt{d2} (51. \texttt{e8}? \texttt{xc8} 52. \texttt{xe8} \texttt{d4}+ 53. \texttt{e2} \texttt{d8} –) 51...\texttt{e8} †.

49...\texttt{g4}+
49...\texttt{e7} 50. \texttt{d2} \texttt{xc5} 51. \texttt{xc5} \texttt{e4} † was the natural follow up.
50. \texttt{d2} \texttt{g5}! 51. \texttt{e5}+ 52. \texttt{d3} \texttt{f5}+ 53. \texttt{d4} \texttt{e4}+ 54. \texttt{d5}?
54. \texttt{d3} was forced, although Black's winning chances are excellent: 54...\texttt{c3}+
(54...g6 55. ‡xf5 gxf5 56. ‡c5 ‡xe6 57. ‡xf5 ‡e7 =) 55. ‡d4 ‡xc2 56. ‡xg5 ‡xe6 57. ‡xg7 ‡h6 =.

54... ‡e6 55. ‡c4?
Going for the most ‘beautiful picture’ but hopeless also was the alternative 55. ‡d2 ‡e5+ 56. ‡d6 ‡xe6+ 57. ‡e5+ 58. ‡d6 ‡e8 59. ‡c5d5 ‡c8 =+. 55...

Going for the most ‘beautiful picture’ but hopeless also was the alternative 55. ‡d2 ‡e5+ 56. ‡d6 ‡xe6+ 57. ‡e5+ 58. ‡d6 ‡e8 59. ‡c5d5 ‡c8 =. 55...

We will conclude the bishop pair concept with a game well worthy of study. Although Black lost the exchange somewhere, he tried his best and was rewarded by the full point (with a lot of help from his opponent!).

□ Hausner Ivan
■ Mueller Karsten
E09 Hamburg 1990
(Based on notes by Karsten Mueller)
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.‡f3 c6 4.g3 ‡f6 5.‡g2 ‡bd7 6.‡bd2 ‡e7 7.0-0 0-0 8.‡c2 b6 9.e4 dx e4 10.‡xe4 ‡xe4 11.‡xe4 ‡b7 12.‡d1 ‡e8 13.‡c2 c5 14.d5 exd5 15.exd5 ‡d6 16.b3 ‡e8 17.‡b2 f6 18.‡h4 ‡c7 19.‡f5 ‡e5 20.‡e1 ‡ad8 21.‡ad1 ‡c8 22.f4 ‡f7 23.‡e3 ‡c7 24.‡f5 ‡e8 25.‡e4 h6 26.‡d3 h5 27.‡c1 c4 28.‡f3 ‡b4 29.‡ed1 ‡c5+ 30.‡h1 ‡xe4 31.‡xe4 ‡d7 32.‡d4 ‡xd5 33.‡xd5 ‡xd5 34.‡f3 ‡b7 35.‡xd5 ‡xd5 36.‡g2 ‡d6 37.g4 h5 38.h3 ‡f7 39.‡d1 ‡e4 40.‡d4 ‡a3 41.bxc4 bxc4 (D)

White has an extra exchange but he should not underestimate the power of the bishop pair.

42. ‡xa7?
Allows the c-pawn to advance further and this can be proven extremely risky. With 42. ‡f2 White would stand better.

42...hxg4 43.hxg4 c3 44.‡e3
44...c2 45.‡a1?
Certainly not 45. ‡d4 (the raking bishop pair, sometimes called the Horwitz Bishops, dominates the board and White is completely lost) 48. ‡a2 ‡e3 50. ‡f3 51. ‡xf4 52. ‡xe3 ‡xf3 53. ‡xf4 ‡g1+ 54. ‡g2 ‡e2 55. ‡c5 c1‡ 56. ‡xc1 ‡xc1 57. ‡d5 58. ‡f4 59. ‡f3 ‡e6 60. ‡f2 a6 45...hxg4 46.‡xa3 47.a4 ‡c1‡ 48.‡f2 a5 49.‡f3 50.‡g2 ‡e2 51.‡c5 c1‡ 52.‡xc1 ‡xc1 53.‡a5 54.‡a3 55.‡c5 ‡e4 56.‡xg4 c1‡ 57.‡xc1 58.‡xf4 59.‡f3 ‡xe6 60.‡g2 ‡e2 51.‡c5 c1‡ 52.‡xc1 a5 53.‡a5 54.‡a3 55.‡c5 +.

Another practical try is 45. ‡a1? ‡d4 46.‡c1 47.a4 (the raking bishop pair, sometimes called the Horwitz Bishops, dominates the board and White is completely lost) 48. ‡a2 ‡e3 50. ‡f3 51. ‡xf4 52. ‡xe3 ‡xf3 53. ‡xf4 ‡g1+ 54. ‡g2 ‡e2 55. ‡c5 c1‡ 56. ‡xc1 ‡xc1 57. ‡d5 58. ‡f4 59. ‡f3 ‡e6 60. ‡f2 a6 45...hxg4 46.‡a3 47.a4 c1‡ 48.‡f2 a5 49.‡f3 50.‡g2 ‡e2 51.‡c5 c1‡ 52.‡xc1 ‡xc1 53.‡a5 54.‡a3 55.‡c5 +.

is theoretically lost as both white pawns will fall prey to the bishops and the pawnless ending two bishops v. knight is always won for the bishops, unless the side with the knight can force an immediate draw. This fact was discovered by Ken Thompson using a computer database. His result overturned
pre database theory, which assumed that the ending is drawn if the defender can reach the 'Kling and Horwitz' position (W: ♕d5, ♗a4, ♖f8 - B: ♖b6, ♗b7 - see J.Nunn in *Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings*, p.277). John Nunn deals with the subject very extensively in *Secrets of Minor-Piece Endings* (pp.265-281).

Finally, 45...f1 is playable: 45...♗b5 (45...♗c4? 46.♗c1 ♘xc1 47.♗xc1 ♗d2 48.♗xc2 ±) 46.♗g3 (46.♗c1? ♘xc1 47.♗xc1 ♘c3 -- or 46.♗f2 ♘c3 47.♗d4 ♚b2 48.♗c1 [48.♗xc2 ♘xc2 49.♗d4 ♘e4+ 50.♗e3 ♘a3 ∞] 48...♗xh5 49.♗xh5 ♘xa2 50.♗e3 ♘h7 51.♗d2 = or, finally, 46.♗e1 ♘b4 47.♗c1 ♘c3 48.♗f2 ∞ 46...♗d3 (46...♘c3 47.♗d4 ♗b2 48.♗c1! ♘xc1 49.♗xc1 ♘xa2 50.♗xe2 =) 47.♗e1 ♘c3 48.♗d4 ♗b2 (48...♗xa2 49.♗a1 ♗b2 50.♗xa2 ♘xd4 51.♗xc2 ♘xc2 52.♗xd4 =) 49.♗xc2 ♘xc2 50.♗d4 =.

45...♗b4 (D)

After 45...♗c4?! 46.♗c1 ♘xc1 47.♗xh5 ♘d2 White has the resource 48.♗xc2! ±.

46.♗e2?

White is in panic mode! He could hold equality with precise play: 46.♗c1! ♘c4 47.♗f2 ♘b2 (47...♗a3) 48.♗d4 ♘xc1 49.♗xc1 =) 48.♗d4 (48.♗e1? ♘d1+) 49.♗e2 ♘xe1 50.♗xe1 ♘xe3 -- 48...♖d3+ (48...♖d1+) 49.♗e2 ♘xc1+ 50.♗xc1 =.

46...♖d3 47.♖d4 ♘c4 48.♗e1 White's rook is trapped after 48.♗xc2 ♘xc2

49.♗c1 ♙d3 50.♗f2 ♙e1 51.♗f3 ♙e4 -

48...♗c3

Now Black wins the exchange back while preserving his strong passed c-pawn alive.

49.♗b5!

49...♗xe2? ♘xd4 ++

49...♗xe2 50.♗xe3 ♘xg4 51.♗d5 ♘e6 52.♗b4 ♘f5 53.♗f2 ♘e4 54.♗a6 ♘e6 55.♗c5+ ♘d5 56.♗b3

White must avoid 56...♗xe4? 56...♗xe4 57.♗c2 ♘d4 ++

56...♗f5 57.♗e2 ♘g6 58.♗d2 ♘b6 59.♗f1 ♘d4 60.♗b2+ ♘e4 61.♗c1 ♘d4 62.♗b2+ ♘e4 63.♗c1

63.♗e3? ♘a4 64.♗c1 ♘c3+ 65.♗d2 ♘xa2 --

63...♗h5+ 64.♗f2?

64...♗d2! was called for, when it is not totally clear if Black is winning: 64...♗xf4 65.♗xe2+ ♘f3 66.♗b2 ++

64...♗d3! 65.♗e3 ♘f7 66.a3 ♘a4 67.♗g2 ♘c5 68.♗e1+ ♘c3 69.♗e3 ♗g6 70.♗d2+ ♘b2 71.♗xc2 ♘xc2 72.♗b4 ♗e6 73.♗d6 ♘b3 74.♗d2 ♘d4 75.♗e3 f5 76.♗e7 ♗g6 77.♗d6 ♗e6 78.♗d3 ♗b5+ 79.♗e3 ♗e4 80.♗e5 ♘d5 81.♗f6 ♗c5 82.♗e7 ♘e4 83.♗f8 ♘d6 84.♗f3 ♘c4 85.♗e7 ♗d4 86.♗b4 ♗c6+ 87.♗g3 ♘e4 88.♗c5 ♗b2 89.♗d6 ♗d3 90.♗c7 ♗c5 91.♗d6 ♗e6 92.♗b8 ♗e8 93.♗d6 ♗d4

0-1

A Pawn in Return

There are quite a lot of cases where the bishop pair compensates for a pawn. Well, here we will see two cases on the defensive side for the pair.

□ Aronian Levon

■ Leko Peter

E15 Wijk aan Zee 2013

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 ♘f3 b6 4.g3 ♗a6 5.♗c2 c5 6.d5 ♘xd5 7.♘xd5 ♗b7 8.♗g2 ♘xd5 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♗d1 ♗e7 11.♗a4 ♘f6 12.e4 0-0 13.e5 ♘e8 14.♗e3 ♘c7 15.♗c3 ♘b8 16.♗d2 ♗b8 17.♗c4 b5 18.♗xb5 ♗xb5 19.♘xb5 ♘xe5 20.♘xe5 ♘xg2 21.♘xh7 ♗a8 22.♗d2 ♗d8 23.♗xe8 ♕fxe8 24.♗d1 ♘xd2 25.♗xd2 ♗f6 26.♗c4 ♛d8 27.♗xd8+ ♗xd8 28.♗xc5 a6 (D)
Black decided to give a pawn in return for an easy game with the bishop pair as compensating factor. Here White can play for two results, while Black only for one; a draw...

29.\fif1 \ff7 30.\fe6 31.\fd3 g5

32.\df4 h5 33.\bd6 \db6 34.\db4 \bd8 36.\ad3 \ad1 37.\ad3 \ec3 38.\ec7 \ed6 39.\ed3 \a1 40.\fa4 \fa5 41.a4 \fa6 42.\fa5 \fa2 43.\ec4 \df7 44.\eb8 \ff1 + 45.\ec5 \ec3 46.\ec4 \ec2 47.f5 \ec1

White has made some progress, but Black can still of course defend.

48.\eb6+?!

Aronian advances on the queenside with his whole army. 48.\eb6 is met by 48...\fd3 49.\xa6 \ec6 when White's king is badly placed, for example: 50.\a7 h4 51.\d4 \hxg3 52.\hg3 \xf5 53.\xf4 \e4 54.\g4 \xf5 =.

48...\e8 49.b4 \ff2 + 50.\ec6 \xb6?

Black crumbles under the pressure. The resulting endgame with opposite-coloured bishops is extremely difficult as he has no clear cut way to set up a fortress. His pair of bishops can't be defeated after 50...\fd3 51.\ec8 (51.\d5 \xf5 52.\xf6 + (52.\c7+ \d8 53.\xa6 \d7 + 54.\d6 \xa4 =) 52...\f7 53.\xh5 \e4+ 54.\c7 \f3 55.g4 \xg4 56.\g3 \f3 57.b5 \xb5 58.axb5 \g1 59.\h3 \g2 =) 51...\g1 52.\d6+ \e7 53.b5 \xb5 54.\xb5 \db2 55.\c7 \c2 56.\c8+ \e8 57.\b6 \f3+ =.

51.\xb6 \d7 52.\b7 \d3

52...h4 53.\a7 \d3 54.\d4 \hxg3 55.\g3 \e7 56.\b6 g4 57.\c7 \c4 58.\c5+ \e8 59.\d6 \f7 60.\e6 \b3 61.\b6 \xa4 62.\xa6 -- and 52...a5?! 53.b5 += were not helpful.

53.\xa7 \cc2

For a defender it usually makes sense to reduce pawn material, but 53...\a4 54.\xh4 \xg4 55.\d4 \e7 56.\h3 + won't solve his problems - the h4-pawn will be targeted soon: 56...\f1 (56...\xf5 57.\xa6 \hxh3 58.\b5 +=) 57.\f2 \d6 58.\xh4 \e5 (58...\hxh3 59.\xa6 +=) 59.\e1 \xf5 60.h4 \e5 61.\c6 \g2+ 62.\b6 \f1 63.h5 +=. The same goes for 53...\d6 54.\d4 \e7 (54...\d5 55.\xf6 \e4 56.\xg5 \xf5 57.\d2 \e4 58.\b6 \d5 59.\h3 \f1 60.g4 h4 61.g5 \hxh3 62.\e1 +) 55.\b6 g4 56.\c7 \e2 57.\c5+ \e8 58.\d6 \c4 59.\d4 \f7 60.\e5 \d3 61.b5 \xb5 62.axb5 \xf5 63.\c6 + or 53...g4 54.\d4 \e7 55.\b6 \e2 56.b5 \xb5 57.axb5 \d3 58.\c6 +=.

54.\xa6 \xa4 55.\b5 \ec2

56.\d4?!

The direct 56.b6?! \d3+ 57.\b7 \xf5 58.\b8 \e4 59.\b7 \e6 60.\b6 \f5 61.\d8 wins as well: 61...h4 62.gxh4 \xh4 63.\e7 \xb7 64.\xh7 \e5 65.\e6 h3 66.\c5 f5 67.\e4 \e4 68.\c3 \e3 69.\g5+ \f4 70.\h6 \f3 71.\d2 \e4 72.\e2 +. But Aronian's solution is more clear-cut from a human point of view.
56...d3
56...c8?? 57...xf6 xf5 58.xg5 d3 is more tenacious, but still insufficient, e.g. 59.f4 f1 60.b6 d7 (60...d3 allows the white king to cross over to the kingside with 61.c6 +-) 61.h3 xh3 (61...e2 62.c5 f1 63.g4 h4 64.b6 c8 65.g5 xh3 66.e6 d6 67.c6 d7+ 68.e6 d8 69.g7 f7 70.g8++ xg8 71.c6 ++) 62.b7 g2+ 63.b8 ++.

57..xf6 e8
57...g4 58.g6 xf5 59.b6 e4 60.b7 ++.

58.xg5 xf5 59.a7
And Black resigned due to 59...d3 60.b6 e4 61.h3 f3 62.g4 ++.

1-0

The following game contains many other sub-games and it is a good ‘workshop’ of defence. Try to analyse them yourself and understand the various mechanisms that help Black to achieve the draw.

The main white plan is to exchange at least one part of the opponent’s bishop pair, while the other part will mainly fight against it.

\[\text{Shirov Alexei} \]
\[\text{Karjakin Sergey} \]

C89 Khanty-Mansiysk 2007

1.e4 e5 2.dxe5 c6 3.b5 a6 4.a4 c5 5.0-0 e7 6.e1 b5 7.a3 0-0 8.e3 d5
9.exd5 Qxd5 10.Qxe5 Qxe5 11.axe5 c6
12.d3 Qd6 13.Qe1 f5 14.Wf3 Wh4
15.g3 Wh3 16.Qxd5 cxd5 17.Qxd5 cxd5 18.Qg2 (D)

A well-known position of the ‘Marshall Gambit’ in the ‘Ruy Lopez’, played on various occasions at the top level.

18...Wxg2+
Here Black can preserve the queens on board with 18...Wh5 19.Wc3 and now:

a. 19...xd3 20.Qd2 Qf5 21.Wc6 Qe6 (21...h3 22.a4 Qb8 23.axb5 axb5 24.Qa5 Qd7 25.Wc5 Qg6 26.Wg5 Qd3 27.Qd4 f6 28.Wd5+ Qh8 29.Qb3 Qe8 30.Qa1 Qg4 31.Qc5 Qxe1+ 32.Qxe1 Qd2 33.Qe4 h5 34.Qg2 Qd6 35.h3 Qc8 36.Qe2 Wg5 37.Qe6 Wxe6 38.Wxe6 Qb8 39.h4 Wg6 40.Wd5 1-0 Stellwagen,D-Pashikian,A Yuerevan 2007)

b. 19...h3 20.Wh1 f5 21.f4 (21...Qb6 Qd7 22.Wd5+ Wh8 23.Qd2 Qxg3 24.Qxd7 Qf4 25.Qb7 Qxd2 26.Qd4 Qg8 27.Qe7 Qc1 28.Qe1 f4 29.Qe3 Qxe3 30.Qxe3 h6 (30...Qe8 31.Qd4 Qg4+ 32.Qh1 h6 33.f4 Qe7 34.Qa8+ Wh7 35.Qe5 We2 36.Qg1 Qg4 37.Qxg4 fxg4 38.Qd4 Wf1 # 0-1 Smeets,J-Bacrot,E Wijk aan Zee 2008)) 31.Qc7 Qe8 32.Qd4 Qe7 33.Qg3 Qh7 34.f3 Qf7 35.f4 Qe7 36.Qe5 Qg4 37.Qf2 Qd1 38.Qd4 We2+ 1/2-1/2 Sutovsky,E-Jakovenko,D Poiyskov 2008) 21.c7 22.Qd2 Qxd3 23.Qb3 Qg4 24.Qg2 Qf3 25.Wf2 Qa8 26.Qc5 Qd6 27.Qd4 Qf7 28.Qh4 Qh6 29.Qh2 g5 30.Qe5 gxh4 31.gxh4 Qg6 32.Qc7 Qg2+ 33.Wxg2+ Qxg2 34.Qg1 Qxc7 35.Qxg2+ Qh8 36.Qe6 Qd6 37.Qxf8 Qxf4+ 38.Qh3 We3+ 39.Qg3 Qe7 40.Qag1 Qxf8 41.Qb3 Qc8 42.Qg8+ Qxg8 43.Qxg8+ Qxg8 44.Qg3 f7 45.Qf4 Qe6 46.Qc4 Qxc4 47.Qxc4 a5 48.a4 Qfe6 1/2-1/2 Shirov,A-Jakovenko,D Dagomys 2008.

19.Qxg2 Qxd3 20.Qe3 Qxe8

Other ways to continue are with:

a. 20...f6 21.Qd2 b4 22.Qd4 bxc3 23.Qxc3

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23...f5 24.\textit{ex} =c4+! 25.\textit{d}xe6 26.\textit{xx} e5+ 27.\textit{d}f1 28.\textit{f}xh7+ 29.\textit{e}xe1 30.\textit{f}f1 31.\textit{f}xe7+ 32.\textit{g}xh8+ 33.\textit{f}f1 34.\textit{f}xe5+ 35.\textit{f}f1 36.\textit{e}xe1+ 37.\textit{f}f1 38.\textit{f}f1 39.\textit{f}f1 40.\textit{f}f1 41.\textit{f}f1 42.\textit{f}f1 43.\textit{f}f1 44.\textit{f}f1 45.\textit{f}f1 46.\textit{f}f1 47.\textit{f}f1 48.\textit{f}f1 49.\textit{f}f1 50.\textit{f}f1 51.\textit{f}f1 52.\textit{f}f1 53.\textit{f}f1 54.\textit{f}f1
Possible is 21...b4 22. \( \text{d6} \) \( \text{exel} \) 23. \( \text{exel} \) \( \text{b8} \) 24. \( \text{a5} \) \( \text{bxc3} \) 25. \( \text{xc3} \) f6 26. \( \text{xe4} \) f8 27. f3 c4 28. c8 28. d1 c4 29.a3 b5 30.g4 c6 31.d3 e8 32.d4 b8 33.h4 e7 34.h5 d8 35.c4 b5 36.c7 d7 37.xd7 xd7 38.h6 gxh6 39.xf6 f8 40.d4 f7 41.e2 e7 42.e3 g5+ 43.f4 d8 44.d6+ e6 45.b7 e7 46.f5+ f7 47.f4 g5+ 48.e5 a4 49.d6+ e7 50.e4 d1 51.c5+ f7 52.b4 c1 53.d6+ g7 54.f6+ g6 55.f7 b2+ 56.e6 xg4+ 57.e7 f6+ 58.e8 f3 59.f8 c1+ h5 60.f7 b2 61.xh7 xxa3 63.xf6+ h4 63.xe6 h5 64.e5 e2 65.d4 c1 66.d5 g4 67.e3+ f3 68.g5+ g3 69.e4 b5 70.d6+ f2 71.h3+ e2 72.f4+ d2

33... \( \text{e8} \)?
33... \( \text{c6} \) was the only way to put up a fight. Now the white king penetrates and the black pawns fall.
44.gxh5 gxh5 45.f5 d6+ 46.g6 c6 47.f4 e4+ 48.xh5 d5+ 49.h6 f5 50.e3 f3 51.g6 e4 52.g7 h5 53.xf6 d3 54.a8+ d7 55.a7+ c6 56.xa6+ d5 57.a8 xh4 58.d8+ e4 59.g5 h2 60.c5
Games for Personal Analysis

Analyse carefully the games (exercises) which follow. Find ideas, plans and mechanisms and note variations to discuss them with your trainer.

Kasparov Garry

Smyslov Vassily

D52 Vilnius 1984


McShane Luke

Carlsen Magnus

C85 Moscow 2012


33...Bf4 34.Bd1 Wc4 35.Qe1 Bf8 36.Qg5 Bc8 37.g3 f2 38.Qf5+ gxf5 39.Qh3 Bc2 40.Qg5+ Qh8 0-1
Werle Jan  ■ Tischbierek Raj
D19 Germany 2005
1.d3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.e3 dxc4
5.a4 e5 6.e3 Ne4 7.b4 b6 8.0-0 Be7 9.Nc3 Nf6 10.h3 Nxf3 11.Qxf3
12.exd5 Nxd5 13.e4 e5 14.d5 Nc3 15.Qb3 fx3 16.bxc3 cxd5 17.exd5
24.Qxf7+ Qh8 25.Qd7 1-0

Kochyev Alexander  ■ Grivas Efstratios
E68 Leningrad 1989
1.d4 Qf6 2.e4 d5 3.g6 Qg7 4.Qg2 0-0 5.e5 6.Nc6 7.d7 e5 8.Nf6 9.Qc2
Qh7 10.dxe5 Qxe5 11.d1 c6 12.Qd4 Qe8 13.Nc3 Qe7 14.c5 a5 15.a3 Qg5
26.Qg4 Qd4 27.h4 Qf8 28.h5 gxh5 29.Qxh5 Qg7 30.Qg2 Qe2 31.Qd2 Qd4
32.Qc3 Qe6 33.Qg7 Qc8 Qe2 35.Qc2 Qd4 36.Qg4 Qe6 37.Qh3 Qf8
38.Qf5 Qe6 39.Qb2 Qd8 40.Qd7 Qxd7 41.Qxd7 Qg6 42.Qg4 Qg7 43.Qf5+ Qf6
44.Qc8 Qg6 45.Qf5+ Qh6 46.Qc1 Qf6 47.Qc8 Qg6 48.Qd2 Qe7 49.Qf3 Qf6
50.Qc3 Qg7 51.Qh2 f6 52.Qc1 Qf7 53.Qh5 Qf8 54.Qd2 Qg7 55.f4 Qxf4
56.Qxf4 Qxf4 57.Qxf4 Qf8 58.Qg4 Qe6 59.Qe3 Qd8 60.Qf5 Qg7 61.Qf4 Qh8
62.Qc7 Qe8 63.Qg3 Qg7 64.Qg6 Qf8 65.Qxf6 Qh6 66.5 Qd2 67.f6 Qxe6
68.Qxe6 Qb4 69.Qf2 1-0

Index of Games

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Advanced Chess School - Volume 1 - The Bishop Pair - Efstratios Grivas
Curriculum Vitae of Efstratios Grivas

Efstratios Grivas (30.03.1966)
is a highly experienced chess trainer and chess author

Has been awarded by the
International Chess Federation (FIDE) the titles of:

- International Chess Grandmaster
- FIDE Senior Trainer
- International Chess Arbiter
- International Chess Organizer

What he does/did:

- Secretary of the FIDE Trainers’ Commission
- Head Trainer of the Turkish Men’s National Team (2006-2012)
- Head Coach of the Greek Men’s National Team (2013)
- Winner of the FIDE Boleslavsky Medal 2009 (best author)
- Winner of the FIDE Euwe Medal 2011 & 2012 (best junior trainer)
- Trainer of Various GMs & IMs - In 2009-2011 alone, he formed 5 GMs!
- Trainer of the FIDE World Junior Champion U.20 2012 Alex Ipatov
- Director of the FIDE Grivas International Chess Academy (Athens)
- Worked over 12,000 hours on training!
- Official Commentator of the FIDE World Rapid & Blitz Ch 2013
- Lecturer at FIDE Seminars for Training & Certifying Trainers
- Author of Various Books
- Cooperating with the World’s Most Important Magazines

For more information visit Efstratios Grivas’s personal internet site:

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What do teachers know anyway? Michael Jordan, the greatest basketball player in the history of the game, was told by his High School coach that basketball was not a good fit for him. He cut Jordan from the High School basketball team and told him to take up baseball...

The good trainer is not dogmatic; he is trying to become better day by day...