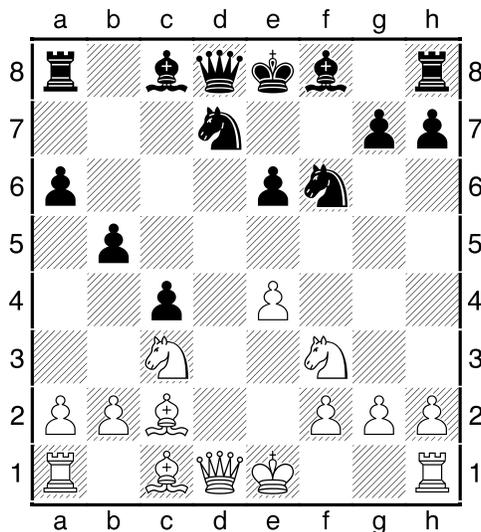


Postny (2651)

Rapport (2577)

40th Greek Team Championship 2012 Porto Rio Hotel (4.6), 02.07.2012
 [Annotations by GM Aagaard]

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 ♘f6 4.♗c3 e6 5.e3 ♗bd7 6.♕d3 dxc4 7.♕xc4 b5 8.♕d3 a6 9.e4
 c5 10.d5 c4 11.dxe6 fxe6 12.♕c2



This is of course a main line in modern theory, but the next move has been played only a handful of times throughout the 20th century.

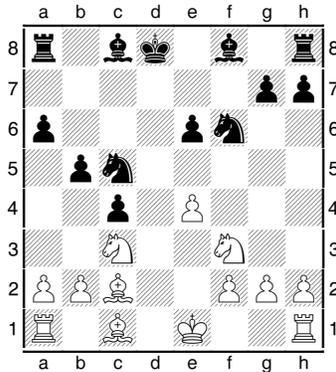
12...♗c5!?

The reason why this is not wildly popular is immediately clear. White can exchange the queens and Black is left with three pawn islands in the endgame. But on the other hand he is quite active, so the evaluation of this endgame is not immediately clear. *(Editor's note: 12...Nc5 isn't mentioned in ECO or any other encyclopedia I looked in!)*

12...♕c7 is the big main line.

13.♕e2?N

A horrible reaction to the surprise. Black immediately takes over the initiative. White needs to find an improvement after 13.♕xd8+ Kxd8 (Analysis diagram)

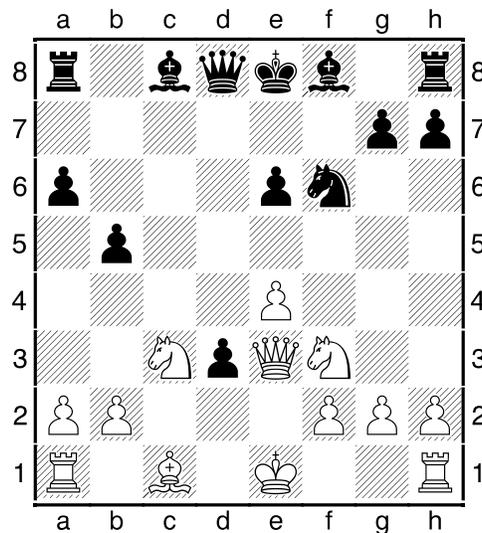


when one game continued: 14.♔e3 Ke8 15.♖d1 ♕b7 16.♗g5 ♘fd7 Averbakh – Szabo, Hamburg 1965. White won this game, but his position is nothing special at this point.

13...♗d3+! 14.♔xd3

14.Kf1 was possible, but Black is of course a lot better already.

14...cxd3 15.♕e3



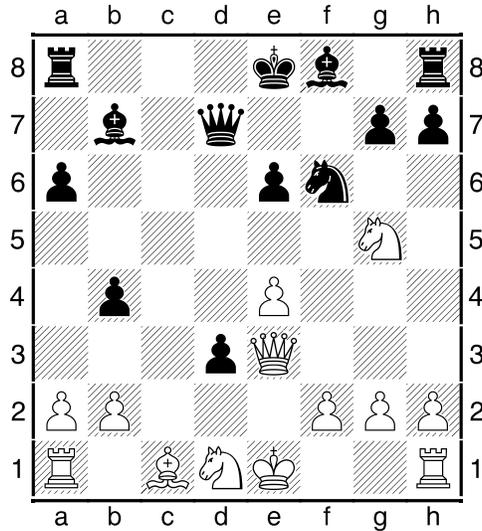
15...b4!?

Black fights for the initiative constantly. 15...♕b7♞ seems a bit more natural to me; Black will be able to play ...Bc5 at some point.

16.♗d1?

But of course if this is the reaction, Black should be very happy with his last move. I am not really sure why Postny did not play 16.♗a4♞ with ideas such as Nb6 and Nc5. And against 16...♕b7 17.♗g5 would muddle the waters somewhat.

16...♕b7 17.♗g5 ♖d7♞



Black is in control.

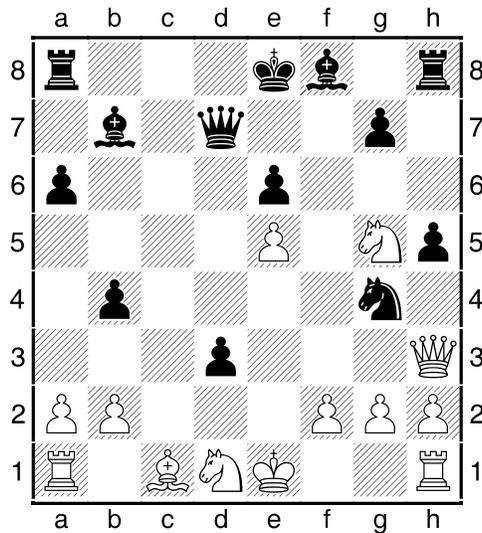
18.e5

After 18.0-0 ♖c8 19.♗h3 ♘d6 Black would keep control. White has no strong way to gain counterplay; for example: 20.e5 ♙xe5 21.♗e1 ♖xc1! 22.♖xc1 d2 23.♖c8+ ♗xc8 24.♗xe5 ♘d5 and Black wins.

18...♘g4 19.♗h3

19.♗f4 ♘h6 20.0-0 ♘f5 and ...Nd4 would also secure a close to winning advantage.

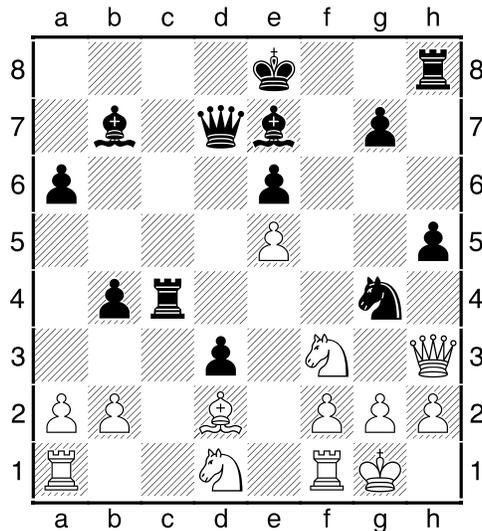
19...h5



20.♙d2

White does not want to lose a piece, but this is even worse. White does not have enough compensation for the piece after 20.0-0 d2 21.♙xd2 ♖xd2 22.♗e3 ♜h6 23.♗xe6 ♗d7 24.♗xf8 Kxf8 , but 20.. .Be7 might be even stronger!

20...♙e7 21.0-0 ♜c8 22.♗f3 ♜c4



Black has many ways to win the game at this point.

23.♗e3

23.b3 ♜e4 24.♗e3 is refuted by 24...♗xe3 25.♙xe3 g5!! (25...♗d5 with the idea ...g5 is also very strong) 26.♙xg5 ♙xg5 27.♗xg5 ♜g4 28.♗f3 Black can win however he wants here; but nicest is: 28...♗d5 29.Kh1 ♜xg2! and White is mated.

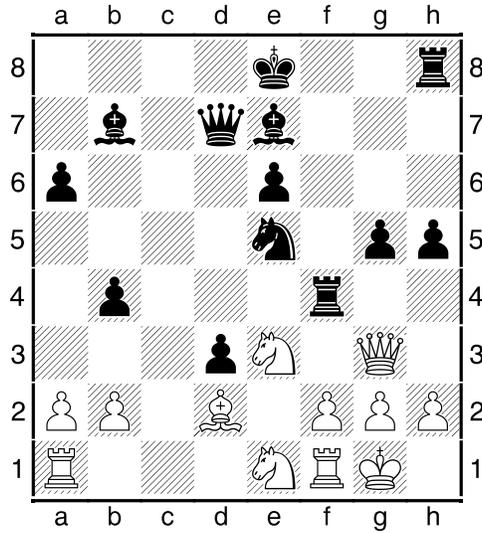
23...♜f4?!

Black could have won immediately with 23...♗xe3 24.♙xe3 (24.fxe3 ♜c2 25.♜ad1 ♜xb2 is quite clear cut as well.) 24...g5! 25.♙xg5 ♙xg5 26.♗xg5 ♜g4 27.♗f3 and either 27...Rhg8 or 27...♗d5 again.

24.♗e1?!

After this White's last hope is gone. White could fight on a bit with 24.♗xg4 ♜xg4 25.♗e1 , although his position is greatly unpleasant.

24...♗xe5 25.♗g3 g5



Patient play, ignoring the tactics. Also possible was 25...0-0!? 26.♘d5 ♜xd5 27.♙xf4 h4 28.♚e3 ♘c4 and Black wins a piece.

26.h4 ♘g6 27.hxg5 ♙d6 28.♘d1 ♞g4 29.♚h3
 29.♚e3 ♘f4 and White wins.

29...♞h4 30.♚xd3 ♙h2+ 31.Kh1 ♚xd3 32.♘xd3 ♙f4+ 33.Kg1 ♙xd2 0-1