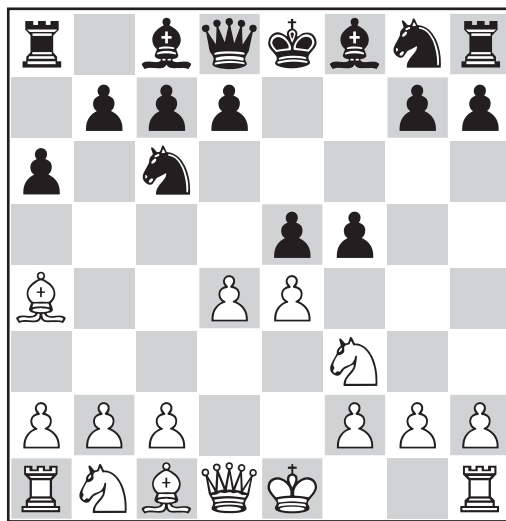


S O S

SECRETS OF OPENING SURPRISES

Change Your Surprise Weapon

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RL 9.2

Your new Ruy Lopez antidote (best before 31-10-2003)

The thing with opening surprises is that you cannot go on playing them indefinitely. When the surprise value wears off you are in the market for a replacement.

If you regularly have to defend the black side of the Ruy Lopez, you may, during the course of the last two years, have benefited from our article *Charousek's Weird Knight Move* (NIC 1999/7), but many of your opponents will have noticed this by now, and they will come prepared. High time for something new.

The line we will discuss here has one disadvantage, viz. that you

will also need to have something ready for the Exchange Variation (4.♘c6). But that is all. Our line starts on the very next move.

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.♘b5 a6 4.♘a4 f5

The so-called Delayed Schliemann variation.

5.d4

The alternatives are not particularly dangerous for Black. The reader is referred to the theoretical text books.

The theory after 5.d4 is mainly concerned with 5...ed4 6.e5 ♘c5 7.0-0, when White has good chances. One of the few top-level

games with this line is the 20th match game Karpov-Kortchnoi, Moscow 1970.

However, it is possible that a playable alternative, (especially as a surprise weapon) is:

5...fe4!? 6.♗e5 ♗f6!?

The move 6...♞h4?! has been seen on several occasions, mainly in correspondence games, but this is definitely an inferior continuation: 7.0-0 ♗f6 8.♗c3 (or 8.♘b3 d5 9.c4 ♘d6 10.f4 ef3 11.♗f3 ♞h5 12.♞e1 with advantage for White, Zhukhovitsky-Matsukevich, Leningrad 1969) and now:

A) 8...♗d8 9.f3 b5 10.♘b3 d6

11.♖d5 ♖a7 12.g3 ♗h3 13.♗f4 and White was winning in Romanovsky-Matsukevich, Leningrad 1969;

B) 8...♗d6 9.f4 e3 10.♗f3 ♗h5 11.♗g5 ♗h2 12.♗h2 ♗g5 13.♞e1 ♗f7 14.♗f3 ♗g3 15.♗b3 is also winning for White, Thimann-Klompus, correspondence game 1968/1969;

C) 8...♗e7 9.f3 b5 10.♗b3 ♗b7 (or 10...♞f8 11.♗d5 with advantage for White, as in the correspondence game Sauermann-Kichev, 1975/1976) 11.♗c6 ♗c6 12.fe4 b4 (12...♗e4 13.♞f4 ♗c3 14.bc3+-) 13.♞f4 ♗h5 14.♗h5 ♗h5 15.♗f7 and once again White was winning, Volchok-Kichev, correspondence game 1975/1976.



7.0-0

The old Bilguer gave 7.♗g5! here 'with advantage for White' and later Keres and others have subscribed to this opinion. I know of only one game with this move: 7...♗e7 (7...♗b4 8.c3 ♗e7 9.♗d2 is also good for White, but 7...♗d6!? could be an improvement, e.g. 8.♗c6 dc6 9.♗c3 (or 9.♗d2 ♗f5 10.♗e2 0-0 11.0-0 h6) 9...♗f5 10.0-0 0-0 11.♗b3 ♗h8 12.♞e1 ♗e8 with roughly equal prospects) 8.♗c3 ♗b4 9.0-0 ♗c3 10.bc3 0-0 11.f4?! (no doubt 11.f3!?, 11.♗e2!? or 11.♞e1!? are stronger moves) 11...♗e8 12.♗e2

d6 en and now White lost his way: 13.♗f6 ♞f6 14.♗c4? ♗e6 15.d5 de5 16.fe5 ♗e5 17.♗e4 ♞f1 18.♞f1 ♗d7-+, Leonhardt-Spielmann, Prague 1908. More examples are needed! It may be significant that *Nunn's Chess Openings* doesn't mention 7.♗g5 and just gives 7.0-0±.

7...♗d6!?

Again this *Bishop's Wonder Move!*, which, as regular SOS readers will remember, also featured in issue 2001/5. By the way, it would seem that the alternative 7...♗e7 is also playable: 8.♗c3 (in P.Toth-Oliveira, Porto Alegre ch-BR 1990, there occurred 8.c3 0-0 9.♗e3 ♗e8 10.♗d2 d6 11.♗c6 bc6 12.♞e1 d5 13.♗f4 ♗g4 14.♗g3 h5 15.f3 h4 16.♗c7 ♞a7 17.fg4 ♞c7 with a good game for Black) 8...0-0 and now:

A) 9.♗g5 ♗a5 10.♗f6 (or 10.b4 ♗b4 11.♗e4 ♗e8 12.♗f6 gf6 13.♗d2 ♗d2 14.♗d2 b6 15.♗d3 ♗f7 with approximate equality, Schlechter-Spielmann, Vienna 1914) 10...gf6 11.♗g4 ♗h8 12.♗e4 fe5 13.♗e5 ♗f6 14.♗a5 ♗d4 15.♞ae1?! (stronger are 15.♞ad1? or 15.♗d5!?) 15...d6 with a good game for Black, Leonhardt-Marshall, Scheveningen 1905;

B) 9.♗b3 d5 10.♗g5 ♗h8 11.f4 ef3 12.♞f3 ♗a5? (allowing White's following combination; after 12...♗e6 the position would have been approximately equal) 13.♗d5! ♗d5 14.♞f8 ♗f8 15.♗d5 ♗g5 16.♗h5 ♗f5 17.♗g5 with advantage for White, Teichmann-Spielmann, 5th match game, Leipzig 1914.

8.f4

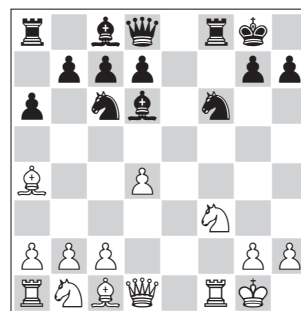
Alternatives are:

A) 8.♗c3 ♗e5?! (I believe 8...♗e7!? to be a better move, e.g. 9.♗c6 dc6 10.♗g5 ♗f5 11.f3 0-0-0

12.♗e4 (after 12.♞e1?! ♗e5 13.♗e3 ♗b4 Black has the advantage, and 12.fe4?! ♗c5 is also good for Black) 12...♗e4 13.fe4 ♗e4 14.c3 ♗g6 with a roughly equal game) 9.de5 ♗e5 10.♗e4! 0-0 (10...♗e4 11.♗h5) 11.f4 ♗e4 12.♗b3 ♗h8 13.fe5 ♞f1 14.♗f1 d5 15.♗f7 c6 16.♗e3 with advantage for White, Vitolinsh-Luckans, Riga 1976;

B) 8.♗g4 b5?! (8...0-0 9.♗g5 ♗e7 looks more sensible) 9.♗b3 ♗a5 10.♗f6 ♗f6 11.♗d5 ♗b7 12.♗b7 ♗b7 13.♗h5 ♗f7 14.♗g4 0-0 15.♗c3 with advantage for White, Mortensen-Bhandari, Gausdal 1990.

8...ef3 9.♗f3 0-0



10.♗c3

In the game Zadrina-Karpatchev, Cappelle la Grande 1993, there occurred: 10.♞e1 b6 11.c3 ♗b7 12.♗bd2 ♗d5 13.♗c2 ♗f4 14.♗e4 ♗ce7 15.♗eg5 ♗g6 16.♗f4 ♗df4 17.♗b3 ♗h8 18.d5 (after 18.♗f7 ♞f7 19.♗f7 ♗f6 Black has fine compensation for the exchange) 18...♞f5 19.♗e4 ♗d5 with advantage for Black.

10...♗a5 11.♗b3 ♗b3 12.ab3 b6 13.♗e5 ♗b7 14.♗f4 ♗e8 15.h3 b5 16.♗d3 ♗h5 17.♗h2 ♗e6

With a good game for Black, Lanka- Karpatchev, Leutersdorf 2001. ■