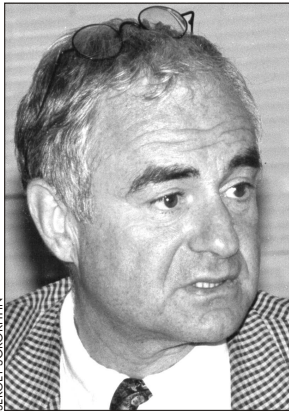


Roman + Rybka

by **Genna Sosonko**



SERGEY SOROKHTIN

*A personal view
on the chess opening*

Just when I was pondering about the subject of my next column Viktor Kortchnoi called me from Switzerland. ‘Genna, you have been playing the Dragon your entire life. I saw some recent games by Carlsen, in which he played 12...a6, not without success. Is it worth trying? Does White really have some problems here?’

I dared not to give a straight answer to the famous maestro. To this very day he still works a lot on openings, although ‘manually’ has to be added to this observation.

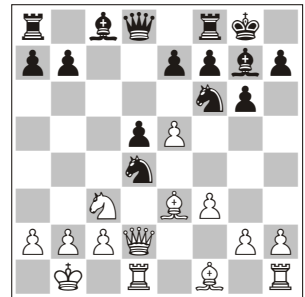


FRITS AGTERDENBOS

Kortchnoi talking to Dzindzi

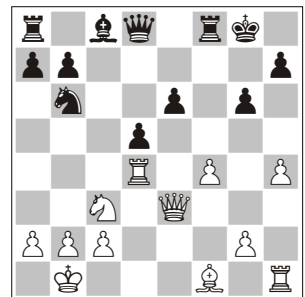
Later that very day I received a phone call from another continent. My old friend Roman Dzindzichashvili, using exactly the same words: ‘Genna, you have been playing the Dragon your entire life – I found the refutation of the system!’

Dzindzi was referring to this line.
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cd4 4.♗d4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 g6 6.♙e3 ♙g7 7.f3 ♗c6 8.♚d2 0-0 9.0-0 d5 10.♖b1 ♗d4 11.e5



In Yearbook 42 I already mentioned this line. To my knowledge this bizarre move was first played in the game L.Milov-Cirkvencic, Nagykanizsa 1993.

11...♗d7 12.♙d4 e6 13.f4 f6 14.ef6 ♙f6 15.♚e3 ♗b6 16.h4 ♙d4 17.♗d4±

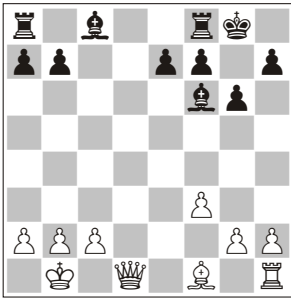


Subsequently hundreds of games have been played with this original idea. The main line culminates in a queen sacrifice.

11...♗f5 12.ef6 ♙f6 13.♗d5 ♚d5 14.♚d5 ♗e3 15.♚d2 ♗d1 16.♚d1

The fact that renowned grandmasters such as Fabiano Caruana, one the world's youngest and best talents and gifted with a sharp eye for theoretical developments, have

given this line their seal of approval, speaks volumes.



The evaluation of my computer is 0.70, in human terms a sizable advantage for White. However, in this type of position the silicon judgment is slightly less relevant, because it is to a large extent based on material considerations.

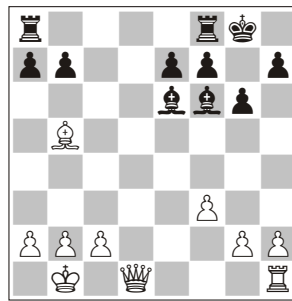
16...♙e6

Doubtlessly the best reply. The more aggressive 16...♙f5?! allows White to occupy the a2-g8 diagonal. This assures him of the better chances: 17.♙c4! b5 (17...♙fd8 18.♙e2 ♙g5? 19.♙d1 ♙d1 20.♙d1 ♙c8 21.♙b3 ♙c6 22.♙d5 e6? 23.♙e5 h5 24.g4 1-0 Shabalov-Kiewra, Chicago Open 2004; 17...♙fc8 18.♙b3 g5 19.g4 ♙g6 20.h4 h6 21.f4 gf4 22.♙f3 ♙c5 23.♙f4 ♙ac8 24.♙h2 ♙g7 25.h5 ♙e5 26.♙f3 ♙h2 27.hg6 f6 28.♙b7 ♙d6 29.♙a7+- Fier-Arribas Lopez, Parla Open 2008) 18.♙b3 a5 19.g4 ♙fd8 (19...♙c8 20.♙e2 ♙b8 21.♙d1 e6 22.♙d2! ♙a8 (22...a4? 23.♙f4!+-) 23.♙f4 ♙g7 24.a4 ba4 25.♙a4± N.Mamedov-Aronian, Batumi Ech 2002) 20.♙e2 ♙d7 21.♙d5 ♙ab8 22.♙d1± a4 23.f4 b4 24.♙c4 e6 25.g5 ♙g7 26.♙d6 ♙f8 27.♙d3 ♙c6 28.h4 ♙d3 29.♙d3 ♙g7 30.h5 ♙d8 31.h6! ♙h8 32.♙e3 ♙d4 33.♙e1 ♙b8 34.♙d2 ♙c5 35.♙e2 ♙d4 36.♙g6! hg6 37.♙c4+- Fier-Robson, Hoogeveen 2008.

17.♙b5!

According to Dzindzi the strongest move. White's manoeuvre can be seen in several other lines of the Dragon. The modest 17.♙e2 is less

promising: 17...♙fd8 18.♙c1 b5 19.♙d1 ♙dc8 20.♙e3 a5 21.g4 b4 22.♙b5 (too late) 22...a4 23.♙d3? (a tactical mistake. 23.♙e4 a3 24.♙b4 ♙b2 25.c4 ♙ab8 26.♙a4 is still acceptable for White) 23...♙a2! 24.♙a2 ♙c2 25.g5 ♙g7 26.♙d2 b3 27.♙a3 (27.♙b1 ♙ac8 28.♙e2 ♙d4 29.♙d2 ♙d2 30.♙d2 ♙e3 31.♙d1 ♙g5 32.♙a4 ♙c2 33.♙b3 ♙h2) 27...♙b2 28.♙b4 ♙c1 29.♙c2 ♙e3 30.♙e2 ♙c1 31.♙d3 b2 32.♙b1 a3 33.♙b3 a2 34.♙a2 ♙a3 0-1 Simacek-Kashlinskaya, Marianske Lazne 2009.



17...a6

Other moves are no bed of roses for Black either.

A) 17...♙fd8 18.♙e2 ♙d4 19.♙d1 ♙ad8 20.♙d4 ♙d4 21.a3 (21.c3 is also quite possible, e.g. 21...♙f5 22.♙a1 ♙d5 23.♙c4 ♙e5 24.♙f2 h5 25.f4 ♙a5 26.a3 b6 27.♙d2 ♙g7 28.♙d8 ♙c5 29.♙b3 ♙c8 30.g3 h4 31.♙e8 e6 32.g4 ♙c7 33.h3 g5 34.fg5 ♙g5 35.♙c2 ♙a6 36.♙b8 ♙d7 37.♙a4 ♙d3 (a desperate attempt at activity. 37...♙e7 38.♙e5 ♙f6 (38...f6 39.♙e4) 39.♙h5 with 40.g5 to come) 38.♙a7 ♙c4 39.♙b6 ♙d5 40.♙b5 ♙h3 41.c4 ♙h1 42.♙a2 h3 43.cd5 h2 44.de6 ♙a1 45.♙a1 h1 ♙ 46.♙a2 ♙c1 47.♙d7 1-0 Spoelman-Van Haastert, Dutch Team Championship 2008/09) 21...h5 22.♙d3 ♙g7 23.g3 a5 24.f4 ♙g4 25.♙f1 ♙d7 26.f5 b6 27.fg6 fg6 28.♙f3 and although there were some technical hiccups in the end White reeled in victory in Caruana-E.Pinter, Szeged 2007.



Fabiano Caruana

B) 17...♙ac8 18.♙e2 a6 19.♙a4 ♙c4 20.♙e3 ♙fd8 21.♙b3 ♙d6 22.♙c4 ♙c4 23.c3 ♙c7 24.♙c2 ♙cd7 25.g4 ♙h4 26.f4 ♙e6 27.♙f3 ♙ed6 28.♙g2 g5 (28...♙f6 29.g5 ♙g7 30.h4 and just as in Fier-Robson, White is going to clamp Black down with h5-h6±) 29.f5 ♙g7 30.♙f1 b5 31.♙e2 e6 32.♙f3 ef5 33.♙f5 ♙e6 34.♙f3 h6 35.♙b3 ♙e1 36.♙d5 ♙de7 37.♙d8 b4 38.♙a8 bc3 39.♙g8 ♙f6 40.♙f3 ♙e5 41.♙d8 ♙b6 42.♙a3 1-0 Mekhitarian-Aloma Vidal, Sants Open, Barcelona 2008.

18.♙a4 ♙fd8

18...b5 19.♙b3 ♙b3 20.ab3 a5 21.c3? (this should be avoided at all cost. Dzindzi recommends 21.♙e2! b4 (after 21...a4 22.♙a2! is the key move. The king feels comfortable on b3 after 22...ab3 23.♙b3) 22.♙d1 and the exchange of a pair of rooks contributes to White's advantage. The battle is only for two results) 21...a4 22.b4 a3 23.♙d5 ♙fd8 24.♙b7 ♙ab8 25.♙a7 ♙a8 26.♙b7 ♙db8 27.♙d5 ♙a4 28.♙b3 ab2 29.♙b2 ♙c8 30.♙c1 ♙c4 and only Black can win (which he actually did) in Filev-Georgescu, Bucharest jr 2008.

19.♙e2 ♙d4 20.♙b3 ♙b3 21.ab3 ♙ad8 22.g3

22.g4 ♙h4 23.♙e3 ♙8d5 24.f4 e6 25.f5! ef5 26.gf5 ♙g7 27.♙f1 ♙d7

28.fg6 hg6 29.♖e5 f6 30.♖e8 f5
 31.♖g1 ♜f7 32.♖e6 ♙f6 33.♙a2!
 ♜f4 34.♖e3 ♜e4 35.♖f3 ♙e5
 36.h3 ♙d4 37.♜d1 a5 38.c3 ♙c5
 39.♜d2 b6 40.♜d8 ♜f7 41.♖d1
 ♜e8 42.♖d7 ♙f8 43.b4 ab4
 44.cb4 ♙e3 45.♖d6 ♙f7 46.♖d5
 ♙f6 47.♖c6 ♜8e6 48.♖c3 ♙g5
 49.♖e1 ♜e8 50.♜d6 ♜8e6 51.♜d3
 ♙f6 52.♖c3 ♙g5 53.♖h8 ♜b4
 54.♖d8 ♙h5 55.♜d7 ♙h6 56.♜h7
 g5 57.♖f8 ♜a4 58.♙b3 ♜ae4
 59.♖f5 ♜e7 60.♜h8 ♜f4 61.♖d5
 ♜e3 62.♙a2 ♙g6 63.♖c6 ♜f6
 64.♜h6 ♙h6 65.♖f6 ♙h5 66.♖f5
 1-0 E.Pinter-Lötscher, Mitropa
 Cup, Szeged 2007.

22...♜8d6

22...♜8d5 23.f4 and although the
 game Pacher-E.Pinter, Austrian
 Bundesliga B 2008/09, ended in a
 draw, White was on top almost till
 the very last move.

23.h4 ♜e6 24.♖f2 h5 25.♜e1
 ♜ed6 26.c3 ♜4d5 27.b4 a5
 28.ba5 ♜a5 29.♙c2 ♜b5 30.♜a1
 ♜e6 31.♜a4 ♜eb6 32.♜a2 ♙g7
 33.g4 hg4 34.fg4± g5 35.hg5
 ♙g5 36.b4 ♖c6 37.♙b3 ♜d5
 38.♖f3 ♜cd6 39.♜h2 ♙f6
 40.♖h3 ♙f8 41.g5 ♙g7 42.♜f2
 ♜c6 43.♜f3 ♜g5 44.♖d7!+-

L.Milov-Umbach, Zurich Open
 2004.

White's strategy is obvious. Ex-
 change one pair of rooks, never
 play c2-c3 and ...a5-a4 should be
 met by ♙b1-a2. Putting up a for-
 tress is Black's last resort. A pretty
 cheerless mission, for which other
 lines than the Dragon have been in-
 vented.

Dzindzi told me that against other
 computers, and even against him-
 self, ruthless Rybka scored up to
 80 percent in this line. As long as
 the plug was in the wall, the re-
 lentless machine had sufficient en-
 ergy to tear down any fortification.

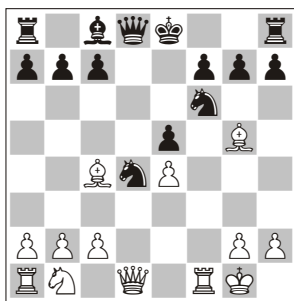
An important system from a theo-
 retical point of view, as the alterna-
 tive system against 9.0-0-0, which
 had its heyday in the middle of the
 previous century (9...♘d4 10.♙d4
 ♙e6) is also little fun these days.

The best Black can do is an un-
 promising fight for a draw.

An Amazing Discovery

After the success of the second
 edition of his book *Chess Open-
 ings for Black, Explained* Roman
 Dzindzichashvili and his friend
 Rybka are now working full speed
 on the second edition of the sequel
*Chess Openings for White, Ex-
 plained*. They're not afraid to
 tackle rare lines such as the Max
 Lange Gambit (not to be confused
 with the Max Lange Attack). It
 goes like this.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5
 4.0-0 ♘f6 5.d4 ♙d4 6.♘d4 ♘d4
 7.f4 d6 8.fe5 de5 9.♙g5



This gambit is approximately 170
 years old and was employed by the
 likes of Cochrane, Max Lange
 himself, Anderssen and Steinitz in
 the 19th century. Mainly due to the
 extensive analyses by Lev Gutman
 in *Kaissiber* 23 (2006), modern
 grandmasters such as Movsesian,
 Tkachiev and Tigran L. Petrosian
 have given it a try.

**Movsesian, Sergey
 Adams, Michael**

Wijk aan Zee 2009 (2)

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5
 4.0-0 ♘f6 5.d4 ♙d4 6.♘d4
 ♘d4 7.f4 d6 8.fe5 de5 9.♙g5
 ♙e6 10.♘a3 ♖e7 11.c3 ♘c6
 12.♙h1 ♜d8 13.♖e2 h6 14.♙f6
 gf6 15.♜f2 ♜g8 16.♜af1 ♜g6
 17.♘c2 ♙f8 18.♘e3 ♘b8
 19.♖h5 ♙g7 20.♖f3 ♙h7
 21.♘d5 ♙d5 22.ed5 e4 23.♖f4
 ♜d6 24.♜e2 ♘d7 25.♜e4 ♘e5

26.♙b3 ♙g8 27.c4 b6 28.♙c2
 ♖f8 29.♜e3 ♜g5 30.♙f5 ♙h8
 31.♜fe1 a5 32.b3 c6 33.dc6
 ♜c6 34.h4 ♜g8 35.♜d1 a4
 36.♜d8 ♖g7 37.♜g8 ♙g8
 38.♜g3 1-0

Black's intentions in this line have
 not changed much in 150 years.
 The stereotypical moves in this po-
 sition are ...♖e7 and ...♙e6. That's
 what Zukertort and Anderssen did
 in the 19th century, that's what we
 do now.

9...♖e7 10.♘a3

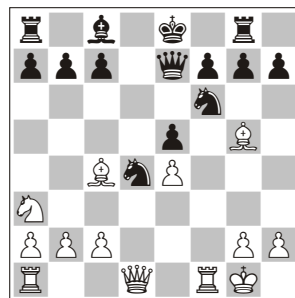
The continuation of Minckwitz,
 first played in 1878, is generally
 considered the most promising.
 Now the standard move has always



Sergey Movsesian

been 10...♙e6, transposing to the
 game Movsesian-Adams above.
 The R+R tandem has come up with
 an amazing discovery.

10...♜g8!!



A multi-functional move. Black does not want to castle kingside anyway, so he prepares counter-play in case White decides to take on f6. What should White do?

11.c3 ♖e6 12.♗f6

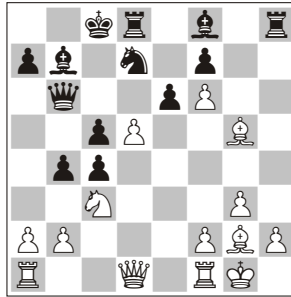
R+R suggest to meet the retreat 12.♗e3 with 12...♗d7 13.♖b3 0-0-0 14.♗a7 ♗c6!. White has recovered his pawn, but e4 is hanging and Black's pieces harmonize much better. Moreover, White's knight on the edge is a sorry sight.

12...g6 13.♖f3

Black is ready for this consistent approach. However, Black is also fine after 13.♖h1 ♗d7 14.♖f3 ♗g6 intending 15...0-0-0.

13...♗f4 14.g3 ♗h3

In this position good advice does not come cheap!



16.♖b1

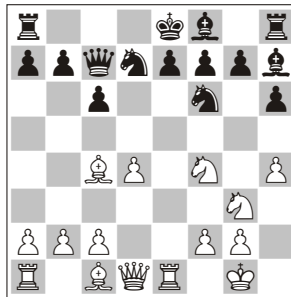
Or how about the following mysterious move?

Porreca, Giorgio

Bronstein, David

Belgrade 1954 (10)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 de4 4.♗e4 ♗f5 5.♗g3 ♗g6 6.h4 h6 7.♗h3 ♗h7 8.♗c4 ♗f6 9.♗f4 ♗bd7 10.0-0 ♖c7 11.♖e1



11...♗g8!

Bronstein was always quite economical with the use of exclamation marks, but he awarded himself one for this unusual prophylactic move.

Equalizer?

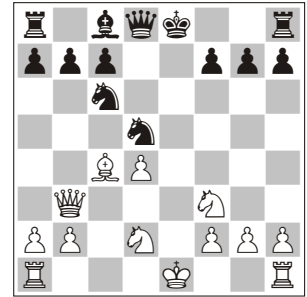
Who does not know the following miniature by two fighters *par excellence*?

Miles, Anthony

Kortchnoi, Viktor

Johannesburg 1979

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗c4 ♗c5 4.c3 ♗f6 5.d4 ed4 6.cd4 ♗b4 7.♗d2 ♗d2 8.♗bd2 d5 9.ed5 ♗d5 10.♖b3

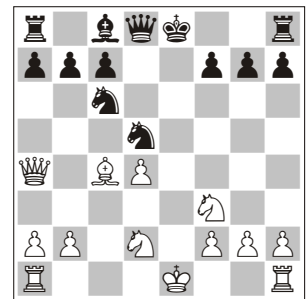


10...♗a5! 11.♖a4 ♗c6! 12.♖b3 ♗a5! 13.♖a4 ♗c6! 1/2-1/2

The move 10...♗a5 in this ancient main line was already known in the 19th century, but it was this mini-game that truly launched it into prominence. Countless times this game has been copied, also by strong grandmasters who don't make a habit of opening with the king's pawn, adding fuel to the suspicion that the result of the game was known before it was played.

Before we present Dzindzi's recommendation we will try to explain why this line has such a fine reputation as an equalizer.

After 11.♖a4 ♗c6! what can White do?



A) The all too aggressive 12.♗e5 is thwarted by 12...0-0! 13.♗c6 ♖e8! 14.♖f1 ♗b6! 15.♖b5 bc6 16.♖c5 ♗e6 17.b3 ♗d8 18.♖e1 ♗c4 19.♗c4 ♗d5 20.♖a7 ♖a8 21.♖a8 ♗a8 22.♖e2 ♗a2 23.♖f3 ♗b5 24.♖b1 ♗f5 25.♖b1 ♗b3 26.♖f4? (26.♗e3) 26...g6 (26...♗d3!-+) 27.♗e5? (27.f3) 27...c5 28.dc5 ♗a4 29.♖g5



Roman Dzindzichashvili in 1979

Mysterious Rook Move

Nimzowitsch called moves like 10...♖g8 'mysterious rook moves'. Long before the advent of computer engines there were examples of similar moves.

Uhlmann, Wolfgang

Alexandria, Nana

Halle 1981 (3)

1.c4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.♗f3 e6 5.♗g5 dc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♗h4 g5 9.♗g5 hg5 10.♗g5 ♗bd7 11.g3 ♗b7 12.♗g2 ♖b6 13.ef6 0-0-0 14.0-0 c5 15.d5 b4

♔g7 30.♖d7 0-1 Cubas-Mareco, Santos 2008.

B) 12.♖b3 ♘a5 13.♖a4 ♖c6 14.♖b5 (this brings no advantage) 14...♖b6 15.0-0 0-0 16.♖c5 ♖c4 17.♖c4 ♙e6 18.♖e3 ♖e7 19.♖g5 ♙d5 20.♖c2 ♖g6 21.♖f5 c6 22.♖d5 ½-½ Andreikin-Romanov, World Junior Championship, Erevan 2007.

C) 12.♖b3 ♘a5 13.♖a4 ♖c6 14.♙b5 ♙d7 15.♖b3 (this is also too ambitious. Better is 15.0-0) 15...♖e7 16.♔f1 ♙e6 17.♙c6 bc6 18.♖c2 0-0 19.h4?! ♖b4! 20.♖b1 ♖d7 21.a3 ♙f5 22.♖e5 (22.♖d1 ♙c2 23.♖c1 ♙d3 24.♔g1 ♖c2 25.♙a2 ♖d4 26.♖d4 ♖d4 27.♖c3 c5♠) 22...♖e6 23.♖c1? (23.♖e4♠) 23...♖c2 24.g4 ♖d5! and White soon went down in Sveshnikov-Mortensen, Kotov Memorial, Leningrad 1984.

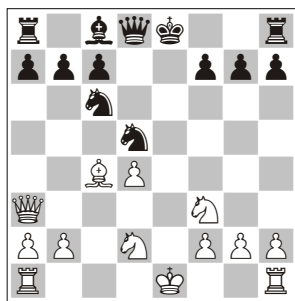
So what is it that our dynamic duo R+R have in store for us?

Turzo, Attila

Borisek, Jure

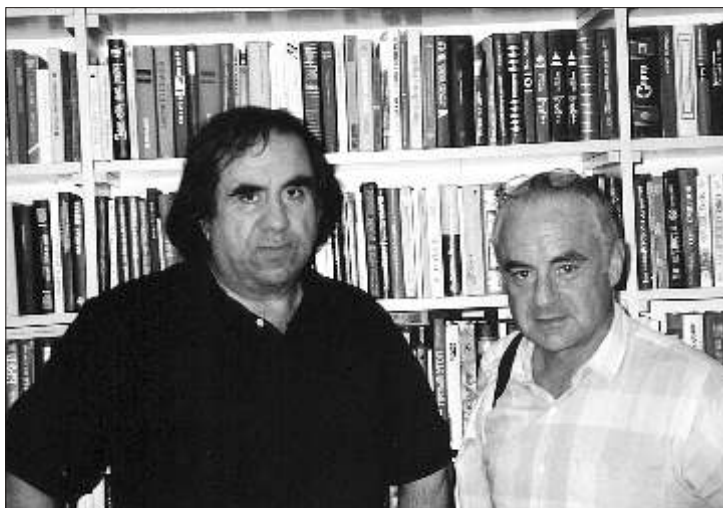
Budapest 2001 (3)

1.e4 e5 2.♖f3 ♖c6 3.♙c4 ♙c5 4.c3 ♖f6 5.d4 ed4 6.cd4 ♙b4 7.♙d2 ♙d2 8.♖bd2 d5 9.ed5 ♖d5 10.♖b3 ♘a5 11.♖a4 ♖c6 12.♖b3 ♘a5 13.♖a4 ♖c6 14.♖a3!?



By stopping Black from castling White forces a queen swap. Leaving a queen on would be asking for trouble.

14...♖e7 15.♖e7 ♖ce7 15...♖de7 16.0-0 0-0 17.♙fe1 ♖f5



Roman Dzindzichashvili and the author

18.d5 ♖cd4 19.♖d4 ♖d4 20.♙e7± Rysavy-Skopal, Havirov 2008.

16.♖e4 h6 17.0-0 0-0 18.♙fe1 b6 19.♖c3 ♙e6 20.♙ac1 c6 21.♖d5 cd5 22.♙a6 ♖f5 23.♙c7 g5 24.h3 ♙fd8 25.♙ec1±.

It's quite remarkable that despite the presence of an isolated pawn Rybka prefers White's chances in this endgame. The following scheme is easy to understand: White will castle kingside and put his rooks on c1 and e1, he carries out the knight manoeuvre ♖e4 and possibly ♖c5-d3, and puts his rook pawns on a3 and h3 to further improve his position. The computer discerns a small advantage of 0.20. Of course, Black will not sit around idly, but the position is certainly not 'dead'.

When analysing a slightly inferior endgame I once asked the late Tigran Petrosian: 'How on earth are you going to make any progress here?' The answer of the former World Champion was telling: 'For progress you should ask Andersson.' He was referring to the Swedish endgame expert, who relishes in exploiting minute endgame advantages.

One hundred years ago Emanuel Lasker stated that the element of surprise in the game of chess has almost gone. Pillsbury started to systematically analyse openings to the bone. This knowledge carries the seed of the death of chess. In the old days we would seek for adventure, now the unknown has all been charted.

I don't subscribe to this point of view. Our game still has many unveiled treasures. But in order to discover these one has to send our silicon friend in the right direction. I cannot remember who said that musicians can be divided in two categories: specialists and amateurs. Members of the former group know how to play but don't know how to love it, those from the latter group don't know how to play but certainly know how to love it. Does such a distinction also apply to the world of chess? If yes, Roman Dzindzichashvili, whom I have known for half a century and who has reached the blessed age of 65 this spring, belongs to both categories! He knows an awful lot about chess but still loves our young old game.

Dear Roman, I wish you all the best and may R+R find many more surprising ideas.