

BLINDFOLD OPENING VISUALIZATION

100 Chess Puzzles

Martin B. Justesen

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By Martin B. Justesen

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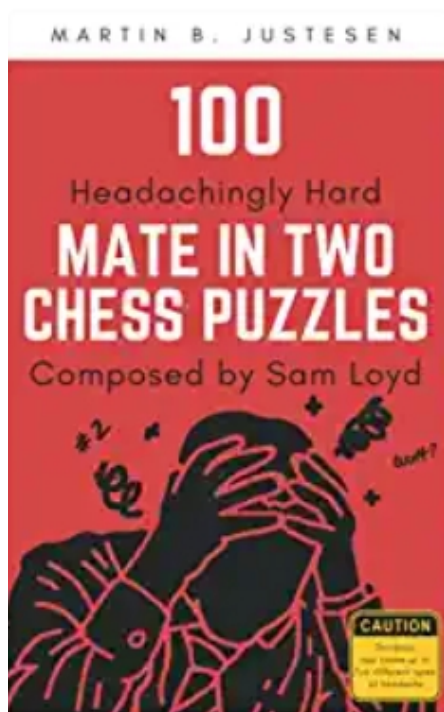
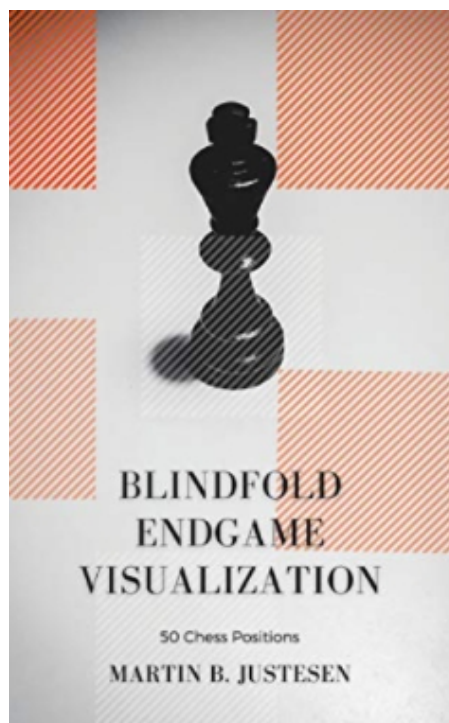
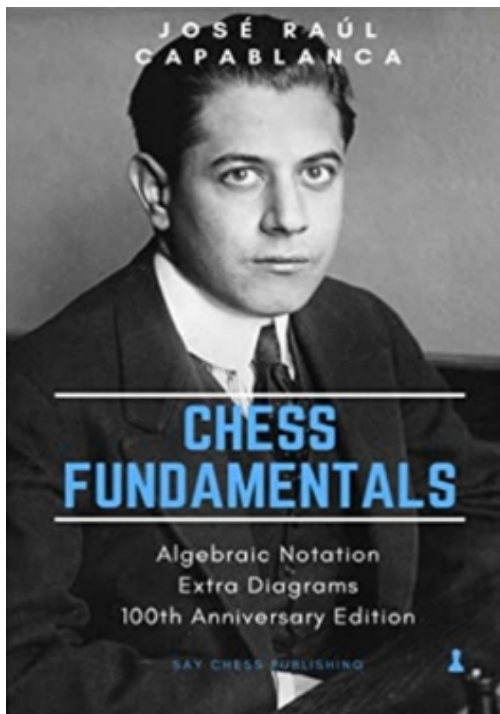
Introduction

This book is the second book in my blindfold series. The first one was ‘Blindfold Endgame Visualization’. Now it is time to solve puzzles in the opening. To make this book I have downloaded the Lichess puzzle database containing 2,132,989 chess puzzles. Then I selected the puzzles that occurred within the first 10 moves of the game. To my spreadsheet, I added information about how often the line had been played and how often players solved the puzzle online.

This is the foundation from which I have selected puzzles for this book. I have also added puzzles where you have to avoid a tactic or a trap, so you can’t always be sure that there is a tactic!

It is my hope that this book will help you to improve your ability to calculate and visualize the board blindfolded. The book is split into three sections: a warm-up chapter, the main chapter, and a chapter for the hardest puzzles.

If you like this book remember to check out my other books in the Amazon store:



Chess Fundamentals - 100th Anniversary Edition, Blindfold Endgame Visualization, 100 Headachingly Hard Mate in Two Chess Puzzles.

/Martin B. Justesen

About the Author



Martin B. Justesen is an adult chess improver from Denmark with the current goal to reach a 2000 FIDE rating from 1812 (December 2021). Martin is very active on Twitter, where he is found at [@saychess1](https://twitter.com/saychess1)

Remember to follow his newsletter to get more information about future book projects:

www.getrevue.co/profile/saychess1

Acknowledgment

A big thank you goes to all of those who have tested the puzzles before the publication! I'm also very appreciative of all members of the #chesspunks and the online chess community on Twitter, who have helped spread the word about my book.

How to solve the puzzles

Here is the first puzzle of the book:

1.

Rapport-Jobava System

1. d4 d5 2. ♖f4 ♗f6 3. ♗c3 ♗c6 4. e3 ♖f5 5. a3 e6 6. ♗f3 ♖d6 7. ♗e5
♗xe5

White to move

First is stated the opening name given by one of the major chess sites (some chess opening experts might disagree with some of the names). Next is a line of moves. Visualize the end position. If you struggle at this try sitting with an empty board in front of you.

At the end position, you will have to find the best move. Write it down on paper before you check the solution. Note that some positions are not a tactic!

The puzzles in this book will get gradually harder, and at some point it might get too hard for you. Don't give up and throw the book away yet. I will suggest that you set up a board and play 2, 4, or 6 moves into the puzzles and try to solve them. In this way you will still practice visualizing the position and you can adjust the difficulty of the puzzles.

Chapter 1: Warm-up!

1.

Rapport-Jobava System

1. d4 d5 2. ♖f4 ♗f6 3. ♗c3 ♗c6 4. e3 ♖f5 5. a3 e6 6. ♗f3 ♖d6 7. ♗e5
♗xe5

White to move

1.






1. d4 d5 2. ♘f4 ♙f6 3. ♗c3 ♗c6 4. e3 (4. ♗b5 is the mainline.) 4... ♘f5
5. a3 e6 6. ♗f3 ♘d6 7. ♗e5 ♗xe5?? Castling is the best move.



Solution: 8. dxe5! With the double attack on the Knight and Bishop!

2.

French Defense: Rubinstein Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. c3 dxe4 4. xe4 f6 5. d3 xd4

White to move

2.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 dxe4 4. ♖xe4 ♖f6 5. ♔d3 ♜xd4?? This position has happened more than a thousand times on Lichess (5... ♔e7, 5... ♖bd7, and 5... ♖xe4 are all good options)



Solution: 6. ♔b5+ A classic trap in the French!

3.

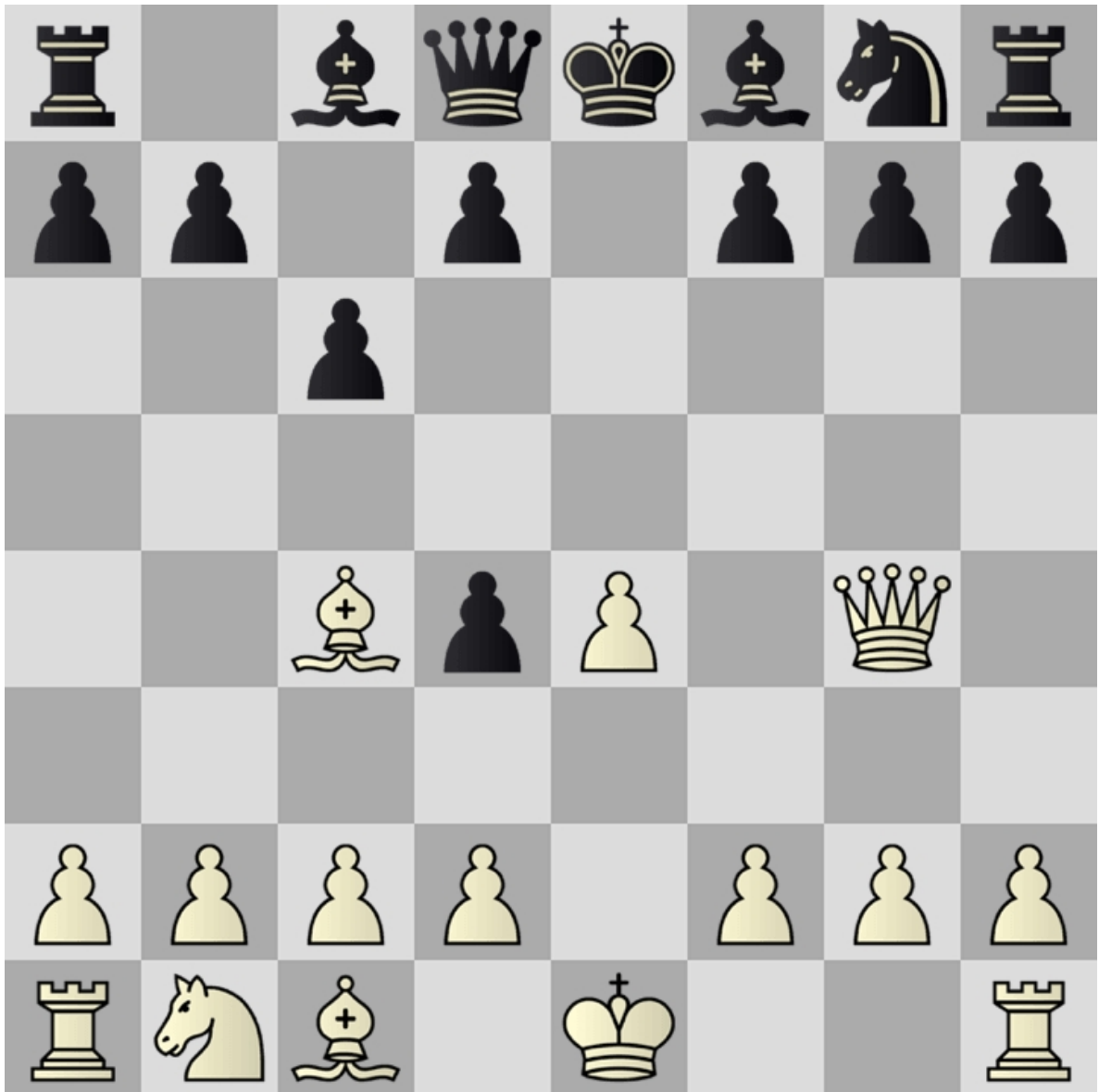
Ruy López Opening: Bird's Defense

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 ♗d4 4. ♗xd4 exd4 5. ♔g4 c6 6. ♖c4

Black to move

3.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♜b5 ♖d4 4. ♖xd4 exd4 5. ♘g4?! (5. O-O is the mainline.) 5... c6 6. ♜c4?? Whoops! (6. ♜d3 and everything is safe.)



Solution: 6... d5! Now the Queen and Bishop are attacked.

4.

Vienna Game: Frankenstein-Dracula Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 ♗f6 3. ♗c3 ♗xe4 4. ♗xe4 d5 5. ♖xd5 ♔xd5
6. ♔f3 ♗c6

White to move

4.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 ♗f6 3. ♘c3 ♗xe4 4. ♗xe4 d5 5. ♖xd5 ♘xd5 6. ♘f3 ♗c6?? (6... ♖e6 makes sure the Queen is protected against ♗f6+ ideas.)



Solution: 7. ♗f6+! *And thank you for the Queen.* 7... gxf6 8. ♘xd5

5.

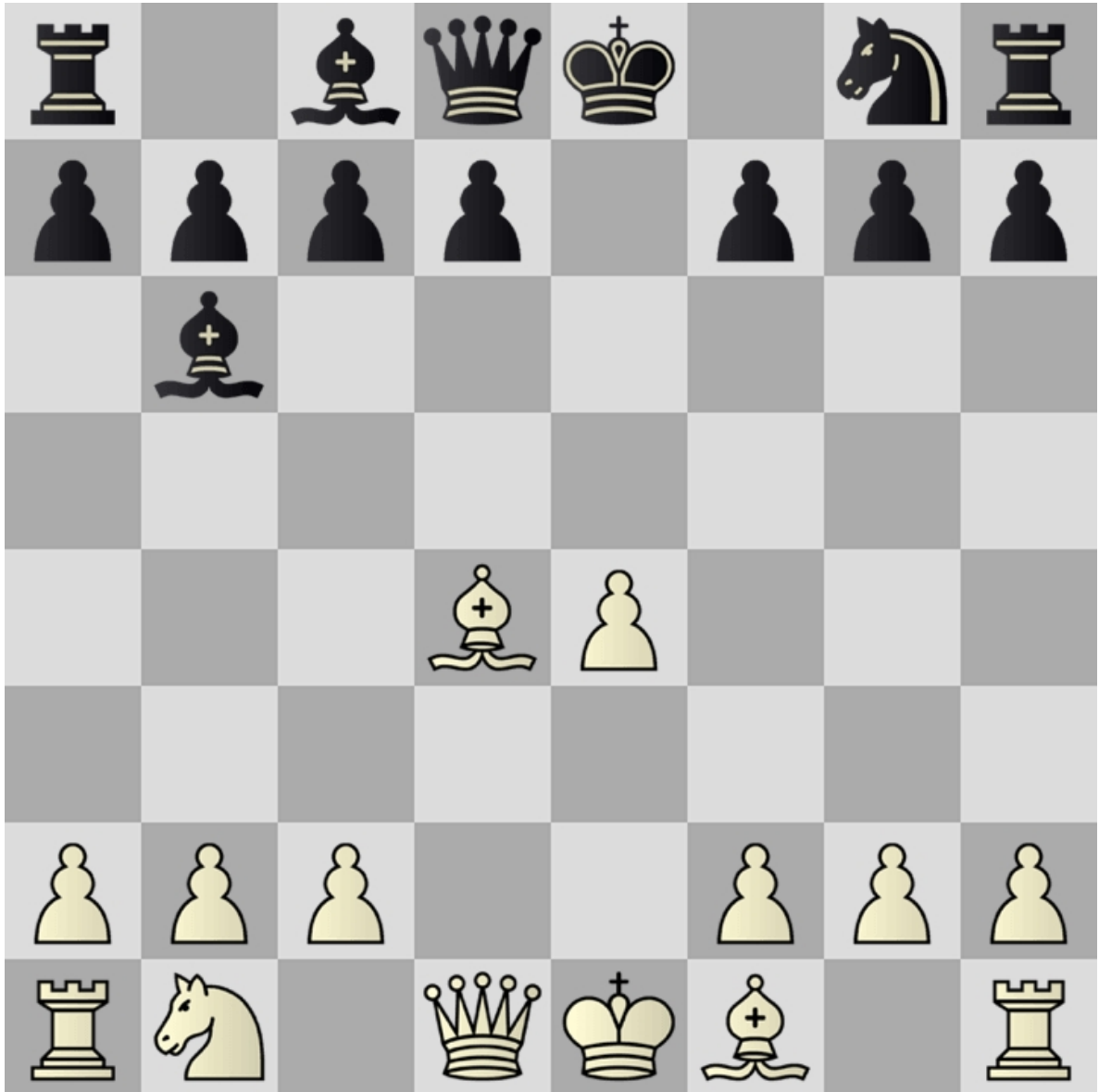
Scotch Game: Classical Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♘xd4 ♗c5 5. ♗e3 ♘xd4
6. ♗xd4 ♗b6

White to move

5.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♙c6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♙xd4 ♘c5 5. ♚e3 ♙xd4 6. ♚xd4
27.000 games with ♚xd4 and 434 games with ♚b6 in the Lichess database. 6...
♚b6??



Solution: 7. ♚xg7! *Thank you for the game.*

6.

Scandinavian Defense: Modern Variation

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♘f6 3. ♖c4 ♗xd5 4. ♖xd5 ♚xd5 5. ♗c3 ♚xg2
6. ♚f3 ♖h3

White to move

6.

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♘f6 3. ♖c4 ♗xd5 4. ♖xd5 ♘xd5 5. ♗c3? (5. ♔f3) 5... ♘g2 6. ♘f3 ♖h3? *This blunder has been played 147 times before on Lichess.* (6... ♔xf3 7. ♗xf3)



Solution: 7. ♘xh3 ♘xh3 (7... ♔xh1?? 8. ♘c8#) 8. ♗xh3 *And Black is down a piece.*

7.

Modern Defense: Mongredien Defense

1. e4 g6 2. d4 ♖g7 3. ♘f3 b6 4. ♖c4 ♖b7 5. ♘c3 e6 6. d5 exd5 7. ♘xd5
♖xd5

White to move

7.



1. e4 g6 2. d4 ♖g7 3. ♗f3 b6 4. ♖c4 ♖b7 5. ♗c3 e6 6. d5 exd5 7. ♗xd5
♖xd5 (7... ♗e7 is a better choice.)



Solution: 8. ♗xd5 (8. ♖xd5?! c6 9. ♖c4 and White missed the chance.)
8... ♗e7 9. ♗xa8

8.

Van Geet Opening: Reversed Nimzowitsch Variation

1.  c3 e5 2. d4 exd4 3.  xd4 b6

White to move

8.

1. ♖c3 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. ♘xd4 b6??



Solution: 4. ♘e4+! *Forks the King and the Rook.* 4... ♖e7 5. ♘xa8

9.

Ruy Lopez: Steinitz Defense

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 d6 4. ♘c3 ♘e7 5. ♘d5 g6

White to move

9.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♗c6 3. ♞b5 d6 4. ♗c3 ♗e7 5. ♗d5 g6??



Solution: 6. ♗f6# Only found in 5 out of 17 games in the Lichess database.

10.

English Opening: King's English Variation-Reversed Sicilian

1. c4 e5 2. ♘c3 f5 3. e4 fxe4

White to move

10.






1. c4 e5 2. ♖c3 f5 3. e4 fxe4



Solution: 4. ♜h5+! (4. ♖xe4? Played 77% of the time on Lichess.) 4... ♞e7 5. ♜xe5+ (5. ♖d5+ ♞e6 6. ♖h3 Would be another way to play.) 5... ♜f7 6. ♜d5+ ♞e8 7. ♜h5+ ♞e7 8. ♖d5+ ♞d6 9. c5+ ♜xc5 10. d4+ ♜c6 11. ♞b5+ ♜xb5 12. ♖c3+ Played in the game Heiligermann - Szarvas 1-0, 1993.

11.

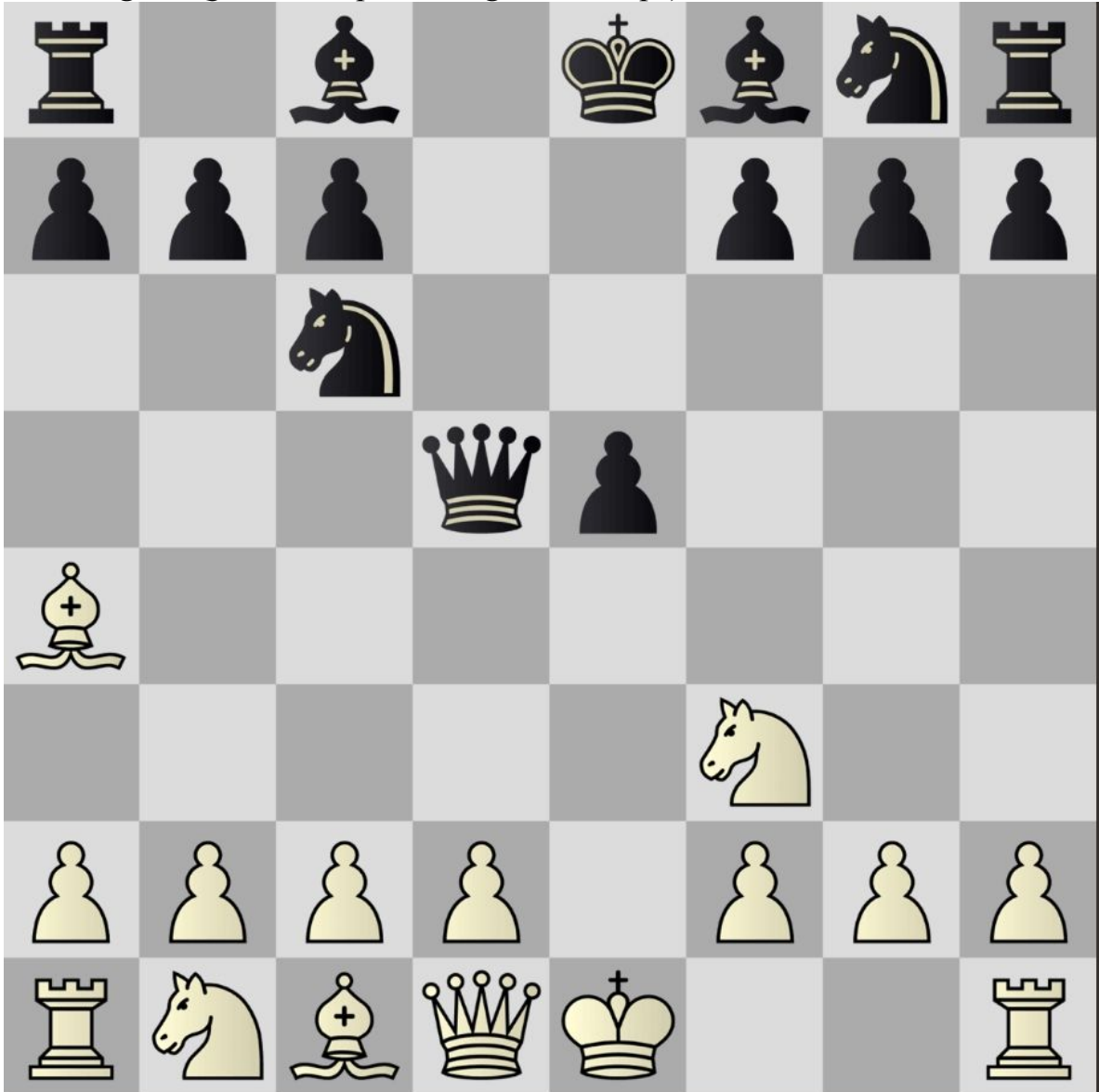
Ruy Lopez: Spanish Countergambit

1. e4  c6 2.  b5 e5 3.  f3 d5 4. exd5  xd5 5.  a4

Black to move

11.

1. e4 ♖c6 2. ♗b5 e5 3. ♕f3 d5 4. exd5 ♜xd5 5. ♗a4?? (5. ♕c3 Attacking the Queen and protecting the Bishop.)



Solution: 5... ♜e4+ The Bishop can be picked up next! 6. ♜e2 ♜xa4 7. ♕xe5 ♕xe5 8. ♜xe5+ ♗e6 Black has now consolidated.

12.

Queen's Pawn Game: Mason Variation

1. d4 d5 2. ♖f4 ♘c6 3. ♗f3 ♖g4 4. e3 e6 5. ♖e2 ♖d6 6. ♗e5 ♖xe2 7.
♔xe2 ♗xe5 8. dxe5 ♖c5

White to move

12.

1. d4 d5 2. ♘f4 ♙c6 3. ♚f3 ♘g4 4. e3 e6 5. ♙e2 ♙d6 6. ♙e5 ♘xe2 7. ♚xe2 ♙xe5 8. dxe5 ♘c5

(8... ♙e7 or 8... ♙b4+are better options for Black.)



Solution: 9. ♚b5+ *Queen checks are often dangerous!* 9... c6 10. ♚xc5

13.

Englund Gambit Complex: Englund Gambit

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 ♞c6 3. ♞f3 ♚e7 4. c3 ♞xe5 5. ♞bd2

Black to move

13.

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 ♖c6 3. ♕f3 ♜e7 4. c3 ♕xe5 5. ♖bd2?? (5. ♖xe5 Now White is safe from the mate.)



Solution: 5... ♖d3# Only the third most-played move in this position (Lichess database), so remember this classic mate.

14.

Benoni Defense: Old Benoni

1. d4 c5 2. d5 d6 3. b3 e6 4. c4

Black to move

14.

1. d4 c5 2. d5 d6 3. b3 e6 4. c4?? (4. ♖c3 is a better move.)



Solution: 4... ♜f6! *There is no way to defend the Rook in the corner!*

15.

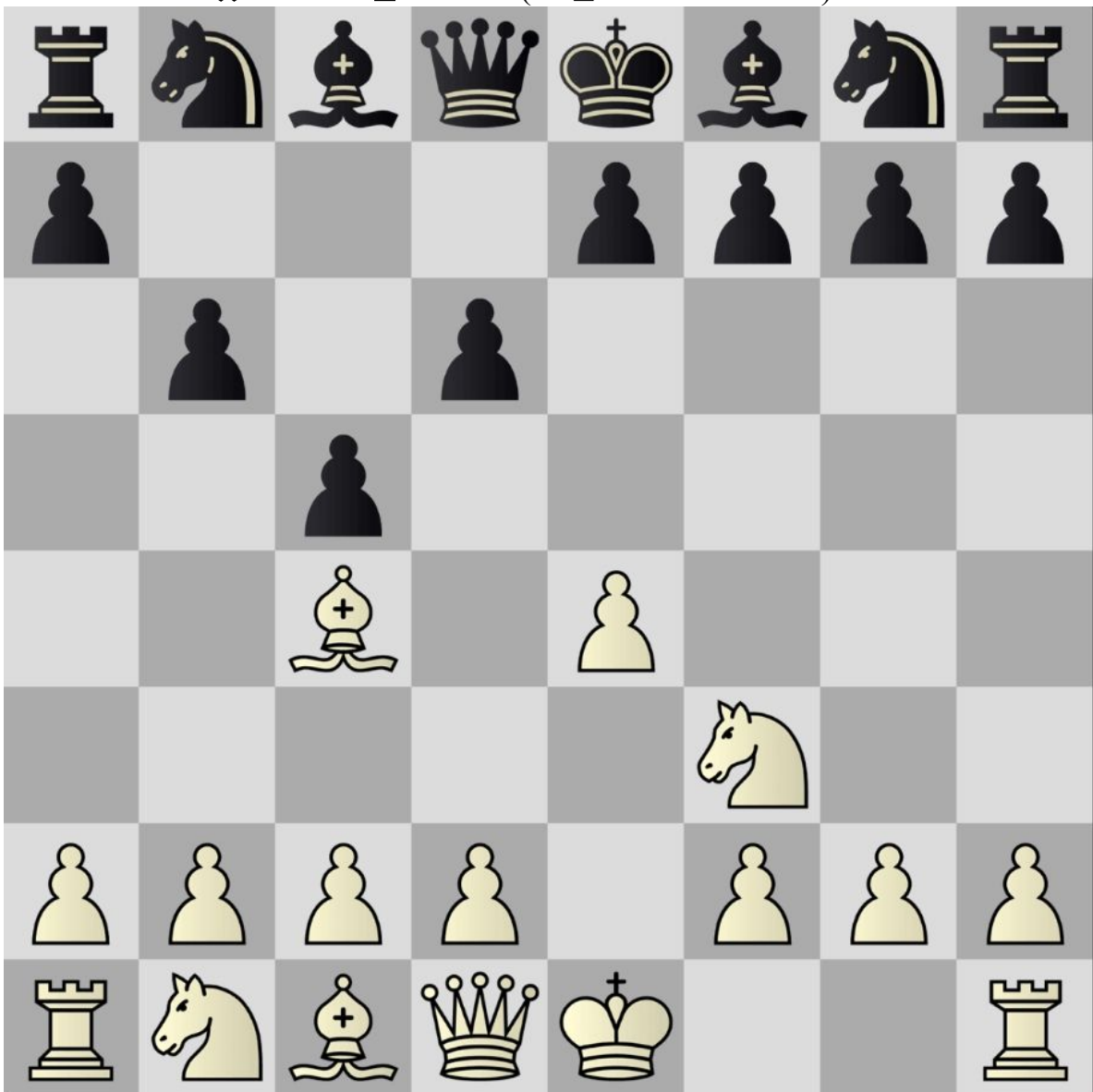
Sicilian Defense: Bowdler Attack

1. e4 c5 2. ♖c4 d6 3. ♗f3 b6

White to move

15.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖c4 d6 3. ♕f3 b6?? (3... ♕f6 *the mainline.*)



Solution: 4. ♗d5! Like in the last puzzle, the Rook is dead in the corner!

16.

French Defense: Winawer Variation - Classical Variation

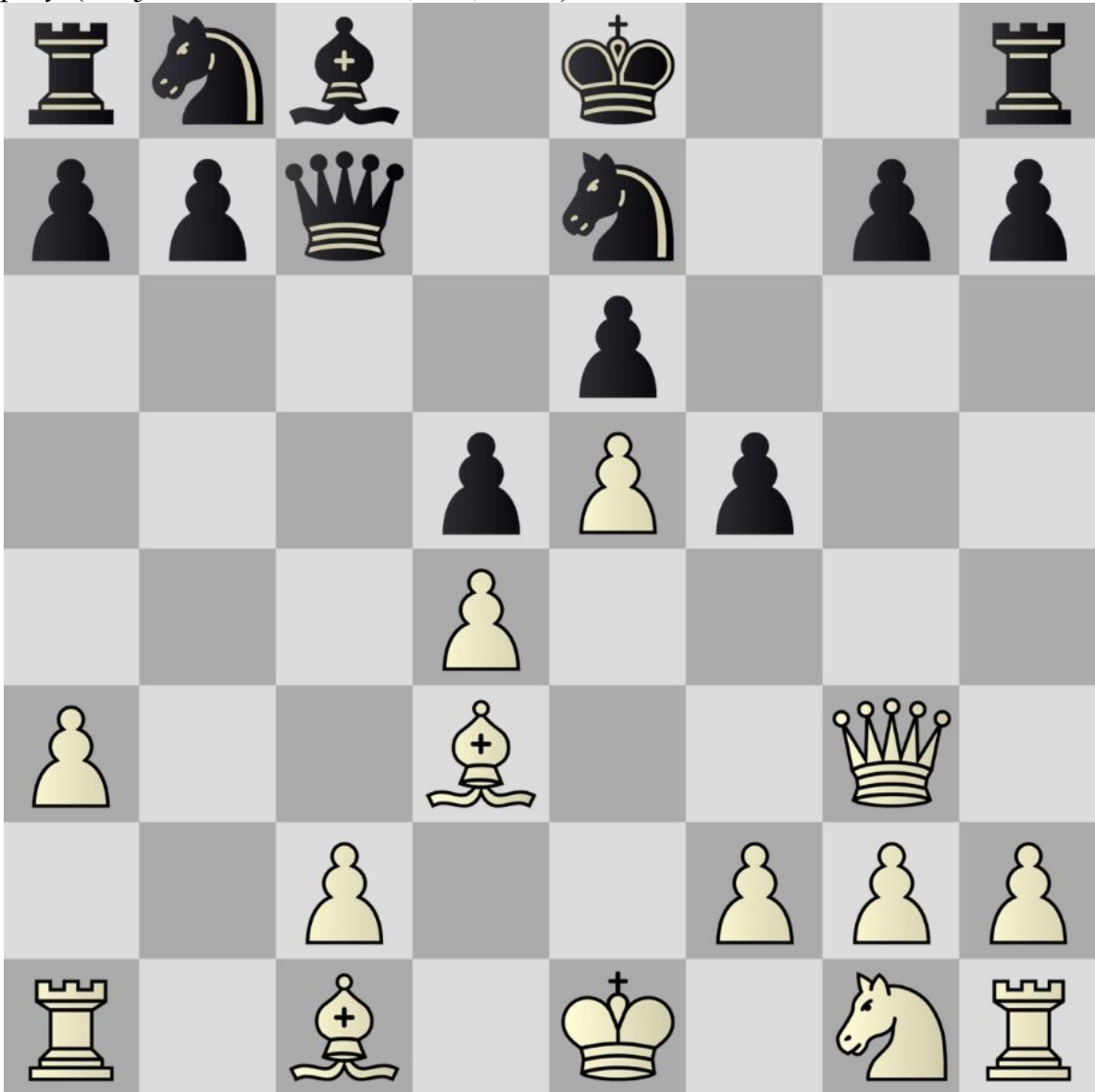
1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♘c3 ♖b4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 ♖xc3+ 6. bxc3 ♜c7 7. ♜g4 f5
8. ♜g3 cxd4 9. cxd4 ♘e7 10. ♖d3

Black to move

16.

This puzzle is not hard, but it is the first puzzle in the book going to move 10!






1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♟b4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 ♟xc3+ 6. bxc3 ♜c7 7. ♜g4 f5 8. ♜g3 cxd4 9. cxd4 ♜e7 10. ♟d3?? (10. c3 *This is what the grandmasters play* (Karjakin - Moskalenko, 1-0, 2004).



Solution: 10...Qc3+! *Picking up the Rook.*

17.

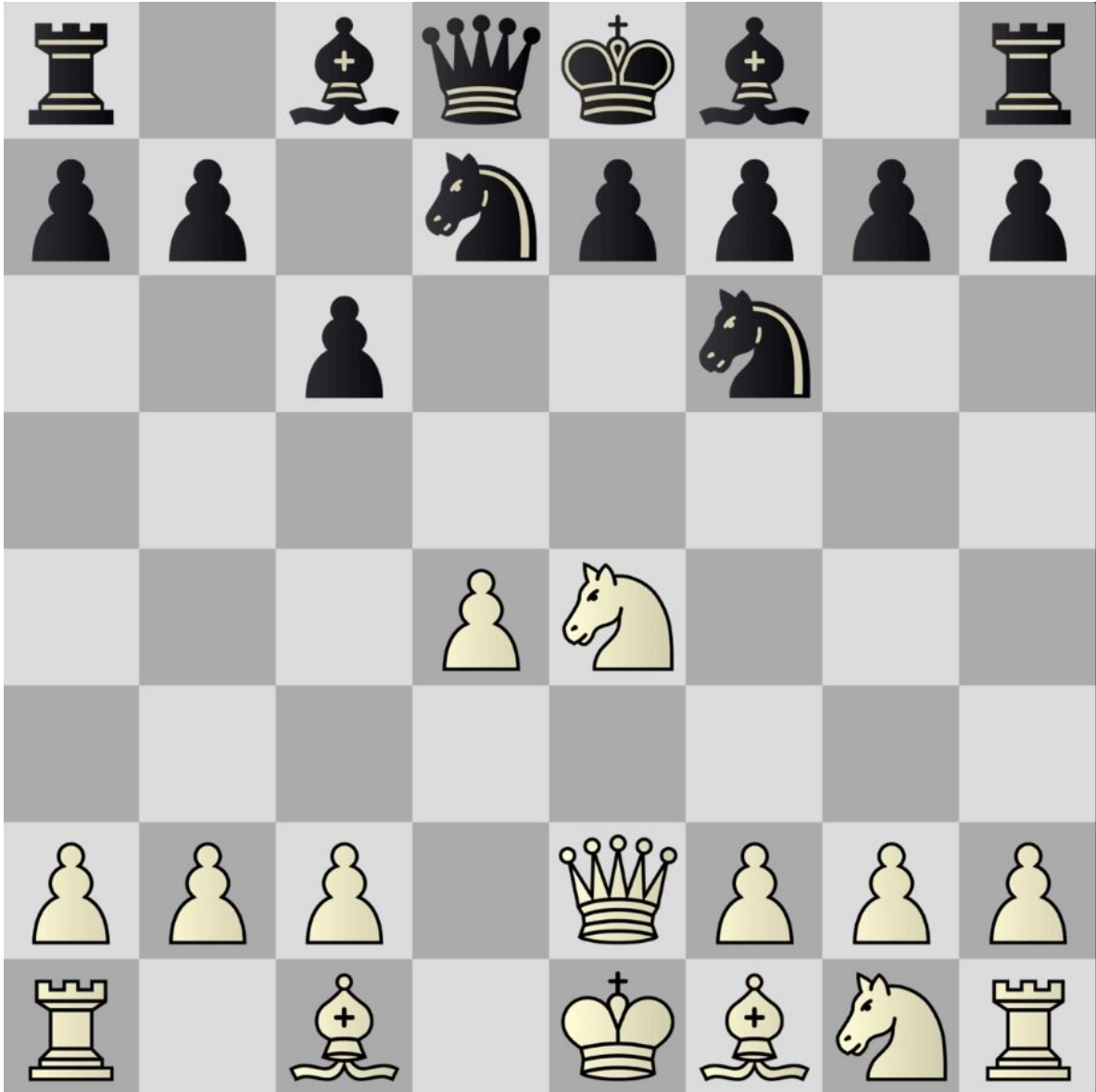
Caro-Kann Defense: Main Line

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. c3 dxe4 4. xe4 f6 5. e2 bd7

White to move

17.

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. ♘c3 dxe4 4. ♗xe4 ♗f6 5. ♕e2 ♗bd7 (5... ♕xd4
Stockfish's recommendation.)



Solution: 6. ♗d6# *Boom!* 3.400+ games with this mate in the Lichess database.

18.

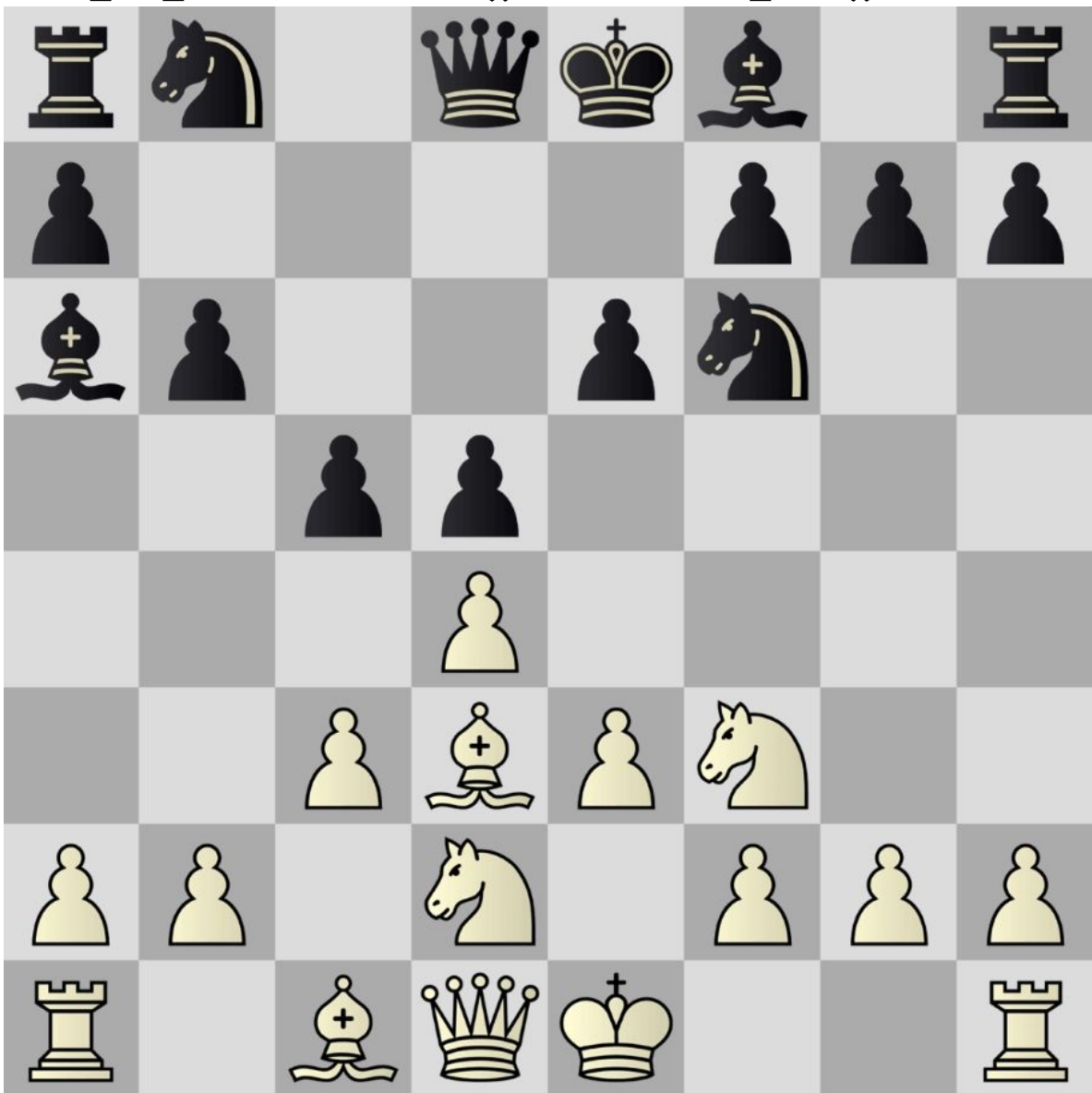
Queen's Pawn Game: Colle System, Traditional Colle

1.  f3  f6 2. d4 d5 3. e3 e6 4.  d3 c5 5. c3 b6 6.  bd2  a6

White to move

18.

1. ♖f3 ♗f6 2. d4 d5 3. e3 e6 4. ♕d3 c5 5. c3 b6 6. ♗bd2 ♖a6



Solution: 7. ♖xa6! ♗xa6 8. ♖a4+ *With the double attack on Black's Knight and King.* ♗d7 9. ♖xa6

19.

Center Game: Hall Variation

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. ♔xd4 ♞c6 4. ♔c4 g6 5. ♔c3

Black to move

19.

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. ♖xd4 ♞c6 4. ♜c4 g6 5. ♜c3 (5. h4 Xu - Romanov, 1-0, 2019.)



Solution: 5... ♞b4! Game over!

20.

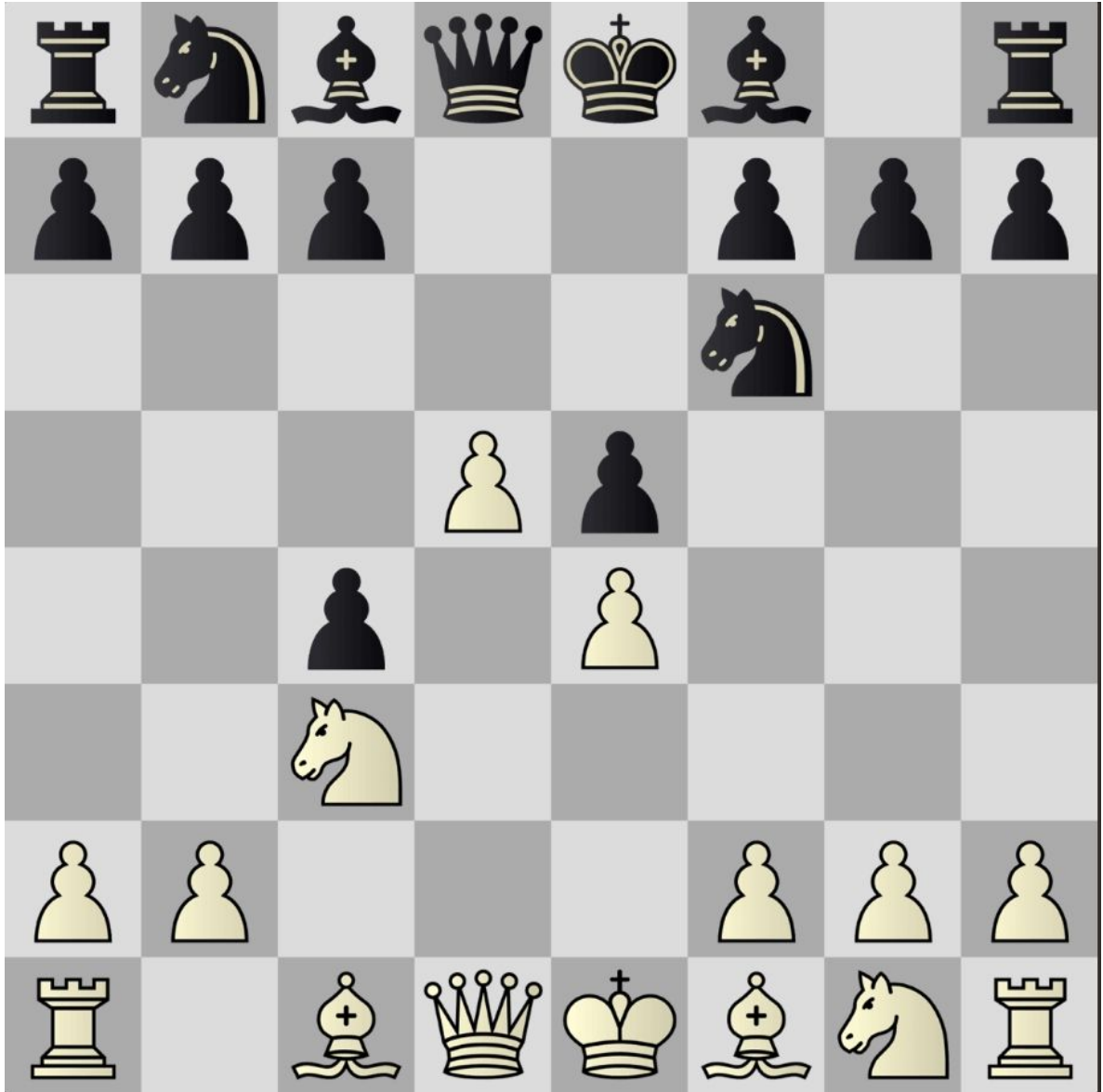
Queen's Gambit Accepted

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. ♖c3 e5 4. d5 ♖f6 5. e4

Black to move

20.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. ♖c3 e5 4. d5 ♖f6 5. e4



Solution: 5... b5 What the masters play in this position. If 6. ♖xb5 ♖xe4 and Black stands better.

If you selected 5... ♗b4?? then 6. ♔a4+! and your Bishop will be picked up. This move has occurred more than 4.000 times on Lichess.

5.. c6 and 5... ♗c5 are also fine moves for Black.

21.

Slav Defense

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♖f4 ♗f6 4. e3 e6 5. ♗c3 ♖d6
6. ♖g3 O-O 7. ♗f3 ♗bd7

White to move

21.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♖f4 ♜f6 4. e3 e6 5. ♚c3 ♗d6 6. ♖g3 O-O 7. ♜f3
♜bd7?? *Played in 342 Lichess games!*
(7... ♖xg3 and you can play ♜bd7 next.)



Solution: 8. ♖xd6! *White simply takes the hanging piece. In the next chapter the difficulty will be turned up a notch.*

2. The Main Chapter

22.

Philidor Defense: 3. Bc4

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. ♖c4 ♘f6 4. c3 ♖g4 5. ♚b3 ♖xf3

White to move

22.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. ♙c4 ♘f6 4. c3 ♙g4 5. ♚b3 ♙xf3??









(5... d5 *It is better to give the pawn and save the day.* 6. exd5 ♘bd7 7. d3=
(7. d6?! *could give White some problems.* 7... ♙xd6 8. ♘g5 (8. ♙xf7+ ♚f8 9.
♘g5 ♘c5 10. ♚c4) 8... O-O with an unclear position.))



Solution: 6. ♙xf7+ *Always keep an eye on f2/f7.* 6... ♚d7 (6... ♚e7 7. ♚e6#) 7. ♙e6+ (7. ♚e6+ ♚c6 8. gxf3 *is also good for White.*) 7... ♚e7 (7... ♚e8 8. gxf3) 8. gxf3 *White is up a pawn and Black can't castle.*

23.

Reti Opening

1.  f3 d5 2. d4 c5 3. e3  c6 4. c4 dxc4 5.  xc4  g4 6.  e2 cxd4 7. exd4
 xf3 8.  xf3  xd4

White to move

23.

1. ♖f3 d5 2. d4 c5 3. e3 ♖c6 4. c4 dxc4 5. ♙xc4 ♙g4 6. ♙e2 cxd4 7. exd4 ♙xf3 8. ♙xf3 ♜xd4?? (8... ♖xd4 9. O-O With a better position for White due to the castled King.)



Solution: 9. ♙xc6+! Simply removing the defender and the Queen is lost.

24.

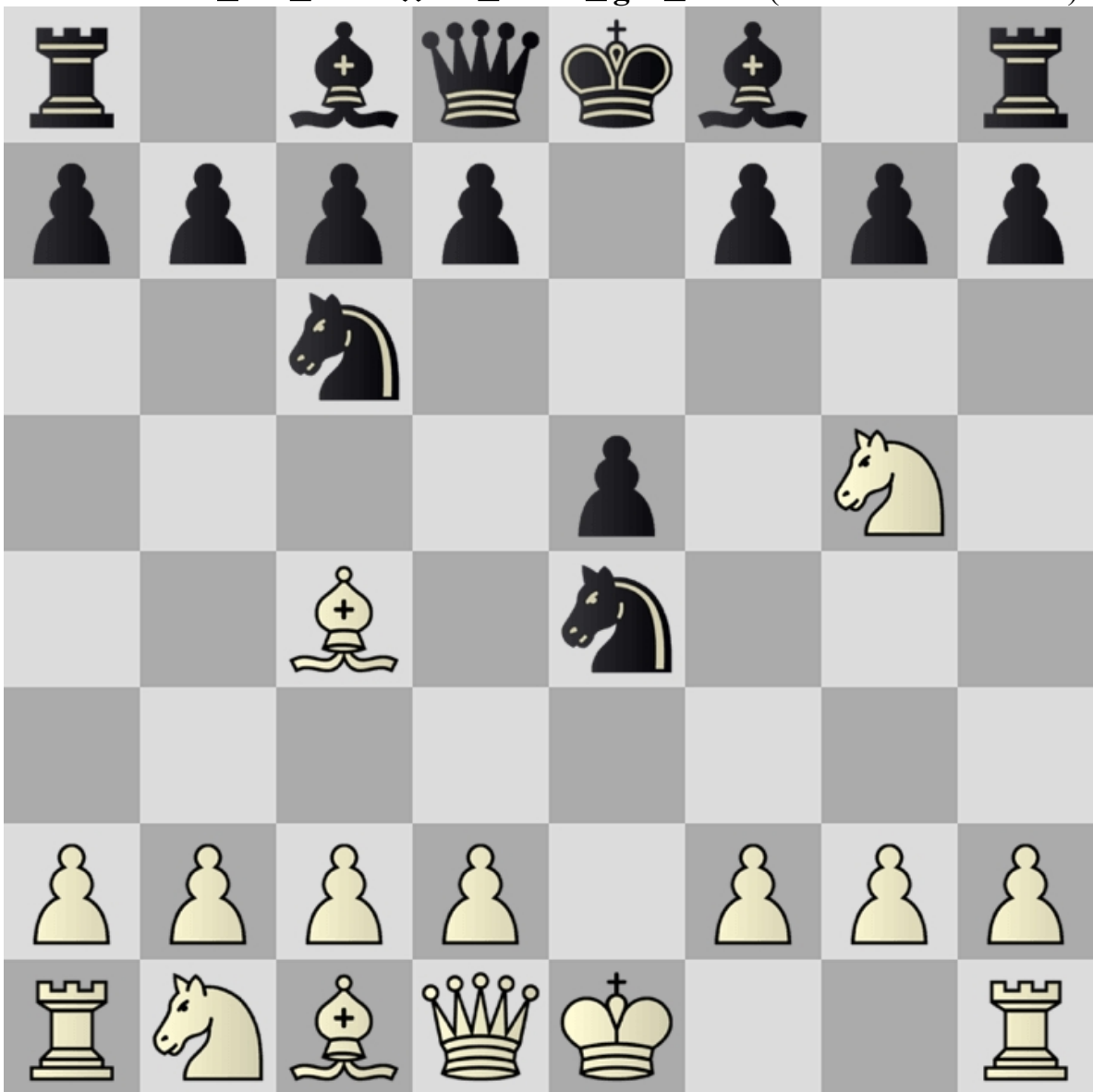
Italian Game: Knight Attack, Ponziani-Steinitz Gambit

1. e4 e5 2.  f3  c6 3.  c4  f6 4.  g5  xe4

White to move

24.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♘c4 ♖f6 4. ♗g5 ♗xe4? (4... d5 *The mainline.*)









Solution: 5. ♘xf7+! *The King has to move. (5. ♗xf7 Does not work due to 5... ♖h4 6. ♖e2 (6. ♗xh8 ♖xf2#) 6... ♗d4) 5... ♖e7 6. d3 6... ♗f6 (6... ♗xg5 7. ♘g5+! And the Queen is lost.) 7. ♘b3*

6. d4 *Also a good move, but maybe not as simple as d3 6... ♗xd4 (6... d5 7. f3 ♗d6 8. ♘xd5) 7. c3 ♗c6 8. ♘d5 ♗d6 here White has several ways to attack the Black King.*

25.

Catalan Opening: Closed

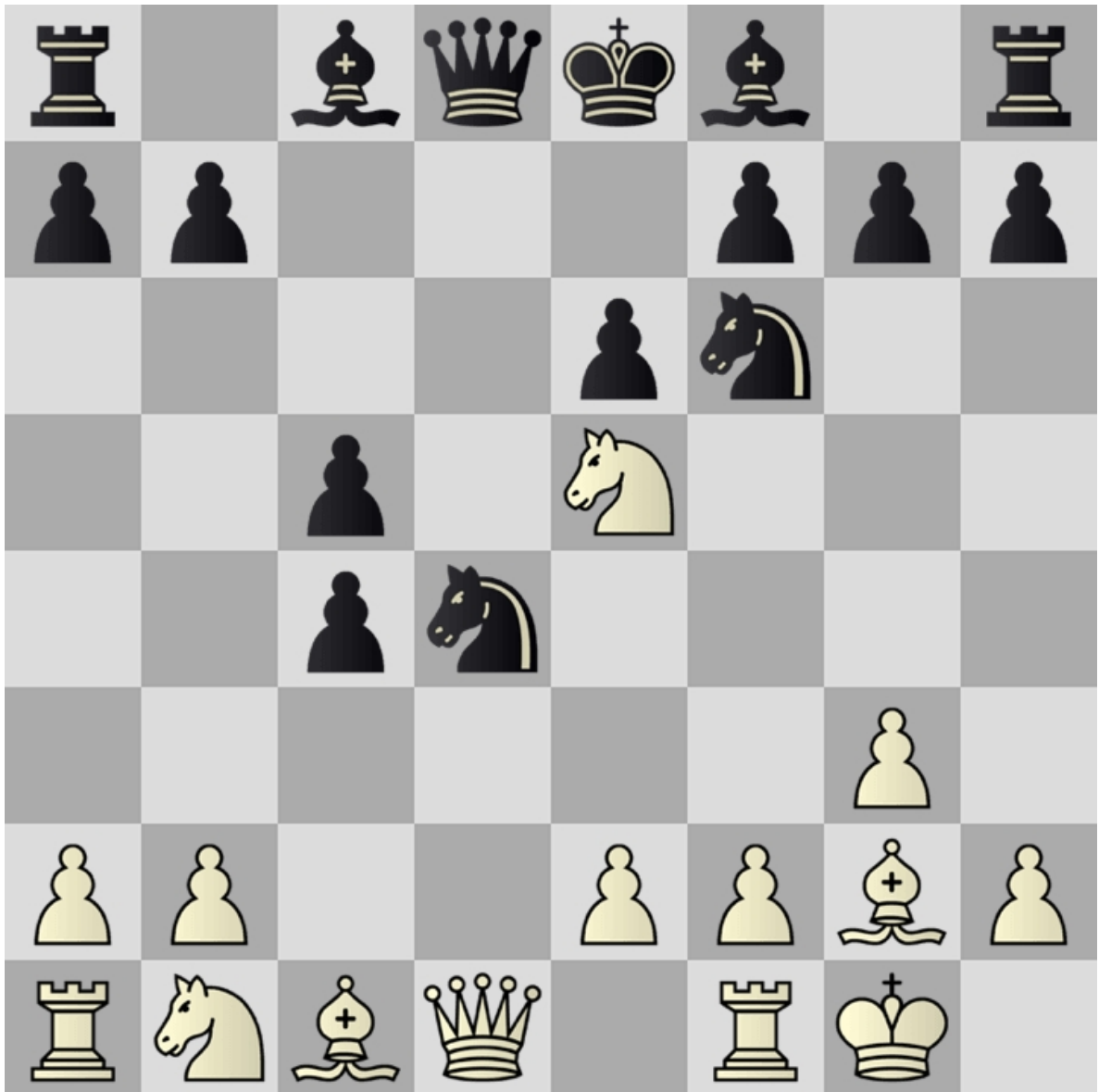
1.  f3 d5 2. g3 c5 3.  g2  c6 4. d4 e6

5. O-O  f6 6. c4 dxc4 7.  e5  xd4

White to move

25.

1. ♔f3 d5 2. g3 c5 3. ♖g2 ♕c6 4. d4 e6 5. O-O ♕f6 6. c4 dxc4 7. ♕e5 ♕xd4? (7... ♖d7 *Protecting the Knight.*)



Solution: 8. e3! *The start of a nice combination. (8. ♖a4+? ♕d7 Black has a fine position.) 8... ♕c6 9. ♖xc6+ bxc6 10. ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 11. ♕xf7+ Forks the King and the Rook.*

26.

King's Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d6 3.  f3  c6 4.  c4  g4

White to move

26.

1. e4 e5 2. f4 d6 3. ♘f3 ♘c6 4. ♙c4 ♙g4



Solution: 5. h3 Is the Stockfish recommendation, but you can also play **fxe5**, **d3**, or **O-O**. (5. ♙xf7+? This move does not work due to 5... ♚xf7 6. ♘g5+ ♜xg5! Protecting the Bishop 7. fxg5 ♙xd1 8. ♚xd1 Black is a Knight up.)

27.

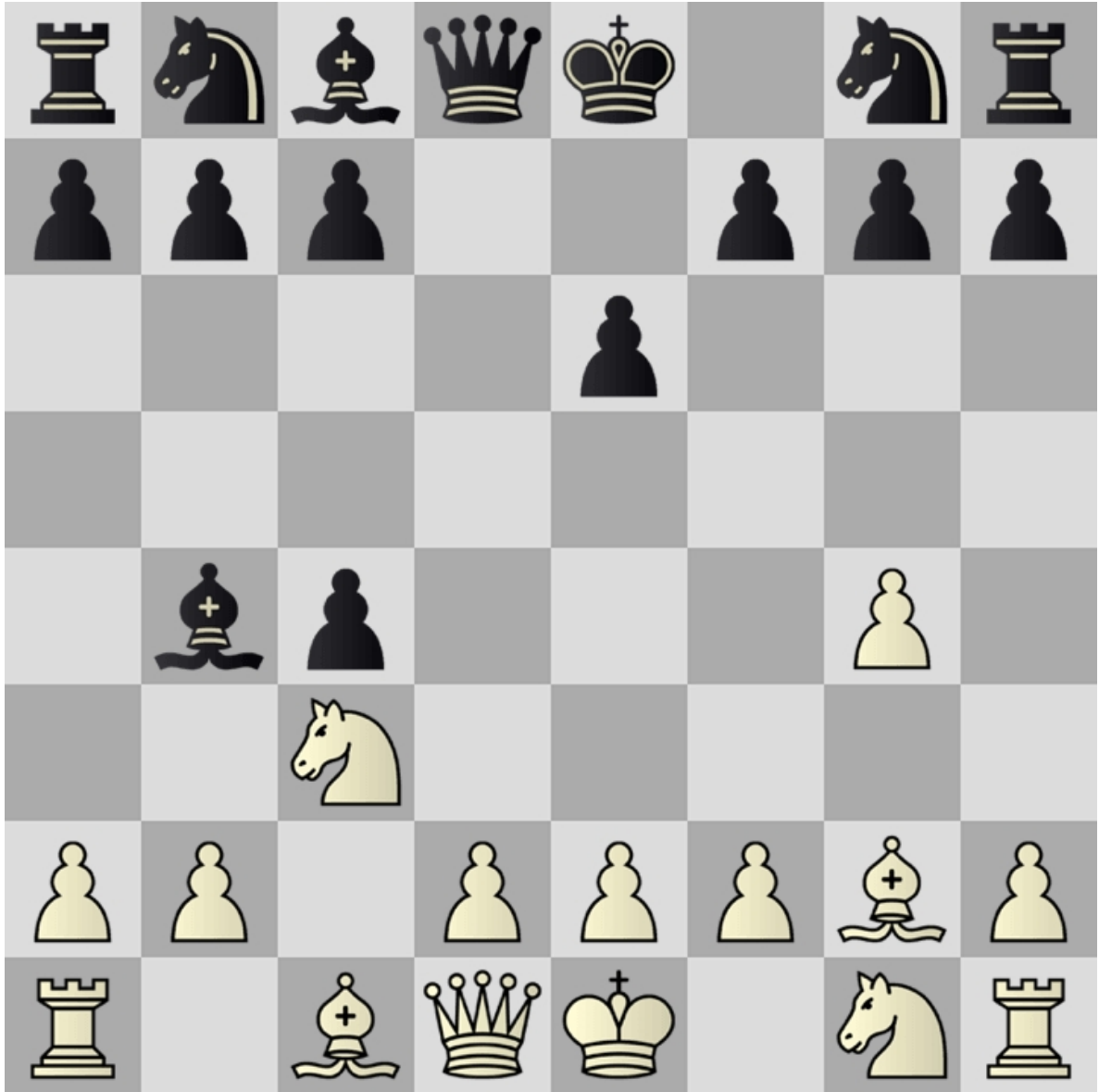
Grob Opening

1. g4 e6 2. ♖g2 d5 3. c4 dxc4 4. ♗c3 ♖b4

White to move

27.

1. g4 e6 2. ♖g2 d5 3. c4 dxc4 4. ♔c3 ♗b4?? *Not sensing the danger.*



Solution: 5. ♗a4+! ♔c6 *does not save the Bishop.* 6. ♗xc6+! bxc6 7. ♗xb4

28.

Indian Game

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c3 e5 3. dxe5 ♘g4 4. ♘f3 d6 5. exd6 ♗xd6 6. h3

Black to move

28.

1. d4 ♖f6 2. c3 e5 3. dxe5 ♗g4 4. ♖f3 d6 5. exd6 ♘xd6 6. h3?? (6. ♗bd2
And White is doing more than fine.) (6. ♘f4!? ♘xf4 7. ♚a4+ c6 8. ♚xf4 ♚b6
This line is a bit unclear.)



Solution: 6... ♗xf2! 7. ♚xf2 ♘g3+ 8. ♚xg3 ♚xd1 Black wins the Queen.

29.

Italian Game: Knight Attack, Polerio, Bishop Check Line, 6...c6 7.dxc6 bxc6

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖c4 ♗f6 4. ♗g5 d5 5. exd5 ♗a5 6. ♖b5+ c6 7.
dxc6 bxc6 8. ♖d3 h6 9. ♗f3

Black to move

29.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♜c4 ♖f6 4. ♖g5 d5 5. exd5 ♖a5 6. ♜b5+ c6 7. dxc6 bxc6 8. ♜d3 h6 9. ♖f3 (9. ♖e4! Riazantsev - Sokolov, (1-0, 2014), blocking the e-pawn.)



Solution: 9... e4! *The pawn says hello to the Knight and Bishop.* 10. ♜e2 *Does not help here because of ♜e7.* 11. ♜xe4 ♖xe4 or ♜xe4.

30.

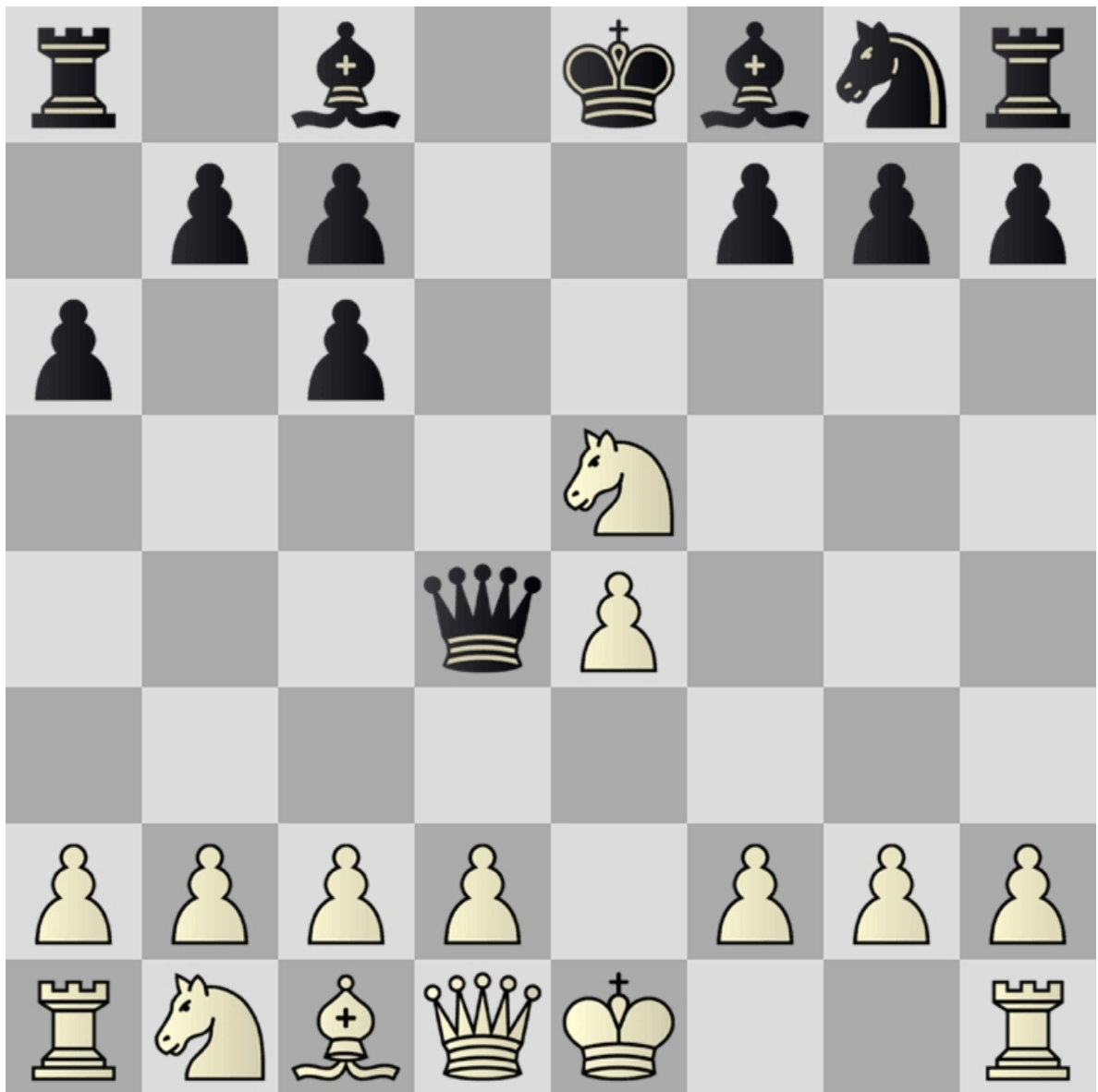
Ruy López Opening: Morphy Defense, Exchange Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 a6 4. ♖xc6 dxc6 5. ♗xe5 ♔d4

White to move

30.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♗b5 a6 4. ♗xc6 dxc6 5. ♖xe5 ♜d4



Solution: 6. ♖f3 No need to get creative with ♖xf7, which has been played more than 3000 times on Lichess. (6. ♖xf7?? ♜xe4+ 7. ♜e2 ♜xe2+ 8. ♜xe2 ♜xf7) (6. ♖d3?! Is blocking the e-pawn after 6... ♜xe4+ 7. ♜e2 ♜xe2+

8. ♜xe2) (6. ♖g4 ♜xe4+ 7. ♖e3 Is an acceptable solution her too.) 6... ♜xe4+ 7. ♜e2 ♜xe2+ 8. ♜xe2 Black is a pawn up.

31.

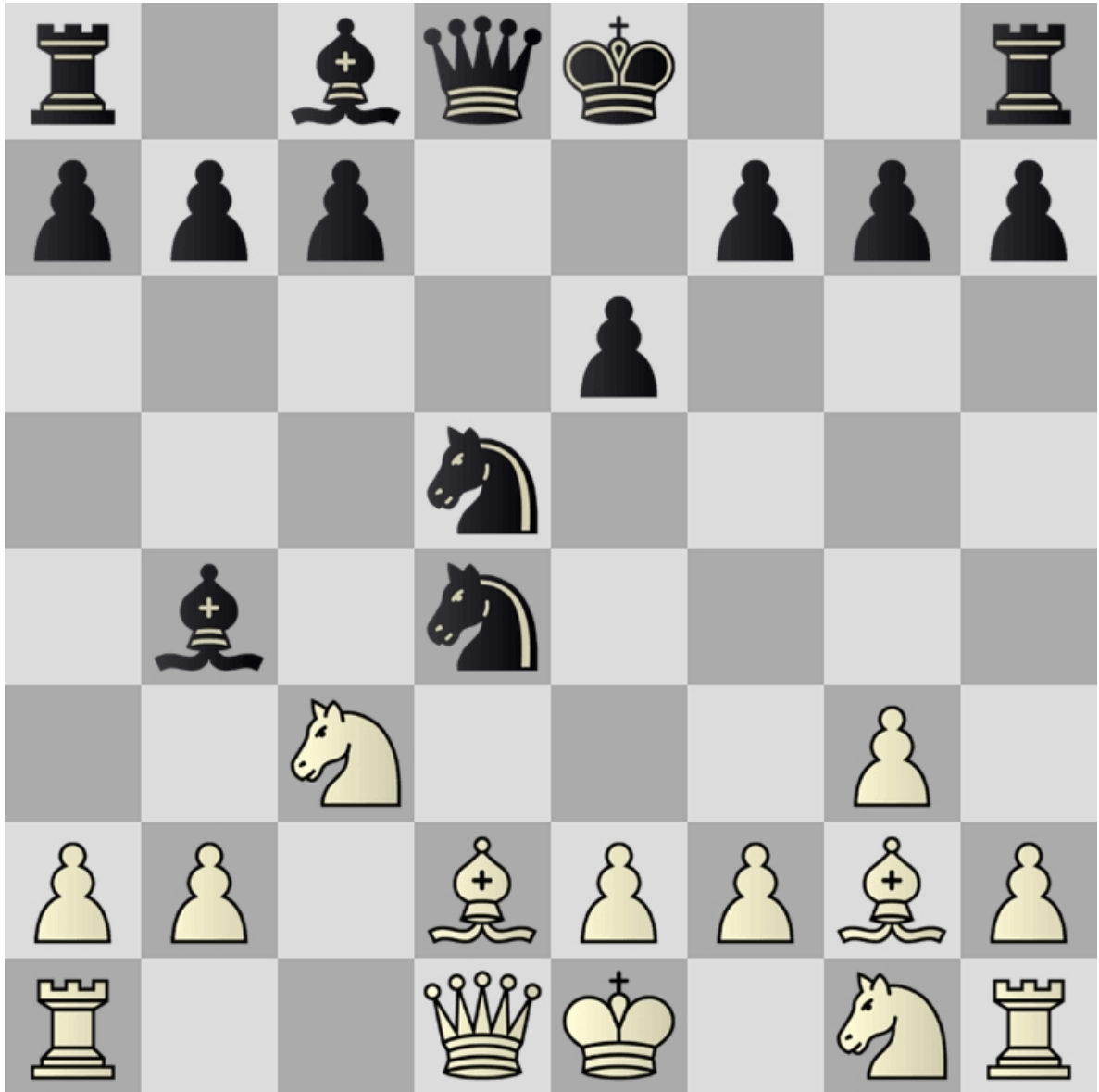
Queen's Gambit Declined: Marshall Defense

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 d5 3. cxd5 ♘xd5 4. g3 ♘c6 5. ♖g2 e6 6. ♘c3 ♖b4 7.
♖d2 ♘xd4

White to move

31.





1. d4 ♖f6 2. c4 d5 3. cxd5 ♖xd5 4. g3 ♖c6 5. ♙g2 e6 6. ♖c3 ♙b4 7. ♙d2 ♖xd4?? (7... ♖xc3 *Would be a better way to play.* 8. bxc3 ♙d6)



Solution: 8. ♖xd5! *Black is going to lose a piece.* 8... ♙xd2+ (8... exd5 9. ♙xb4) 9. ♙xd2 ♖c6 (9... exd5 10. ♙xd4)

32.

English Opening: Caro-Kann Defensive System

1.  f3 c6 2. e3 d5 3. c4  g4 4. cxd5 cxd5 5.  a4+  d7

White to move

32.

1. ♖f3 c6 2. e3 d5 3. c4 ♟g4 4. cxd5 cxd5 5. ♜a4+ ♜d7
(5... ♟d7 *Would be the way to defend here.*)



Solution: 6. ♟b5! ♖c6 7. ♖e5 ♜e6 (7... ♖xe5 8. ♟xd7+ ♟xd7 *White is winning.*) 8. ♖xc6 bxc6 9. ♟xc6+ *White wins the Rook.*

33.

French Defense: Winawer, Advance, Poisoned Pawn Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♘c3 ♙b4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 ♙xc3+ 6. bxc3 ♚c7 7. ♚g4
♘e7 8. ♚xg7 ♖g8 9. ♚xh7 cxd4 10. ♘f3

Black to move

33.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♖c3 ♟b4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 ♟xc3+ 6. bxc3 ♜c7 7. ♜g4 ♜e7 8. ♜xg7 ♞g8 9. ♜xh7 cxd4 10. ♜f3?? (10. ♜e2 *Protects the c3-pawn.*)



Solution: 10... ♜xc3+! 11. ♜d2 ♜xa1

34.

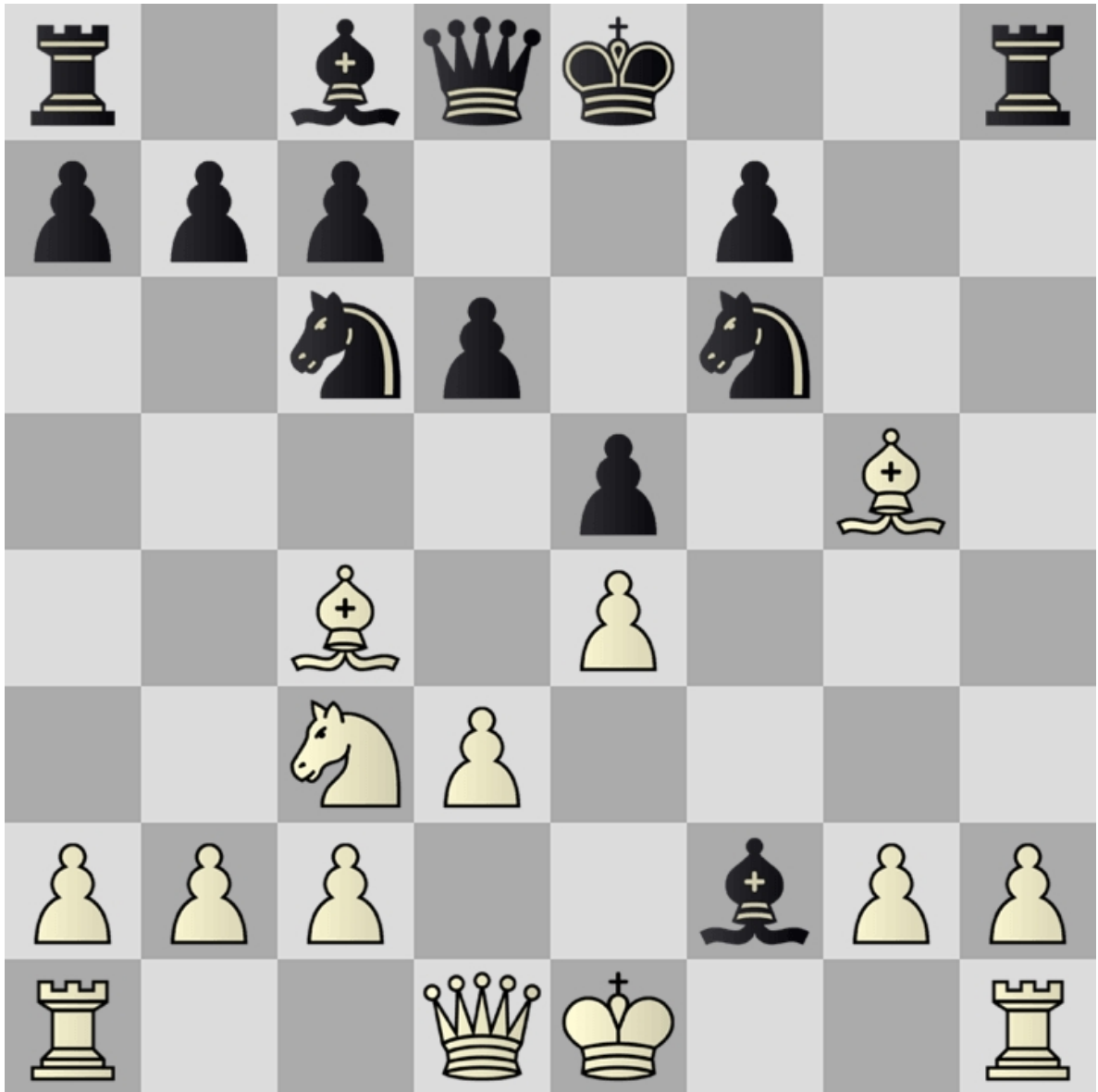
Giuoco Piano Game: Giuoco Pianissimo, Italian Four Knights, Canal Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 ♞c6 3. ♟f3 ♟f6 4. ♟c3 ♖c5 5. d3 d6 6. ♖g5 h6 7. ♖h4
g5 8. ♟xg5 hxg5 9. ♖xg5 ♖xf2+

White to move

34.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 ♘c6 3. ♙f3 ♙f6 4. ♙c3 ♖c5 5. d3 d6 6. ♗g5 h6 7. ♗h4 g5 8. ♙xg5 hxg5 9. ♗xg5 ♗xf2+? Played in 239 games on Lichess. (9... ♜g8 Mohammadi, A. - Antonsen, M., 0-1, 2016, with a good game for Black.)



Solution: 10. ♙xf2 ♙g4+ 11. ♗xg4! (11. ♙e1?? Any King move and the Bishop is lost. 11... ♗xg5) 11... ♗xg4 12. ♗xd8 ♜xd8 White enjoys a better position with a pawn in the bag and can continue with 13. ♙d5 with threats against c7 and ♙f6 forking the Bishop.

35.

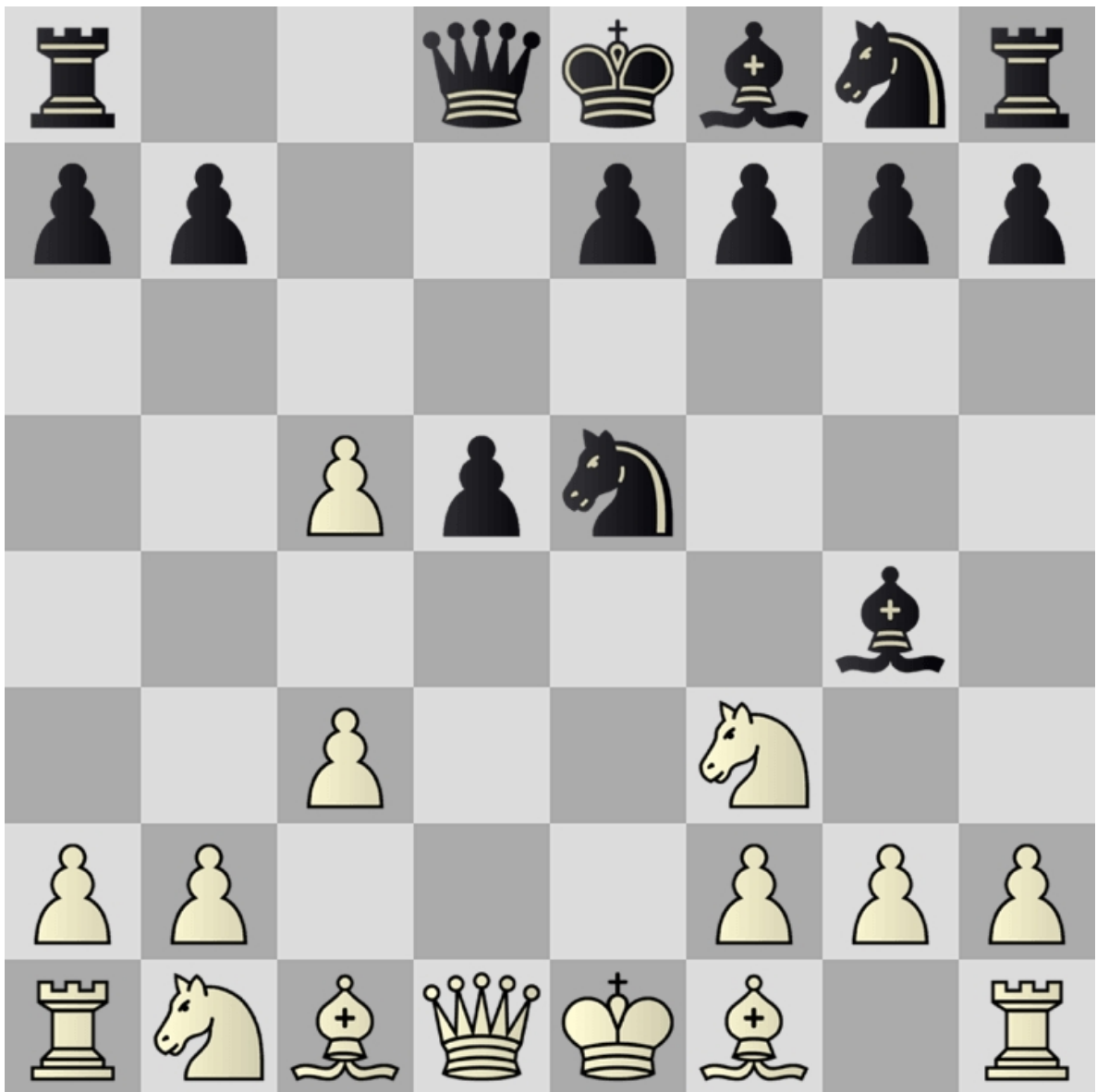
Caro-Kann Defense: Advance, Botvinnik-Carls Defense

1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 ♞c6 5. dxc5 ♞xe5 6. ♞f3 ♠g4

White to move

35.








1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 ♖c6 5. dxc5 ♗xe5 6. ♗f3 ♘g4



Solution: 7. ♗xe5! (7. ♘e2 *A good share of players miss the chance and play this move.*) 7... ♘xd1 8. ♘b5+ ♜d7 9. ♘xd7+ (9. ♗xd7 *Also works.*) 9... ♜d8

36.

Sicilian Defense: Open

1. e4 c5 2.  f3  c6 3. d4 cxd4 4.  xd4  xd4 5.  xd4 d6 6.  c4  f6 7.
e5 dxe5

White to move

36.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖xd4 5. ♘xd4 d6 6. ♗c4 ♖f6
 7. e5 dxe5?? *Always look out for this trick! (7... ♘a5+ 8. ♖c3 dxe5 now the trick does not work anymore.)*



Solution: 8. ♗xf7+! ♘xf7 9. ♘xd8

37.

Philidor Defense

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. b3 g6 4. ♖b2 ♗g7 5. d4 exd4 6. ♘xd4 c5

White to move

37.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. b3 g6 4. ♜b2 ♜g7 5. d4 exd4 6. ♕xd4 c5? (6... ♖f6
With a fine position for Black.)



Solution: 7. ♕c6! (7. ♕e6? Fails because 7... ♚a5+ 8. b4 ♚xb4+ 9. ♕d2 ♜xb2 10. ♕c7+ ♚d8 11. ♕xa8 ♜c3! And Black is better. (11... ♜xa1 Is not as strong, because of 12. ♚xa1 ♚d4 13. c3)) 7... ♜xb2 8. ♕xd8 ♚xd8 9. ♕d2 ♜xa1 10. ♚xa1 ♖f6 White has a Queen for a Rook and Knight. The Black King is however an easy target and Stockfish says +6 for White here.

38.

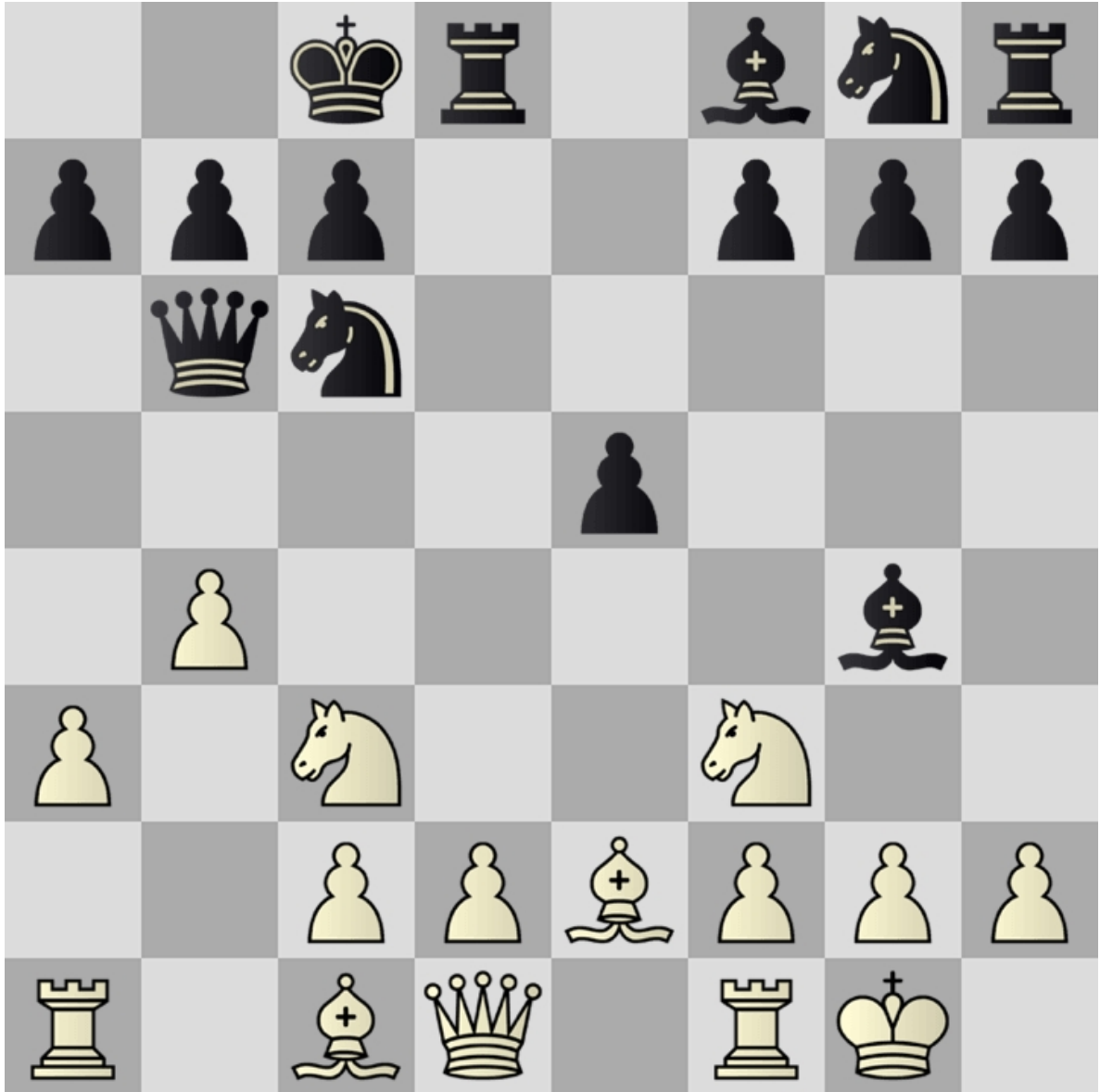
Scandinavian Defense: Mieses-Kotrč, Main Line

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♚xd5 3. ♞c3 ♚a5 4. ♞f3 ♞g4 5. ♞e2 ♞c6
6. O-O O-O-O 7. a3 e5 8. b4 ♚b6

White to move

38.

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♖xd5 3. ♔c3 ♜a5 4. ♘f3 ♙g4 5. ♚e2 ♘c6 6. O-O O-O-O 7. a3 e5 8. b4 ♜b6 (8... ♙xb4! 9. ♙b2 ♙d6)



Solution: 9. ♔a4! *The Queen now looks around and sees it is trapped.*

39.

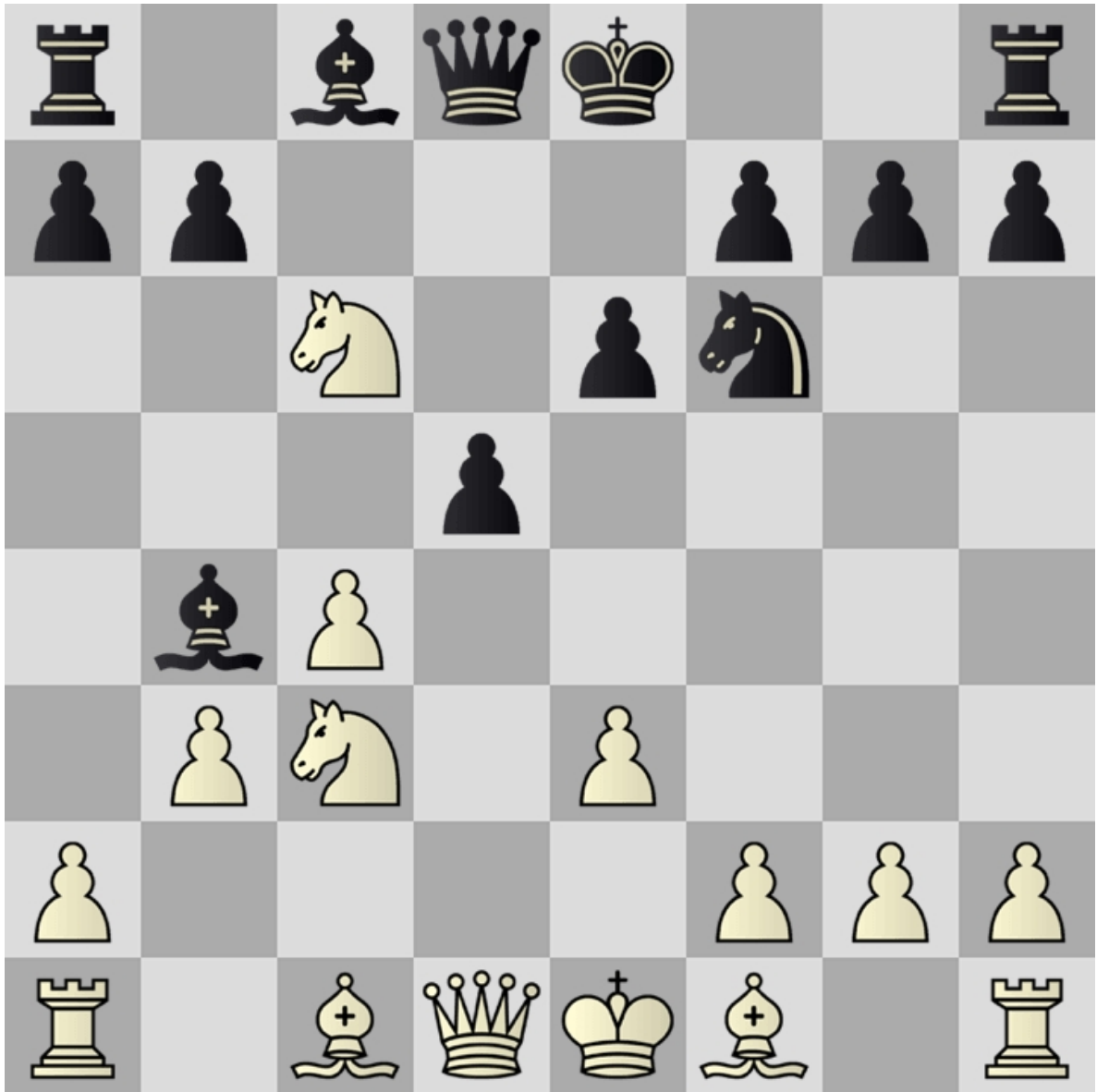
Tarrasch Defense: Symmetrical Variation

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3 ♘f6 4. ♘f3 c5 5. e3 ♘c6 6. b3 cxd4 7. ♘xd4
♙b4 8. ♘xc6

Black to move

39.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♖c3 ♗f6 4. ♗f3 c5 5. e3 ♖c6 6. b3 cxd4 7. ♗xd4 ♘b4 8. ♗xc6?? *White forgot about the capture with check. (8. ♘b2 The most played move here.)*



Solution: 8... ♘xc3+! 9. ♘d2 ♘xd2+ (9... ♘xa1?? 10. ♗xd8) 10. ♗xd2 bxc6

40.

Russian Game: Three Knights Game

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. ♘c3 ♗c5 4. d4 exd4 5. ♘xd4 O-O 6. ♗e3

Black to move

40.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♗c3 ♘c5 4. d4 exd4 5. ♗xd4 O-O 6. ♘e3



Solution: 6... d5, d6, ♜e8 or ♘b4 are fine moves to play.

(6... ♗c6?? This is the move to avoid due to 7. ♗xc6 attacking the Queen.

7... bxc6 (7... dxc6 8. ♘xc5) 8. ♘xc5)

41.

Scandinavian Defense: Modern Variation

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♘f6 3. ♗f3 ♙g4 4. ♖c3 ♗xd5 5. ♗xd5 ♚xd5 6. ♙e2
♗c6 7. d4 O-O-O 8. c3 e5 9. dxe5 ♗xe5 10. ♗xe5

Black to move

41.

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♖f6 3. ♗f3 ♜g4 4. ♗c3 ♗xd5 5. ♗xd5 ♜xd5 6. ♞e2 ♗c6 7. d4 O-O-O 8. c3 e5 9. dxe5? ♗xe5?! (9... ♜e4! *The Rook attacks the Queen.* 10. ♗d2 (10. ♜b3 ♗xe5!) 10... ♞xe2 11. ♜xe2 ♜xg2 12. ♖f1 ♗xe5 13. ♜xe5 ♞a3 14. ♜f5+) 10. ♗xe5?? (10. ♜xd5 ♖xd5 11. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 12. ♞e3 *Black only enjoys a slight advantage.*)



Solution: 10... ♜xd1+ 11. ♞xd1 ♖xd1#

42.

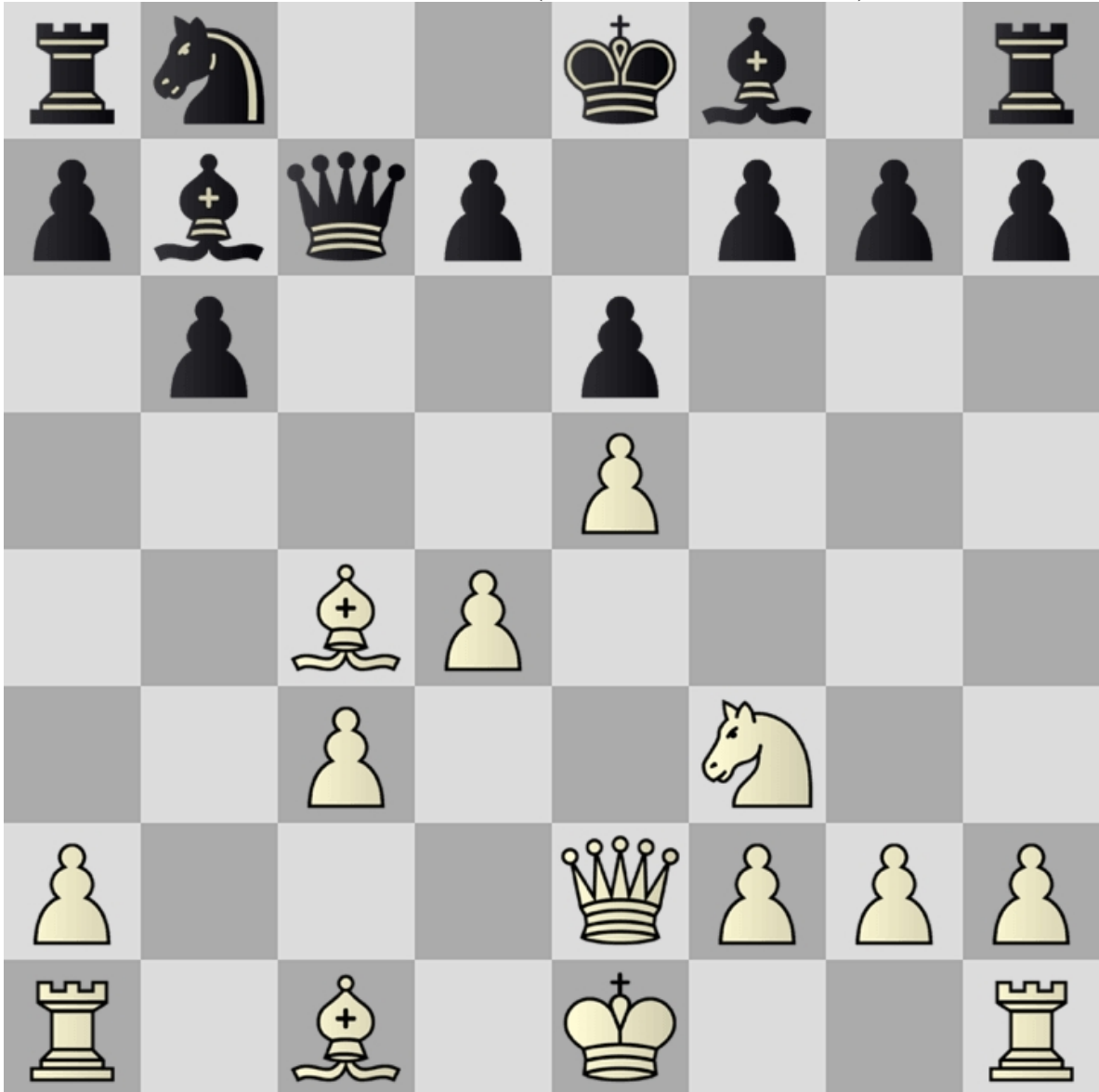
Sicilian Defense: Alapin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 ♘f6 4. e5 ♘d5 5. cxd4 e6 6. ♘f3 b6
7. ♗c4 ♗b7 8. ♘c3 ♘xc3 9. bxc3 ♖c7 10. ♖e2

Black to move

42.

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 ♘f6 4. e5 ♘d5 5. cxd4 e6 6. ♘f3 b6 7. ♙c4 ♙b7
8. ♘c3 ♘xc3 9. bxc3 ♚c7 10. ♚e2 (10. ♚d3 b5 11. ♙xb5)



Solution: 10... b5! *Exploiting the weakness on c3.* (10... ♙xf3 11. ♚xf3
♚xc4 12. ♚xa8 ♚xc3+ 13. ♚e2 ♚c8 *Does not achieve much for Black.*) 11.
♙xb5 ♚xc3+

43.

French Defense: Advance, Paulsen Attack

1. e4 e6 2. ♘f3 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 ♘c6 5. d4 cxd4
6. cxd4 ♙b4+ 7. ♘c3 ♘ge7 8. ♙d3 ♙d7 9. O-O O-O

White to move

43.

1. e4 e6 2. ♖f3 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 ♖c6 5. d4 cxd4 6. cxd4 ♙b4+ 7. ♖c3 ♖ge7 8. ♙d3 ♙d7 9. O-O It says something that the most played move in this position is a blunder. 9... O-O?? (9... ♙xc3 10. bxc3 Herrstrom, T. - Hogberg, J., (1-0, 1997).



Solution: 10. ♙xh7+ ♚xh7 11. ♖g5+ ♙g6 12. ♖e2! Extra points if you spotted this move. Only found in 2 games out of 106 on Lichess! It is now mate in 11 moves for White and f5 does not work due to ♖f4+ ♙xg5 ♚h5# (12. ♙g4 is what most people play here and works as well. 12... f5 13. ♚h4 (13. exf6 Not as strong +1.7 by Stockfish 13... ♙xf6 14. ♖e1) 13... ♖h8 14. ♙g3 f4

15. ♔g4 ♔g8 *White is winning.*) 12... ♖xd4 13. ♖f4+ ♔f5 *And the Black King is in big problems.*

44.

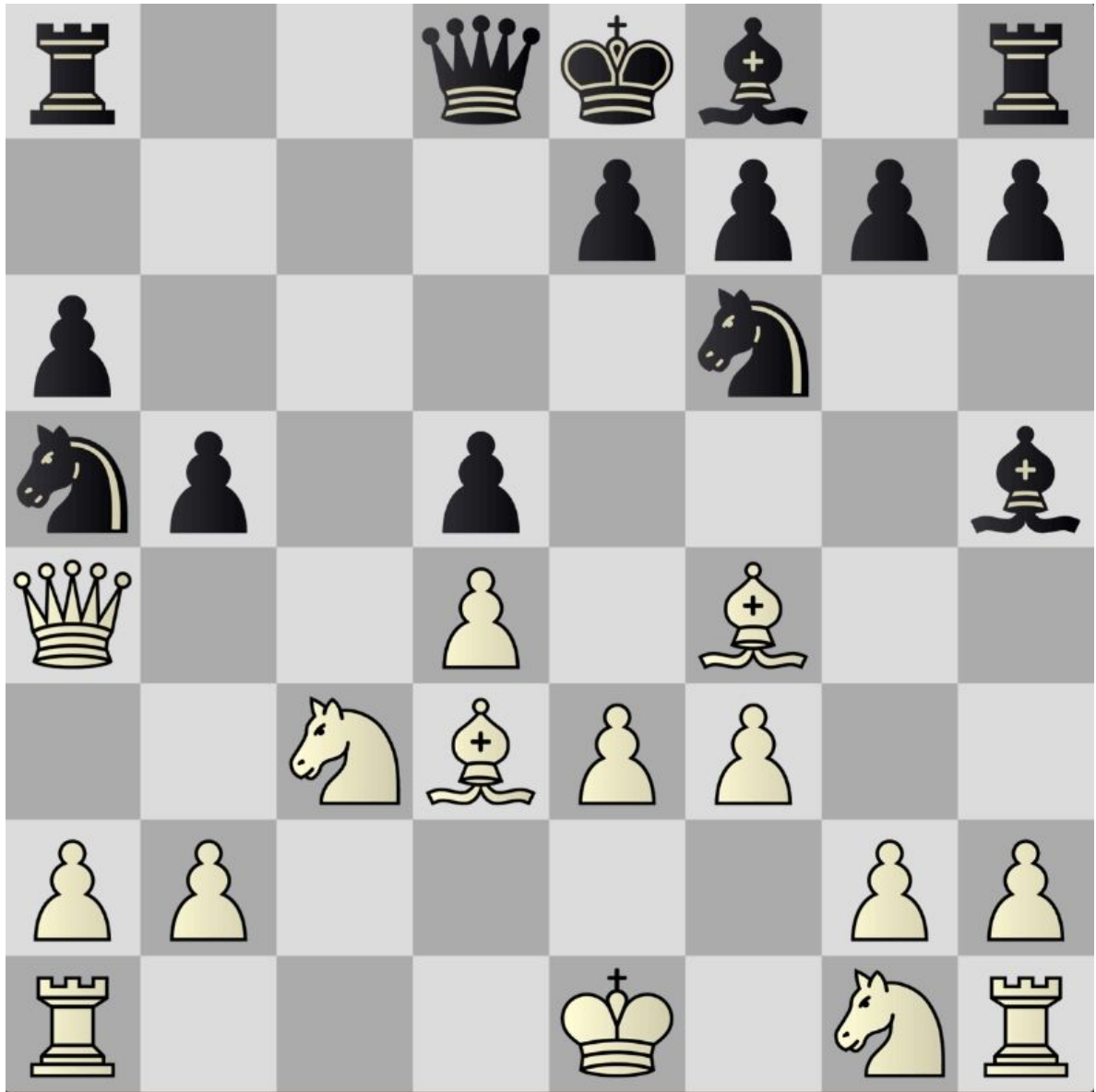
Slav Defense: Exchange Variation

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. ♘c3 ♘f6 5. ♖f4 ♘c6 6. e3 a6 7. ♖d3
♖g4 8. f3 ♖h5 9. ♚b3 ♘a5 10. ♚a4+ b5

White to move

44.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. cxd5 cxd5 4. ♖c3 ♜f6 5. ♙f4 ♜c6 6. e3 a6 7. ♙d3 ♙g4 8. f3 ♙h5 9. ♜b3 ♜a5 10. ♜a4+ b5?? (10... ♜c6 Bajarani, U. - Van Forest, J., (1/2-1/2, 2015).



Solution: 11. ♙xb5+! axb5 12. ♜xb5! (12. ♜xb5+? ♜d7)
12... ♜d7 (12... ♜c8 13. ♜c7#) 13. ♜c7+ ♜d8 14. ♜xd7+ ♜xd7 15. ♜xa8

45.

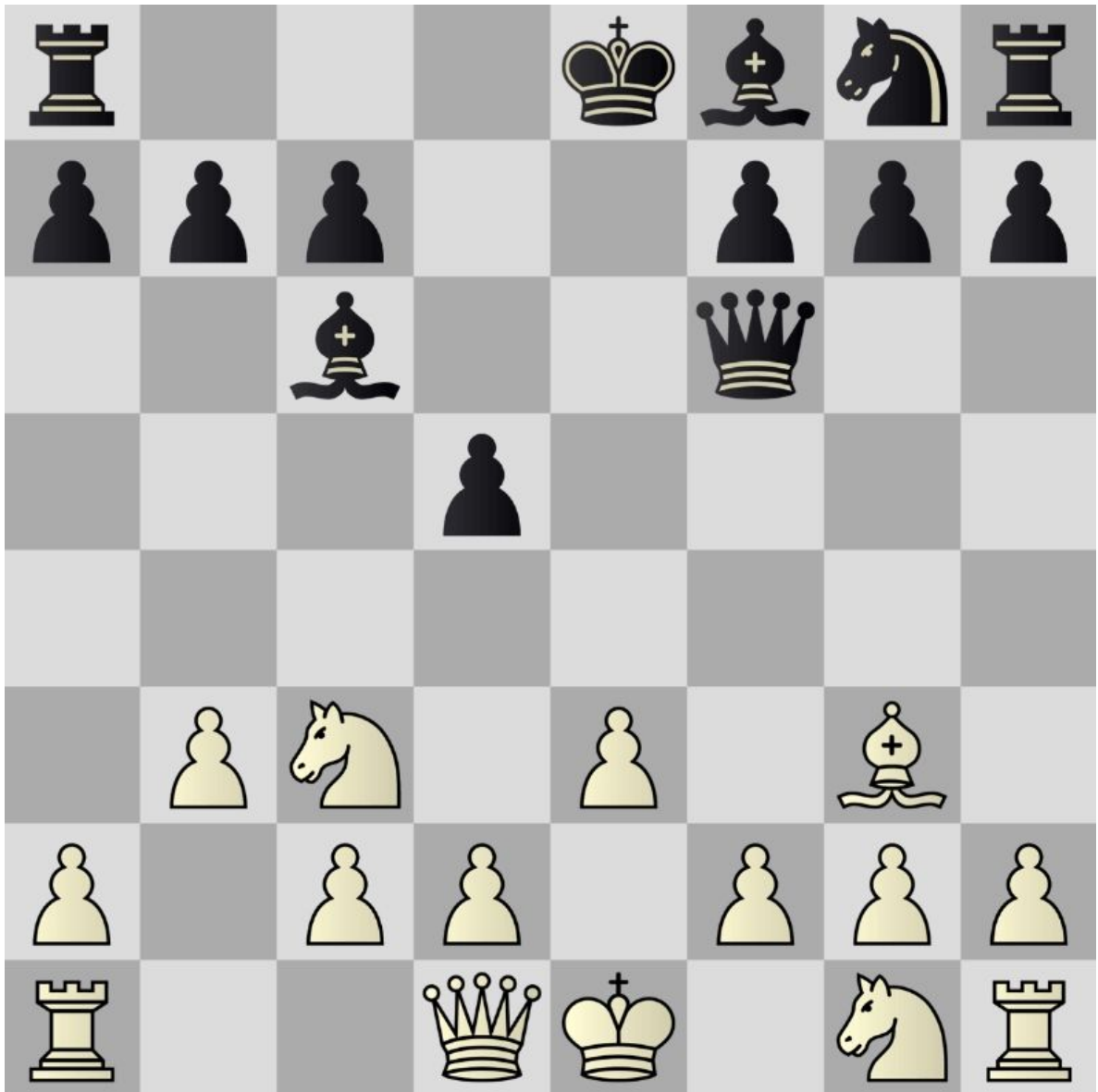
Nimzowitsch-Larsen Attack: Modern Variation

1. b3 e5 2. ♖b2 ♗c6 3. e3 d5 4. ♖b5 ♖d7 5. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 6. ♖xe5 ♔g5
7. ♖g3 ♕f6 8. ♗c3

Black to move

45.

1. b3 e5 2. ♖b2 ♜c6 3. e3 d5 4. ♖b5 ♖d7 5. ♖xc6 ♖xc6 6. ♖xe5 ♜g5
7. ♖g3 ♜f6 8. ♜c3? (8. c3 *The correct move.*)



Solution: 8... d4! *Attacking the Knight and opening up the Bishop against g2. 9. exd4 (9. e4 dxc3 10. d3) 9... ♖xg2*

46.

Scotch: Classical Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♘xd4 ♙b4+ 5. ♙d2 ♙c5
6. ♙e3

Black to move

46.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♙c6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♘xd4 ♖b4+ 5. ♕d2 ♗c5
6. ♗e3



Solution: 6... ♗f6 *The mainline, but you can also go ♖b6 . (6... ♘f6?? This mistake has been made +8000 times on Lichess. 7. ♘xc6 bxc6 (7... dxc6 8. ♗xd8+ ♗xd8 9. ♗xc5) 8. ♗xc5 White is up a Bishop.)*

47.

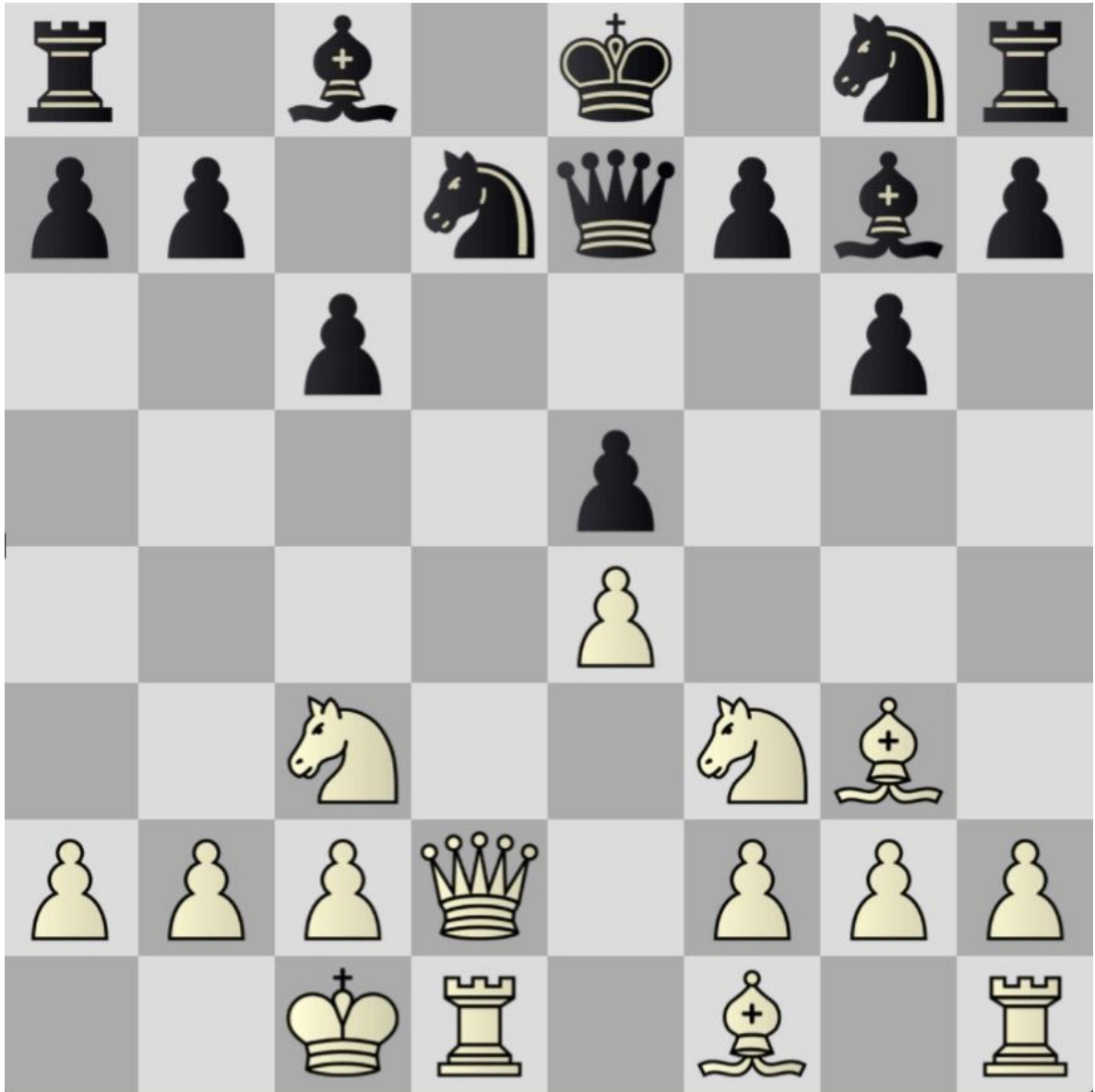
Queen's Pawn Opening: 1...d6

1. d4 d6 2. ♖f4 ♗d7 3. ♗f3 g6 4. ♗c3 ♖g7 5. ♔d2 c6 6. O-O-O e5 7.
dxe5 dxe5 8. ♖g3 ♔e7 9. e4

Black to move

47.

1. d4 d6 2. ♘f4 ♕d7 3. ♖f3 g6 4. ♖c3 ♙g7 5. ♜d2 c6 6. O-O-O e5 7. dxe5 dxe5 8. ♘g3 (8. ♖xe5! ♙xe5 9. ♙xe5 Black can't take on e5 without getting mated on d8!) 8... ♜e7 9. e4



Solution: 9... ♘h6! (9... ♖gf6 The most played move in this position missing the tactic.) 10. ♖g5 ♙xg5 11. f4 ♘h6! Black is up a piece. (11... exf4 12. ♘xf4 ♙xf4 13. ♜xf4 Also possible.)

48.

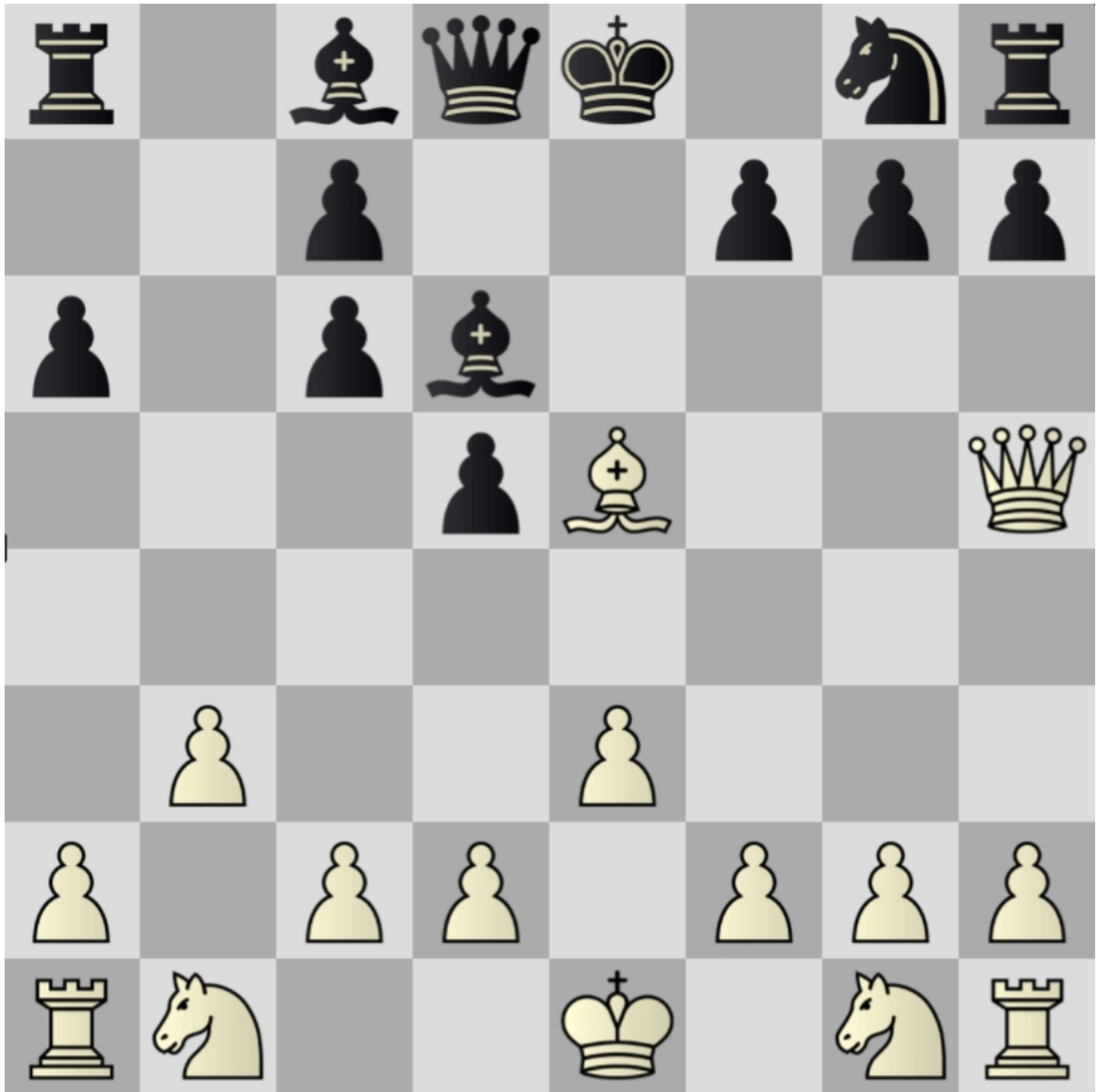
Nimzo-Larsen Attack: Classical Variation

1. b3 d5 2. e3 e5 3. ♖h5 ♞c6 4. ♞b5 ♞d6 5. ♞b2 a6 6. ♞xc6+ bxc6 7.
♞xe5

Black to move

48.

1. b3 d5 2. e3 e5 3. ♖h5 ♑c6 4. ♙b5 ♙d6 5. ♙b2 a6 6. ♙xc6+ bxc6 7. ♙xe5 (7. f4 is a better move challenging the center and trying to open the long diagonal for the Bishop.)



Solution: 7... g6! Now the Queen can't protect the Bishop anymore. 8. ♖d1 ♙xe5

49.

Reti Opening: Reti Accepted

1. ♖f3 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 b5 4. a4 c6 5. axb5 cxb5 6. b3 ♗e6 7. bxc4
♗xc4 8. ♗xc4 bxc4 9. ♔a4+ ♕d7 10. ♔xc4

Black to move

49.

1. ♖f3 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 b5 4. a4 c6 5. axb5 cxb5 6. b3 ♗e6? (6... e6 or ♖f6 would help with the development.) 7. bxc4 ♗xc4 8. ♗xc4 bxc4 9. ♘a4+ ♖d7 10. ♘xc4?? (10. ♖a3 Avoiding the tactic.)



Solution: 10... ♗c8! 11. ♘xc8 (11. ♘e2 ♗xc1+ 12. ♘d1 ♗xd1+) 11... ♘xc8

50.











Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-Tarrasch Defense

1. d4 d5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. c4 ♘f6 4. ♘c3 c5 5. dxc5 ♗xc5 6. ♖g5 d4
7. ♘e4

Black to move

51.

Russian Game

1. e4 e5 2.  f3  f6 3.  xe5  e7 4. d4 d6 5.  f3  xe4+ 6.  e2  e7 7.
 c3  g6

White to move

51.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♖xe5 ♚e7 4. d4 d6 5. ♖f3 ♚xe4+ 6. ♙e2 ♙e7 7. ♖c3 ♚g6?? (7... ♚g4 *Would be a better place for the Queen.*)



Solution: 8. ♖h4! *Suddenly the Queen is trapped!*

52.

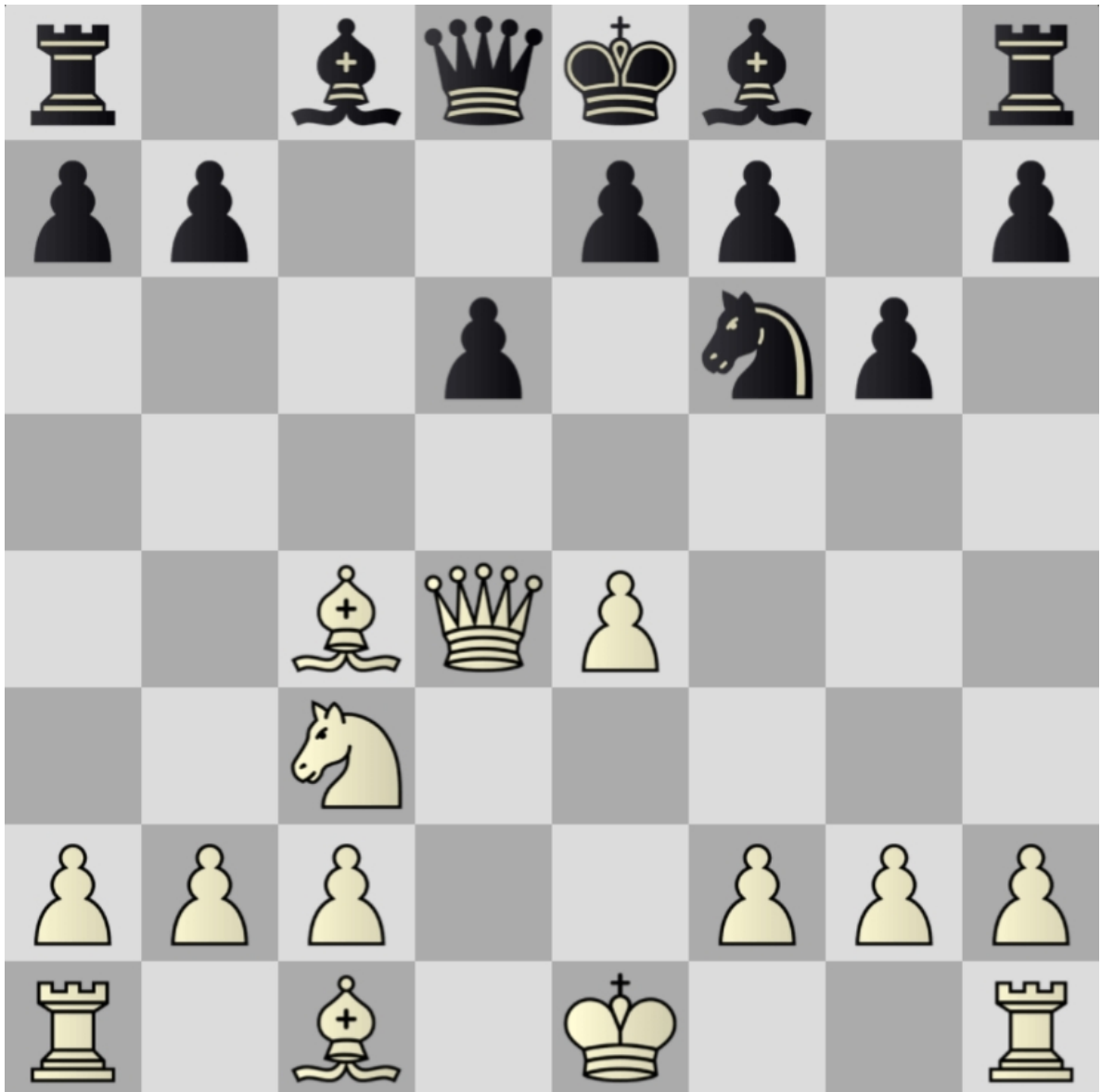
Sicilian Defense: Sozin

1. e4 c5 2. ♘c4 ♗c6 3. ♗c3 ♗f6 4. ♗f3 d6 5. d4 cxd4 6. ♗xd4 ♗xd4 7.
♔xd4 g6

White to move

52.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖c4 ♟c6 3. ♟c3 ♟f6 4. ♟f3 d6 5. d4 cxd4 6. ♟xd4 ♟xd4 7. ♜xd4 g6?? (7... e6 Suggested by Stockfish.)



Solution: 8. e5! ♟h5 9. ♖b5+! (9. g4 Also fine, but not as forcing. 9... ♟g7 10. ♖f4) (9. exd6?! Not as effective due to 9... ♖g7 10. ♖b5+ ♖d7 11. ♜a4) 9... ♖d7 10. e6 ♖xb5 (10... ♖g7 11. exd7+ ♜f8 12. ♜d5) 11. ♜xh8 White has a Rook for a Bishop + a weak Black King.

53.

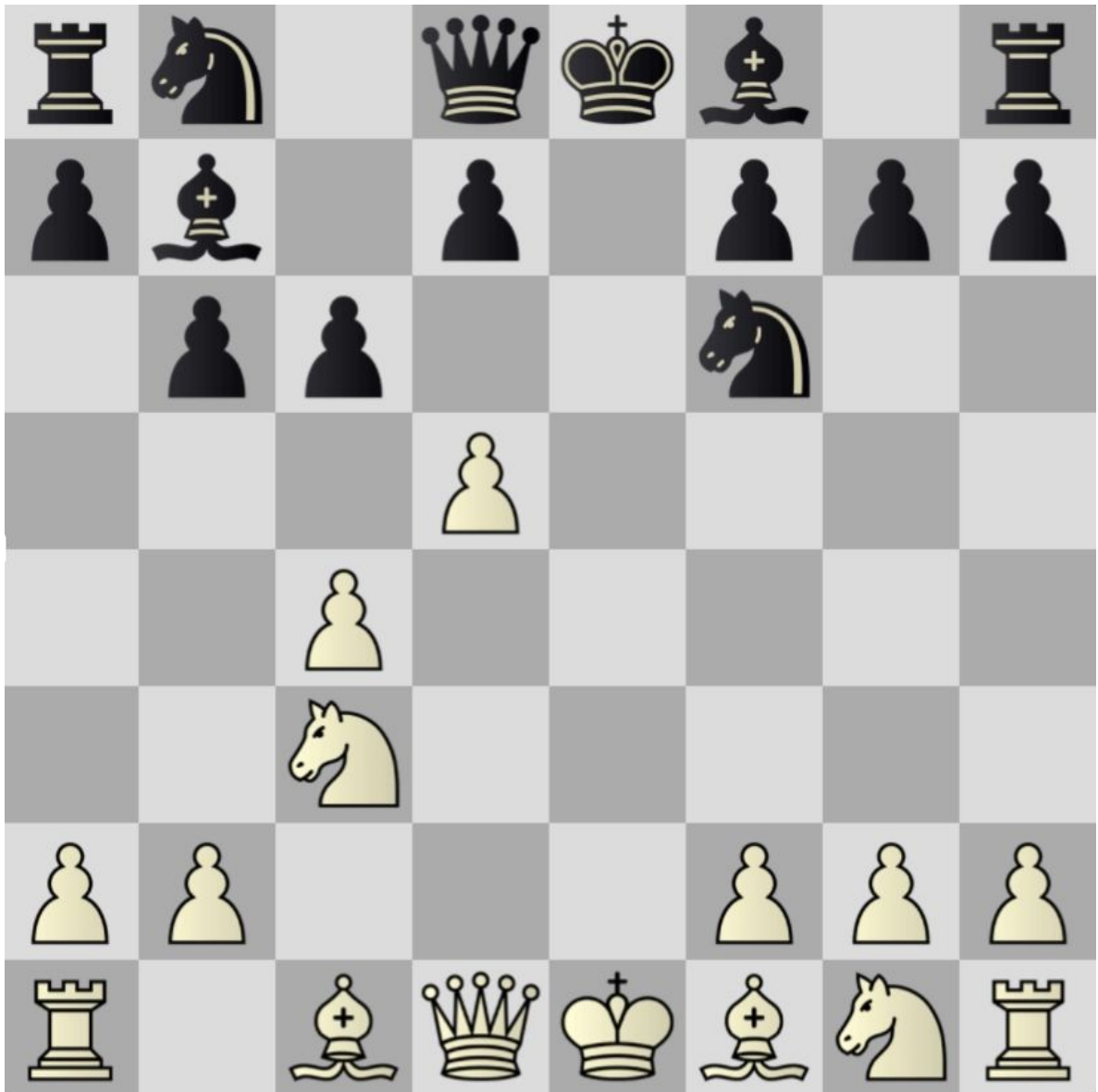
Queen's Indian Accelerated

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 b6 3. ♘c3 ♗b7 4. d5 e6 5. e4 exd5 6. exd5 c6

White to move

53.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 b6 3. ♘c3 ♗b7 4. d5 e6 5. e4 exd5 6. exd5 c6?? *Mixing up the theory in the Queen's Indian. (6... ♗b4 The mainline.)*



Solution: 7. d6! *White is asking what will you do about ♗e2+? Stockfish says you might as well just take the pawn. 7... ♗xd6 8. ♗xd6*

54.

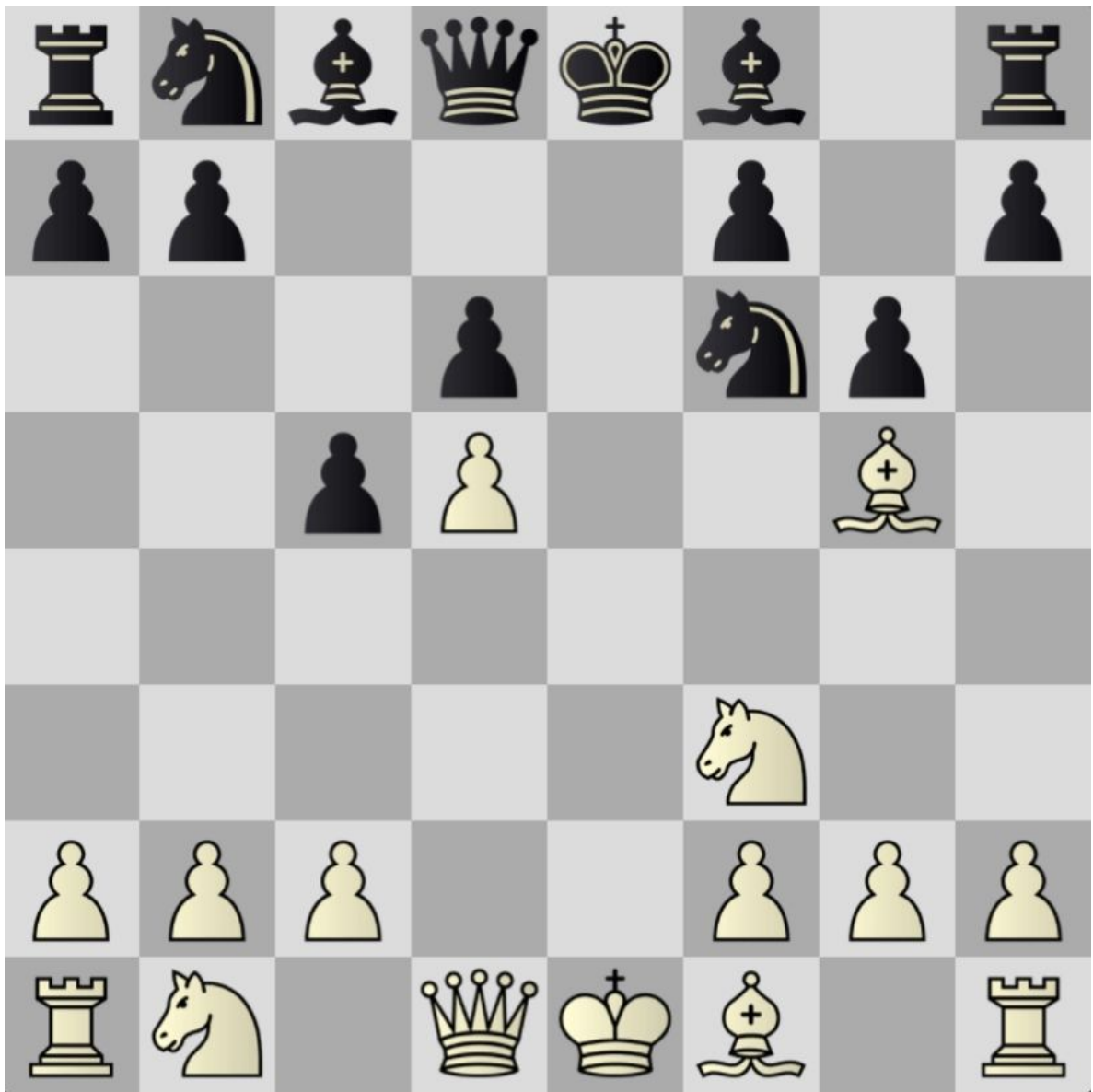
Benoni Defense: French Benoni

1. d4 c5 2. d5 e6 3. e4 exd5 4. exd5 d6 5. ♖f3 ♗f6 6. ♖g5 g6

White to move

54.

1. d4 c5 2. d5 e6 3. e4 exd5 4. exd5 d6 5. ♖f3 ♖f6 6. ♗g5 g6??



Solution: 7. ♗b5+! (7. ♖e2+ is not as strong since the King can move 7... ♖d7) 7... ♗d7 (7... ♖bd7 8. ♖e2+ ♗e7 9. ♗xf6) 8. ♖e2+ ♗e7 9. ♗xf6

55.

Blackmar-Diemer Gambit: Ryder Gambit

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. ♘c3 ♘f6 4. f3 exf3 5. ♖xf3 g6 6. ♗f4 ♖xd4

White to move

55.

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. ♖c3 ♖f6 4. f3 exf3 5. ♜xf3 g6 6. ♘f4 ♜xd4? (6... ♘g7)



Solution: 7. ♖b5! *Attacking the Queen and looking at c7* 7... ♜xb2 8. ♖xc7+ ♜d8 9. ♖d1+ ♘d7 10. ♖xa8

56.

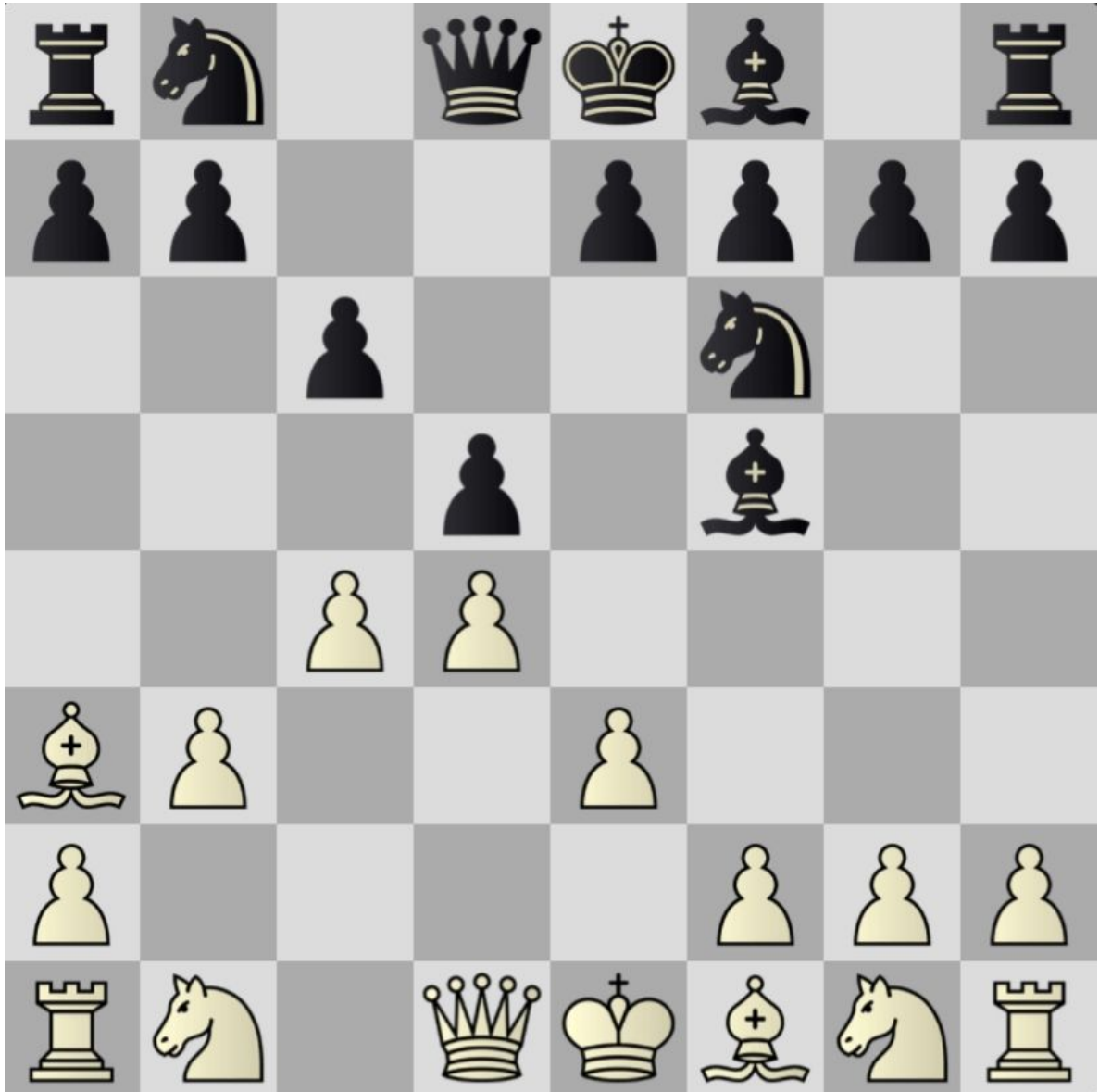
Slav Defense

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. b3 ♘f6 4. ♖a3 ♗f5 5. e3

Black to move

56.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. b3 ♖f6 4. ♙a3 ♙f5 5. e3 (5. ♖d2 *Would be a way to avoid this trick.*)



Solution: 5... ♙xb1! 6. ♖xb1 ♙a5+ 7. ♙d2 ♙xa3

57.

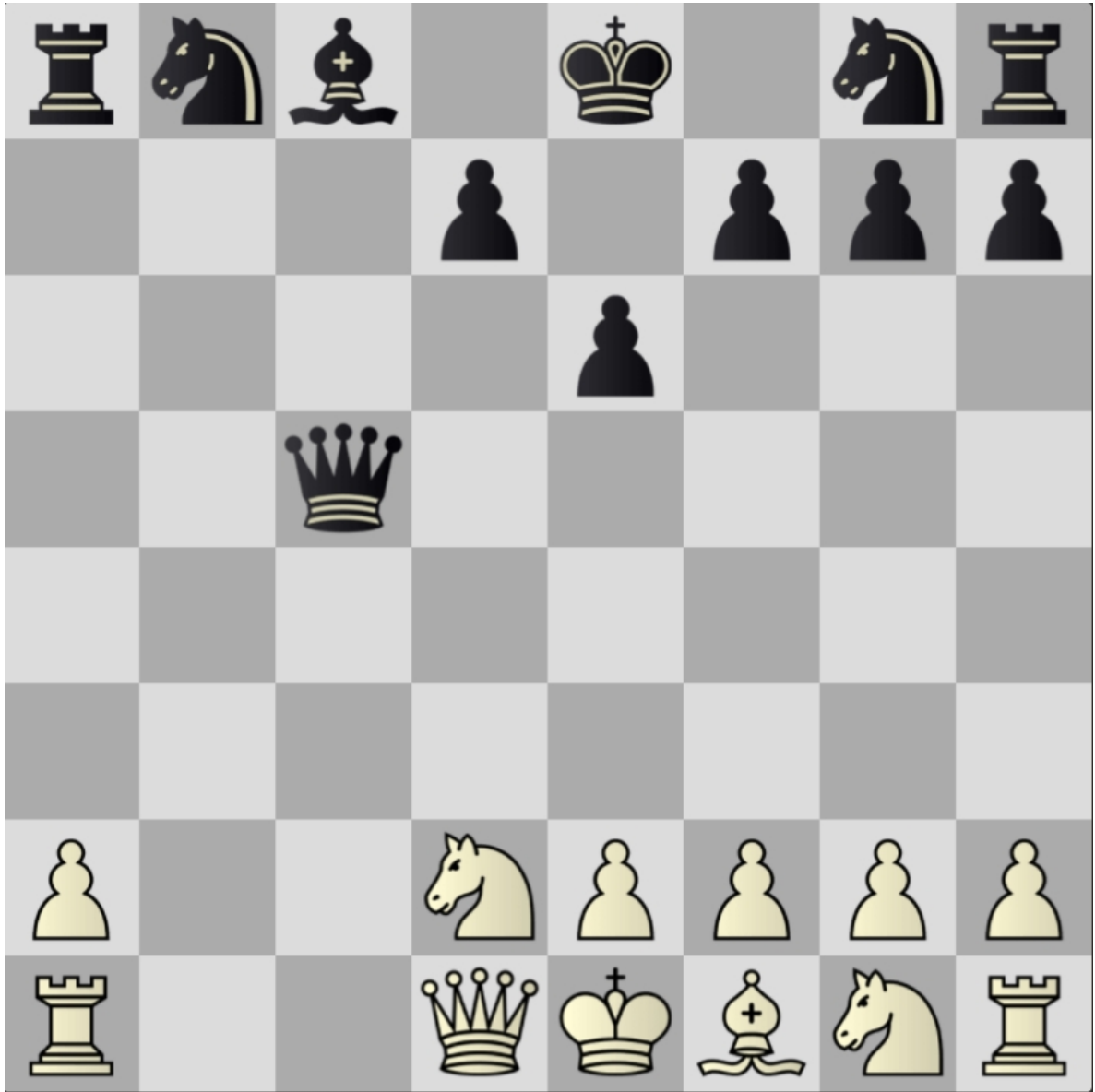
Benoni Defense: Benoni Gambit Accepted

1. d4 c5 2. dxc5 e6 3. b4 a5 4. c3 axb4 5. cxb4 b6 6. ♖e3 bxc5 7. ♖xc5
♗xc5 8. bxc5 ♔a5+ 9. ♘d2 ♔xc5

White to move

57.

1. d4 c5 2. dxc5 e6 3. b4 a5 4. c3 axb4 5. cxb4 b6 6. ♖e3 bxc5 7. ♗xc5
 ♗xc5 8. bxc5 ♜a5+ 9. ♕d2 ♜xc5?? *Watch out, the pawn is poisoned!* (9...
 ♕f6 or ♖a6.)



Solution: 10. ♜c1! *Shooting at the Queen and Bishop.* 10... ♜a7 (10...
 ♜xc1 11. ♜xc1) 11. ♜xc8+ ♜e7

58.

Russian Game: Urusov Gambit, Lichtenhein Defense

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 ♗f6 3. ♗f3 ♗xe4 4. O-O d5 5. ♖b3 ♖d6 6. ♖e1 O-O 7.
♗xd5 ♗f6 8. ♖b3

Black to move

58.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 ♗f6 3. ♗f3 ♗xe4 4. O-O d5 5. ♖b3 ♖d6 6. ♜e1 O-O 7. ♖xd5 ♗f6 8. ♖b3 (8. ♗c3 would have kept White in the game)



Solution: e4! Suddenly the Knight has to move to a dangerous square. 9. ♗g5 (9. ♗d4 Does not help White due to 9... ♖xh2+ 10. ♜xh2 ♜xd4) 9... ♖xh2+! 10. ♜xh2 (10. ♜f1 ♖g4 11. f3 exf3 12. gxf3 ♖h5 Does not look much better.) 10... ♗g4+ 11. ♜g1 ♜xg5 The White King is under attack and when Black gets the rest of the pieces into the attack it will be over.

59.

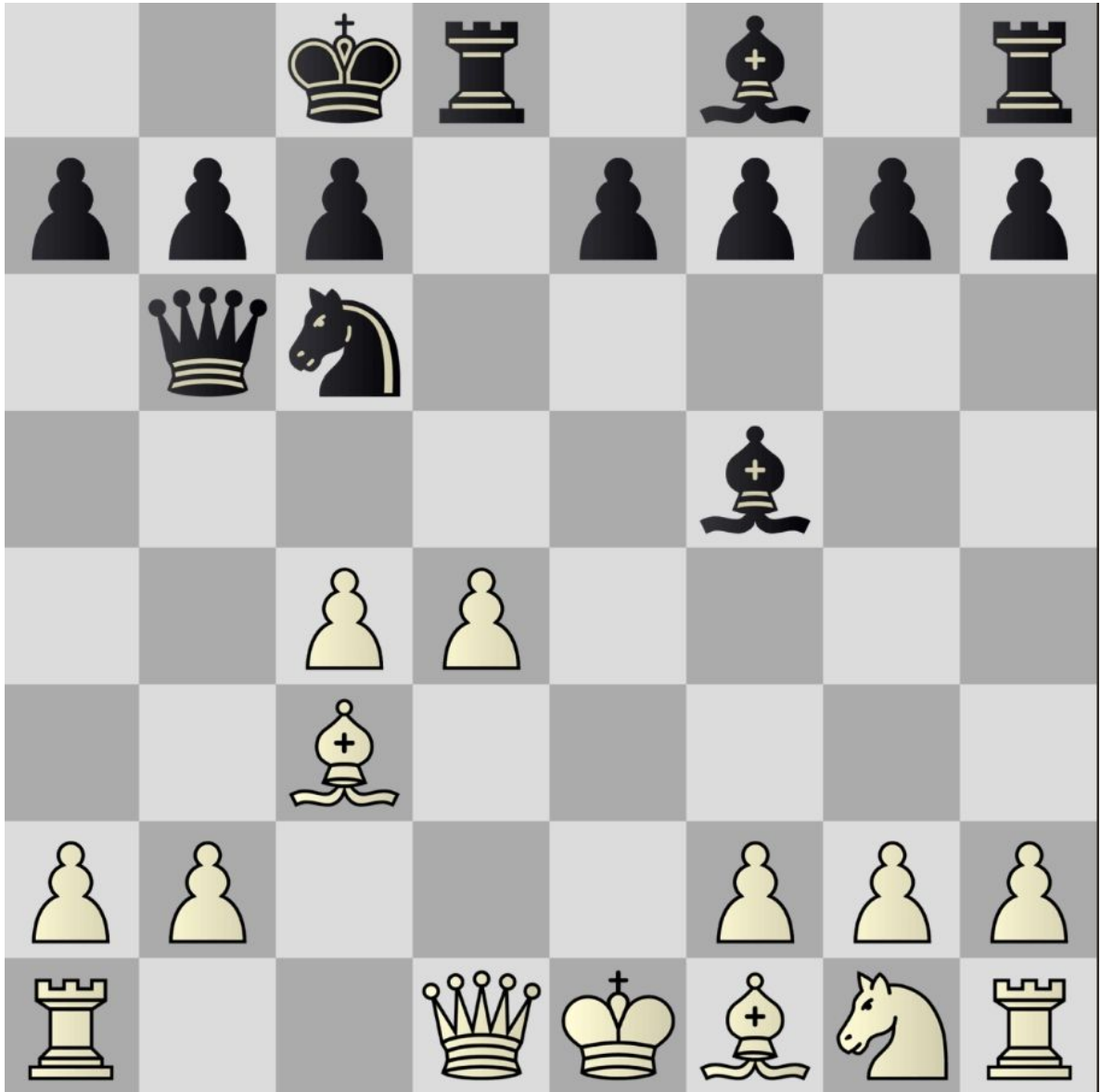
Scandinavian Defense: Modern Variation

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♘f6 3. ♘c3 ♘xd5 4. ♘xd5 ♚xd5 5. d4 ♘c6 6. ♖e3 ♗f5
7. c4 ♚a5+ 8. ♗d2 ♚b6 9. ♗c3 O-O-O

White to move

59.

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♖f6 3. ♗c3 ♖xd5 4. ♗xd5 ♘xd5 5. d4 ♗c6 6. ♙e3 ♙f5 7. c4 ♘a5+ 8. ♙d2 ♘b6 9. ♙c3 O-O-O??



Solution: 10. c5! *Traps the Queen!* 10... ♜xd4 11. ♘xd4 (11. cxb6 ♜xd1+ 12. ♜xd1 *Do not help Black.*) 11... ♗xd4 12. cxb6 ♗c6 13. bxa7 ♗xa7 *White is a Rook up.*

59.

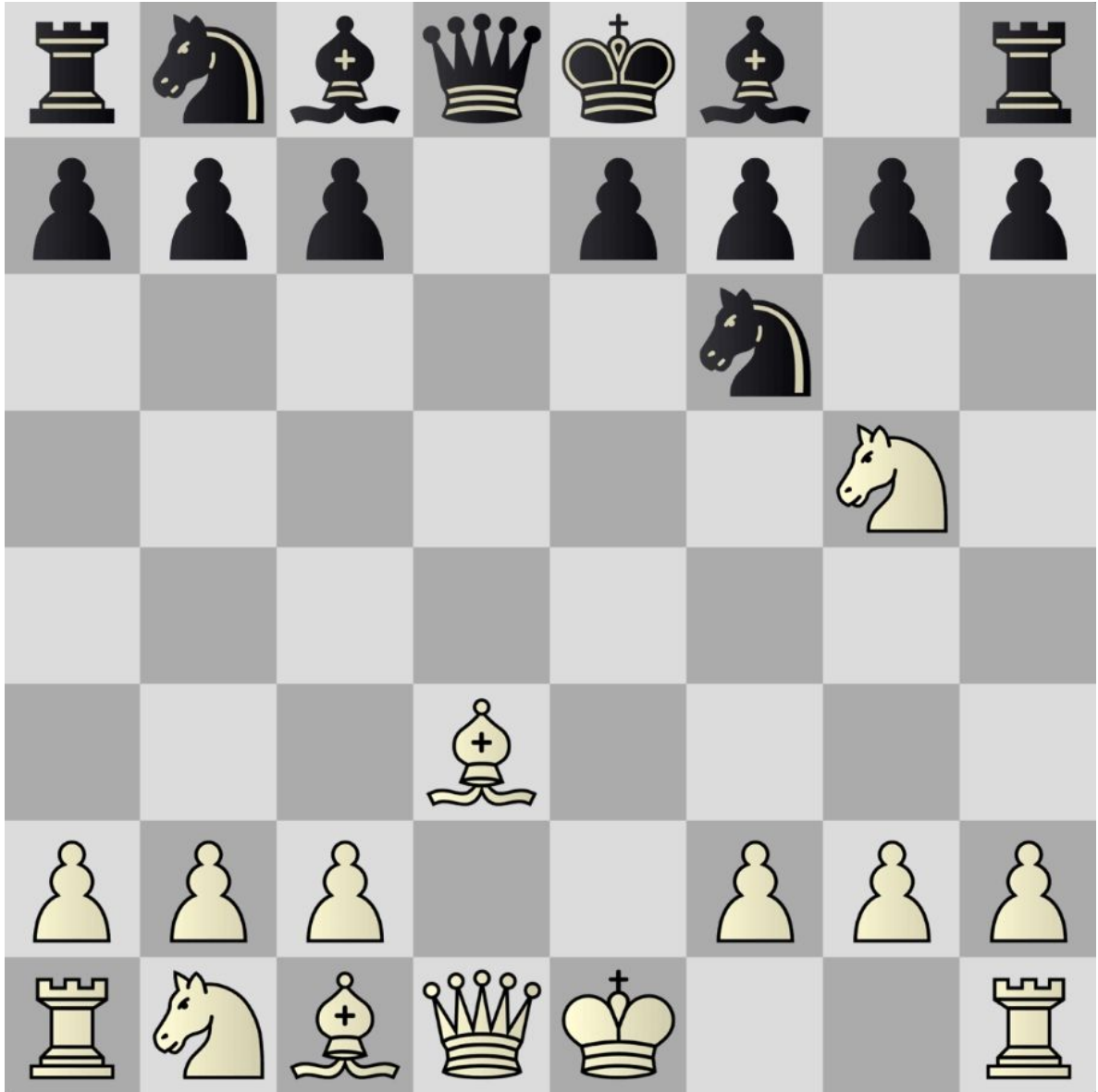
Zukertort Opening: Tennison Gambit

1. ♖f3 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. ♖g5 ♖f6 4. d3 exd3 5. ♗xd3

Black to move

59.

1. ♖f3 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. ♗g5 ♖f6 4. d3 exd3 5. ♘xd3



Solution: 5... ♖c6 or e6, ♘d7, and ♗bd7 would all be fine here. (5... h6?? Walks into a trap! h6 is actually the most played move in this position on Lichess (+23000 times). 6. ♖xf7! ♗xf7 7. ♗g6+ ♗xg6 8. ♗xd8)

60.

Caro-Kann Defense

1. e4 c6 2. f4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. ♘f3 ♘c6 5. d4 ♗g4 6. ♗d3 ♘xd4

White to move

60.

1. e4 c6 2. f4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. ♖f3 ♖c6 5. d4 ♙g4 6. ♙d3 ♖xd4?? (6... ♙xf3 *Black is slightly better.*)



Solution: 7. ♖xd4! ♙xd1 (7... ♖f6 8. ♙xg4 ♖xg4 9. ♙b5+) 8. ♙b5+ ♙d7 9. ♙xd7+ ♙xd7 10. ♙xd1 *Now White is up a Knight.*

61.

Russian Game: Urusov Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. ♖c4 ♖c5 4. ♘xe5 O-O 5. f3

Black to move

61.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♘c4 ♘c5 4. ♖xe5 O-O 5. f3?? (5. d4 Ponkratov, P. - Ovodenko, I. (1-0, 2003).



Solution: 5... ♖xe4! *The opening to the King on f2 is deadly for White.* 6. fxe4 (6. d4 ♖h4+ 7. ♖f1 (7. g3 ♖xg3 8. hxg3 ♖xh1+) 7... ♖f2#) 6... ♖h4+ 7. g3 (7. ♖e2 ♖f2+ 8. ♖d3 ♖d4+ 9. ♖e2 ♖xe4+ 10. ♖f1 ♖xe5) 7... ♖xe4+ 8. ♖e2 ♖xh1+

62.

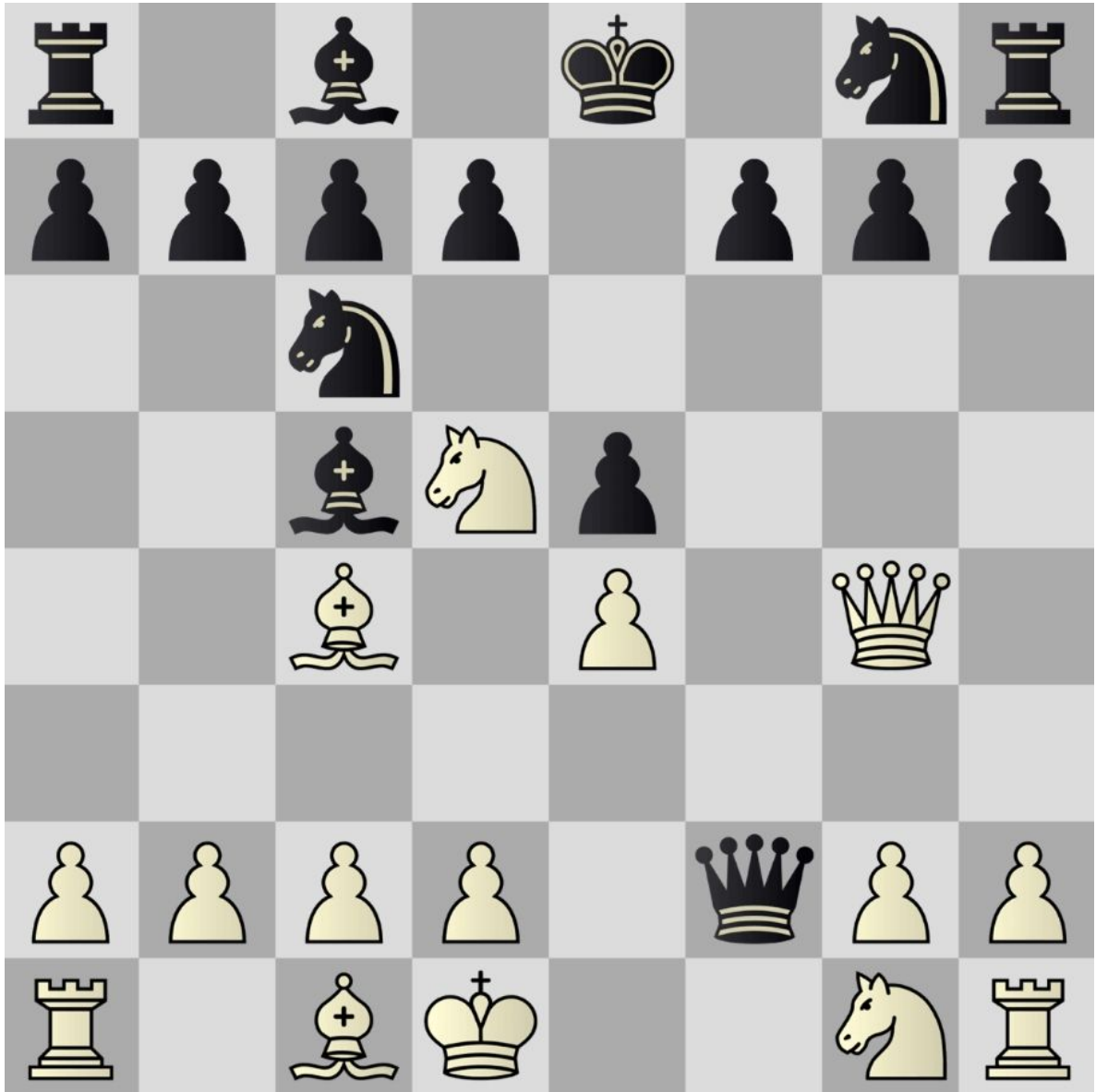
Vienna Game: Stanley Variation- Meitner-Mieses Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 ♞c6 3. ♞c3 ♖c5 4. ♔g4 ♚f6 5. ♞d5 ♚xf2+
6. ♚d1

Black to move

62.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘c4 ♙c6 3. ♚c3 ♘c5 4. ♖g4 ♗f6 5. ♙d5 ♗xf2+
6. ♗d1



Solution: 6... ♗f8 Black needs to defend the unprotected g-pawn! (6... d6?? would allow the capture on g7. 7. ♗xg7 h5 planning ♘g4+ 8. h3 (8. ♗xh8 Taking straight away is not the best because of 8... ♘g4+ 9. ♙e2 O-O-O +-) 8... ♘e6 9. ♙f3 O-O-O 10. ♖f1 ♗xf1+ 11. ♘xf1 ♖h6)

63.

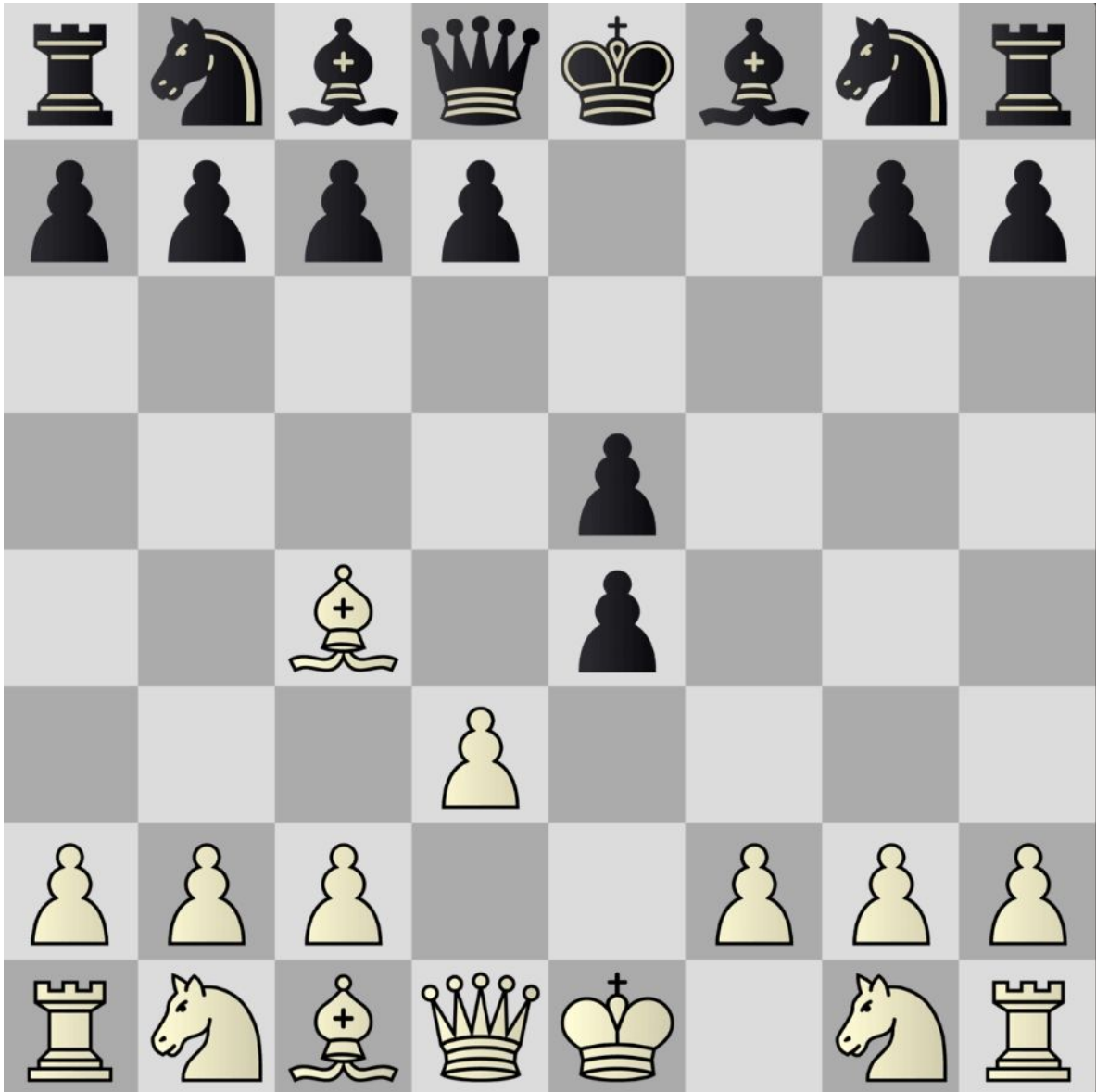
Bishop's Opening: Calabrese Countergambit- Jaenisch Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 f5 3. d3 fxe4

White to move

63.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖c4 f5 3. d3 fxe4??



Solution: 4. ♜h5+! Out of 491 games in the Lichess database only 46 players spotted ♜h5+! (4. dxe4 is the most played move) 4... g6 (4... ♜e7 5. ♜xe5#)

5. ♜xe5+ ♜e7 6. ♜xh8

64.

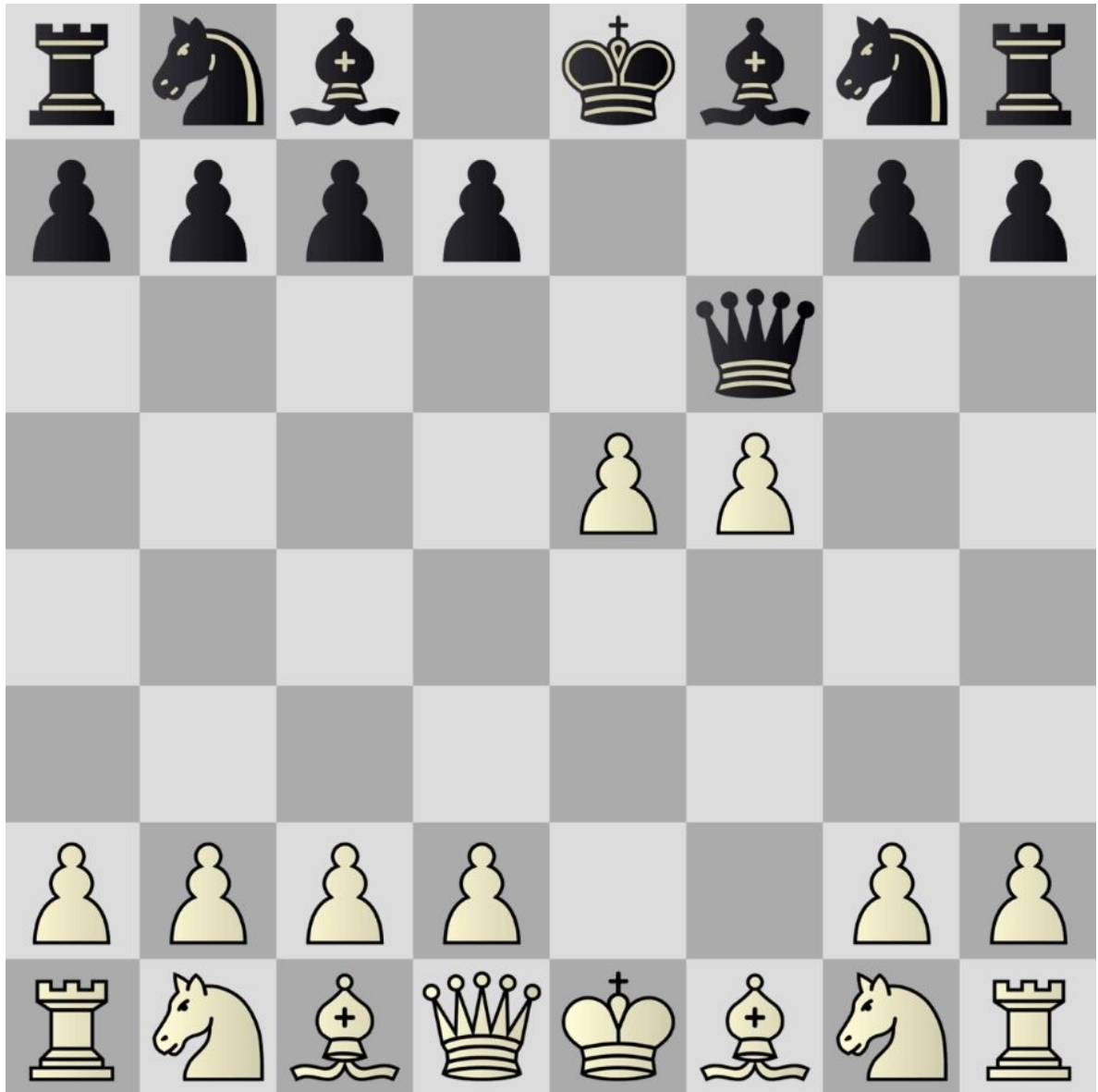
King's Gambit Declined: Panteldakis Countergambit

1. e4 e5 2. f4 f5 3. exf5 ♔f6 4. fxe5

Black to move

64.

1. e4 e5 2. f4 f5 3. exf5 ♖f6 4. fxe5??



Solution: 4... ♖h4+ *The King can now be chased!* 5. ♘e2 (5. g3 ♖e4+ 6. ♖e2 ♖xh1) 5... ♖e4+ 6. ♘f2 ♙c5+ (If 6... ♖xe5 7. d4 ♖xf5+ 8. ♗f3 *White is now actually better due to better development.*) 7. d4 (7. ♖g3 ♗e7) 7... ♙xd4+ 8. ♘g3 ♙xe5+

65.

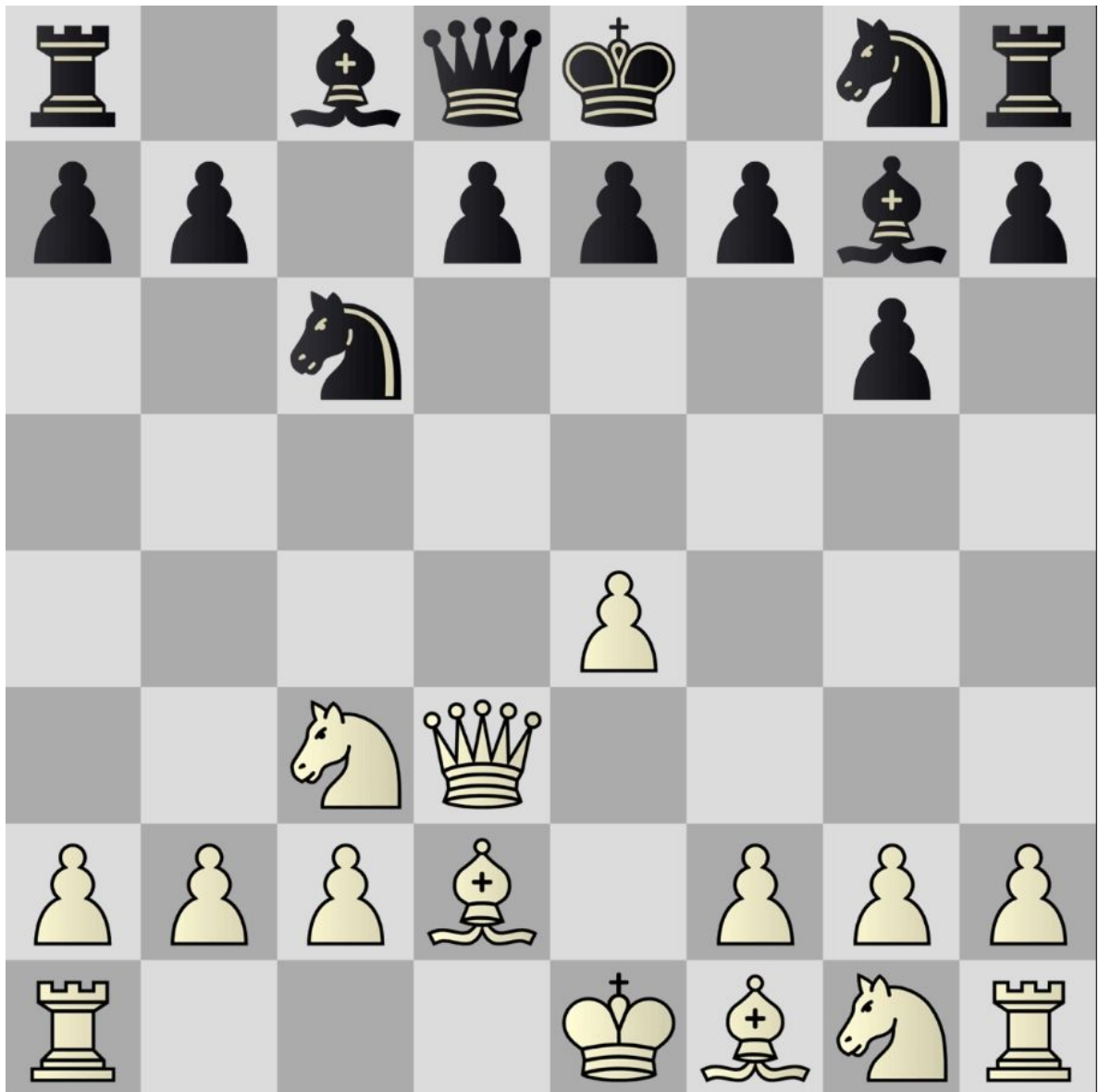
Sicilian Defense: Smith-Morra Gambit

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. ♔xd4 ♞c6 4. ♔e3 g6 5. ♞c3 ♟h6 6. ♔d3 ♟g7 7.
♟d2

Black to move

65.

1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. ♖xd4 ♙c6 4. ♜e3 g6 5. ♘c3 ♟h6 6. ♜d3 ♟g7 7. ♟d2?? (7. f4 Khoroshev, N. - Yakubboev, N., (1/2-1/2, 2019).



Solution: 7... ♖b4! *The Queen can no longer defend the fork on c2.* 8. ♜f3
♜xc2+ 9. ♚d1 ♜xa1

66.

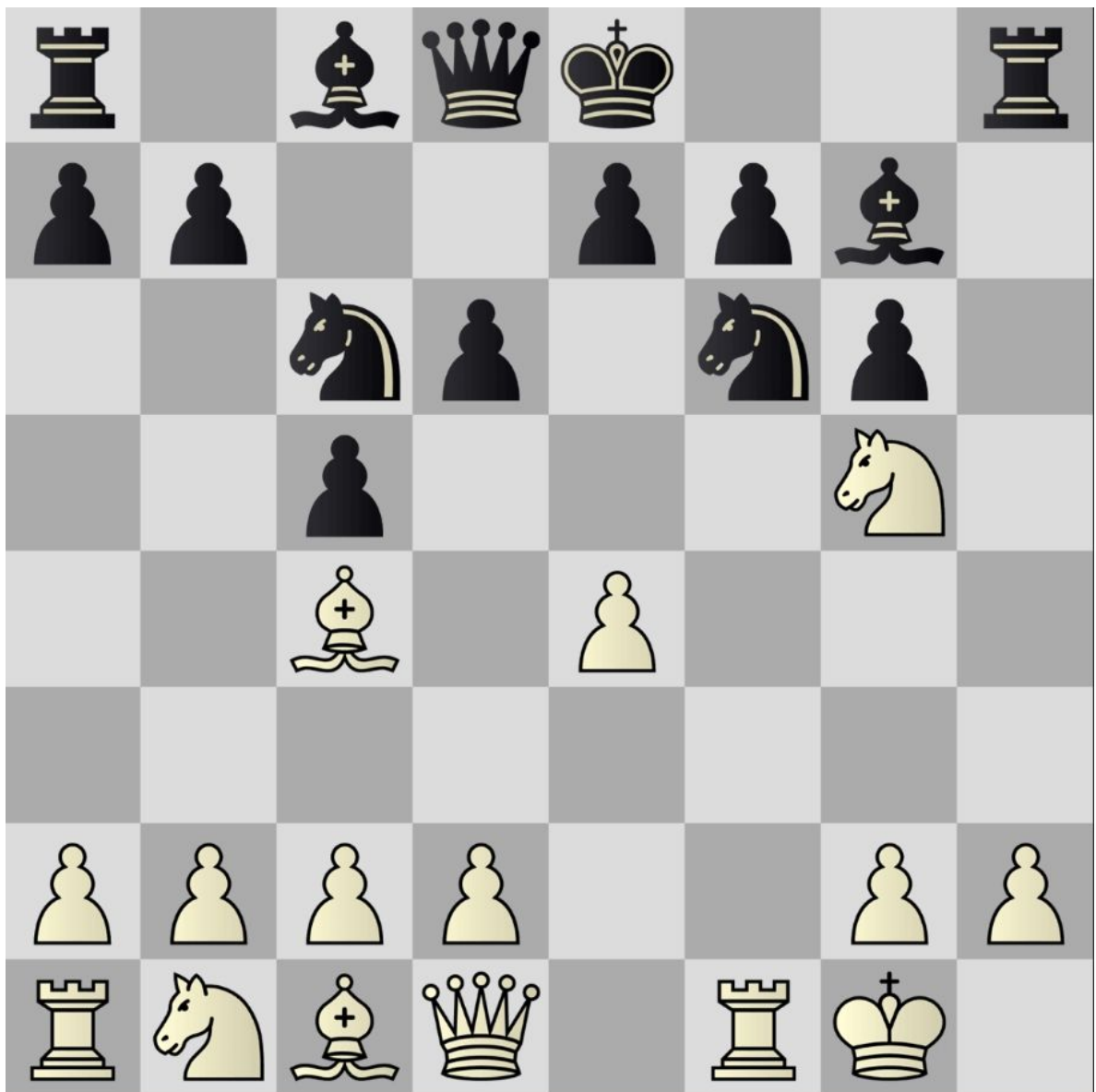
Sicilian Defense: McDonnell Attack

1. e4 c5 2. f4 d6 3. ♖f3 ♖c6 4. ♗c4 g6 5. O-O ♗g7 6. f5 ♖f6 7. fxg6
hxg6 8. ♖g5

Black to move

66.

1. e4 c5 2. f4 d6 3. ♖f3 ♖c6 4. ♙c4 g6 5. O-O ♙g7 6. f5 (6. c3 Garcia Ramon, R. - Hernandez Onna, R., 1-0, Las Palmas op, 1989) 6... ♖f6 7. fxg6 8. ♖g5??



Solution: 8... d5!! *This surprising move has only been played in 8 games out of 159 where this position was on the board! The Black Queen comes to life and Black will start a strong attack. (8... ♖e5 is also fine for Black but not as powerful.)* 9. ♙xd5 (9. e5 dxc4 10. exf6 ♙xf6) 9... ♜d6 (9... ♖xd5 This is a

crazy line. 10. ♖xf7 ♙d4+ 11. ♚h1 ♜xh2+ 12. ♚xh2 ♛c7+ 13. g3 ♖f6 14. ♖h6 *White is underdeveloped and with an exposed King.)* **10. g3** *Blocking the capture on h2* **10... ♗xd5** (10... ♖g4 is also possible.) **11. exd5 ♙d4+** **12. ♚g2 ♛xd5+** **13. ♖f3 ♙h3+** **14. ♚h1 ♙xf1** *Black is winning.*

67.

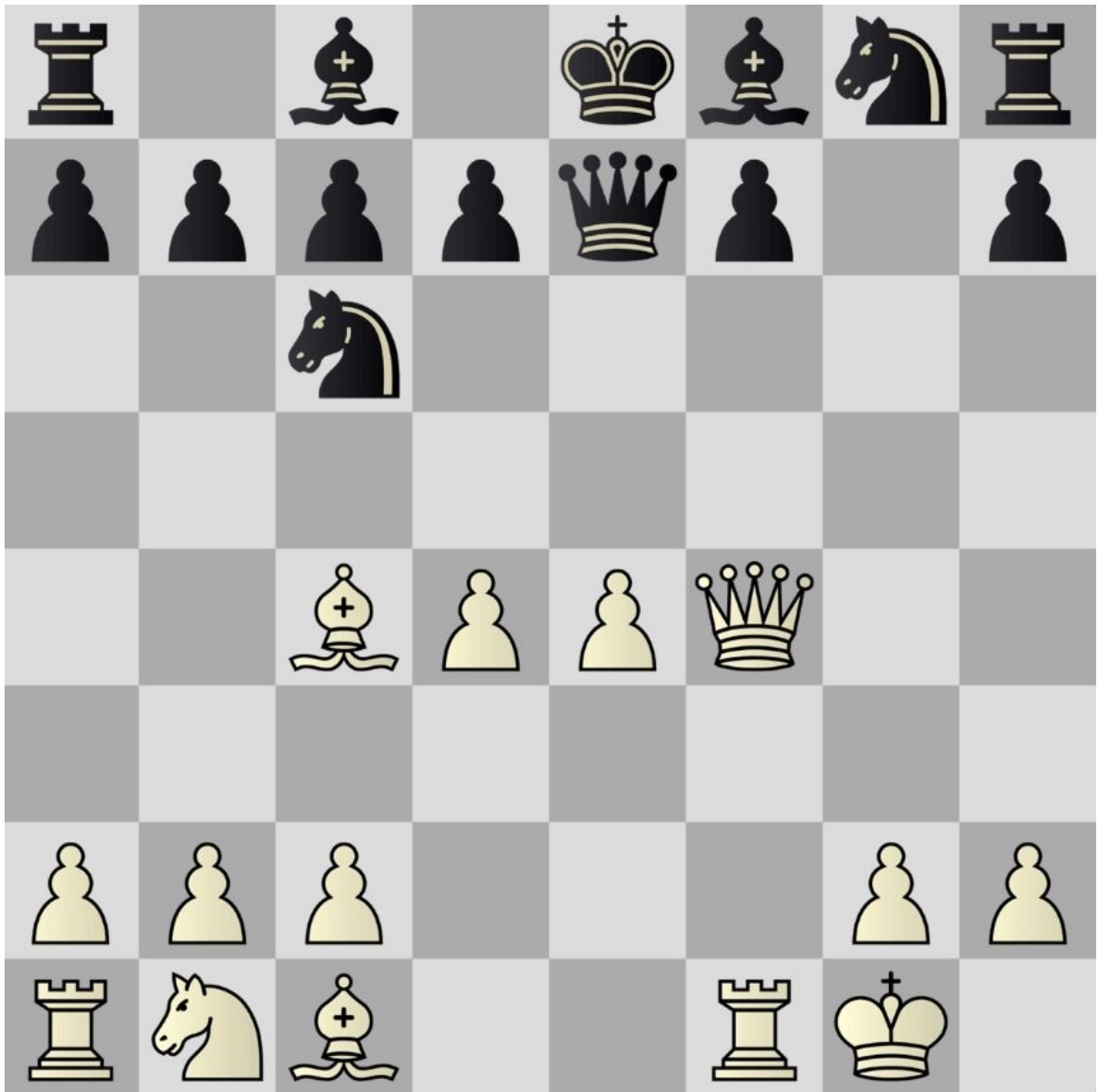
King's Gambit Accepted: Muzio Gambit- Wild Muzio Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. ♘f3 g5 4. ♖c4 g4 5. O-O gxf3 6. ♔xf3 ♔e7 7. d4
♘c6 8. ♔xf4

Black to move

67.

1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 3. ♖f3 g5 4. ♘c4 g4 5. O-O!? *The Muzio Gambit.* 5... gxf3 6. ♔xf3 ♕e7 7. d4 ♖c6 8. ♔xf4



Solution: 8... ♘h6! *Forcing exchanges is good for Black since White has given a Knight for Quick development.* 9. ♔xf7+ (9. ♔xc7 d5! 10. ♔xe7+ ♕xe7 11. exd5 ♘xc1 12. ♖xc1 ♖xd4 13. c3 ♖f5 *Played in the game: Siemes, R. - Lefebvre, A. (0-1), Black has a Knight for two pawns with a good position.*) 9... ♔xf7 10. ♘xf7+ ♕d8 11. ♘h6 ♖xh6 12. ♘h5 ♖xd4 13. ♖c3 d6 *Black is better with a Knight for a pawn.*

68.

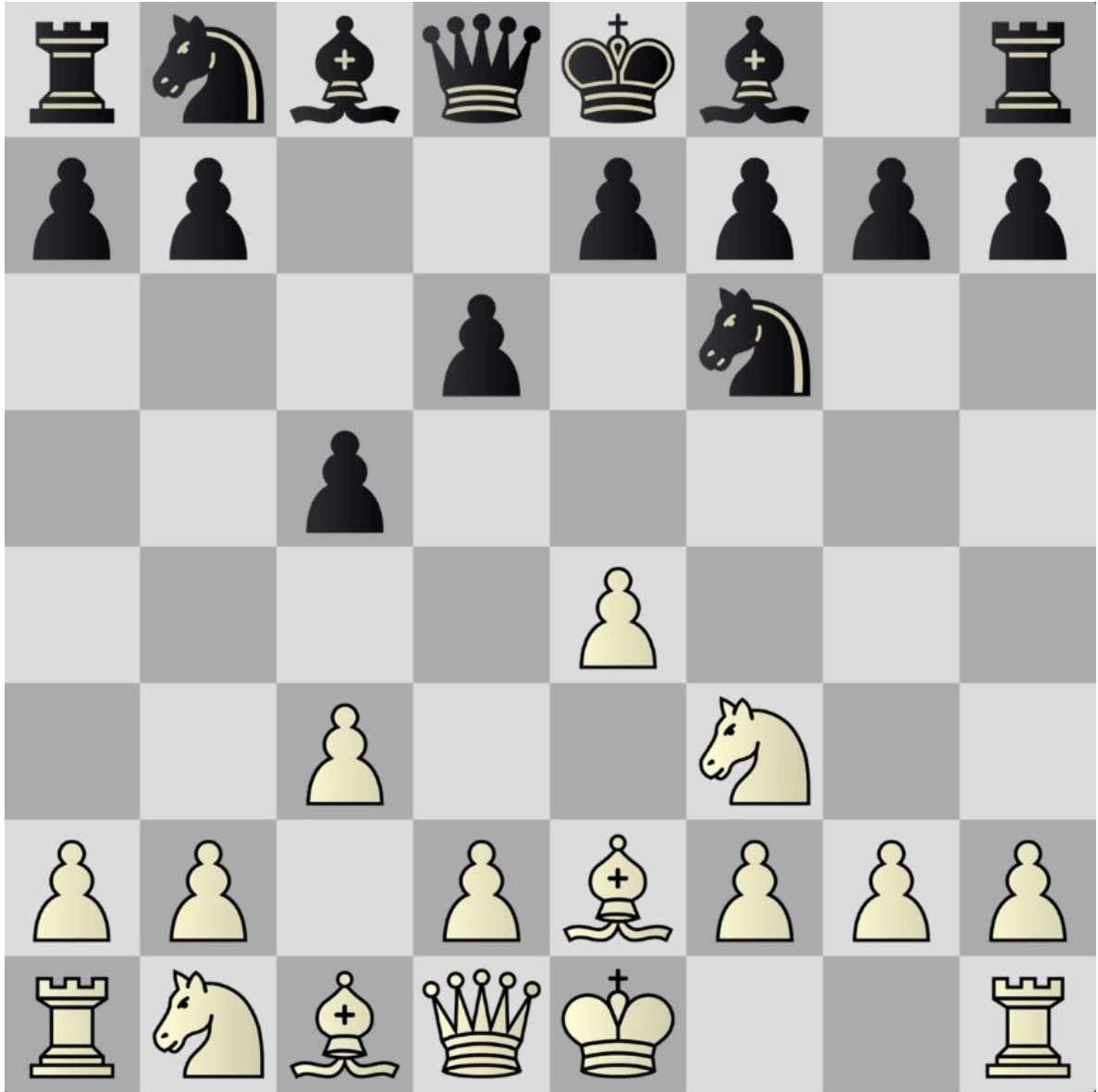
Sicilian Defense: Delayed Alapin

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. c3 ♘f6 4. ♙e2

Black to move

68.








1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. c3 ♗f6 4. ♔e2



Solution: 4... g6 *The mainline, but many moves are possible: ♗bd7, ♘d7, or ♗c3. 4... ♗xe4? If this was your move you walked into a trap! 5. ♚a4+! Picking up the Knight.*

69.

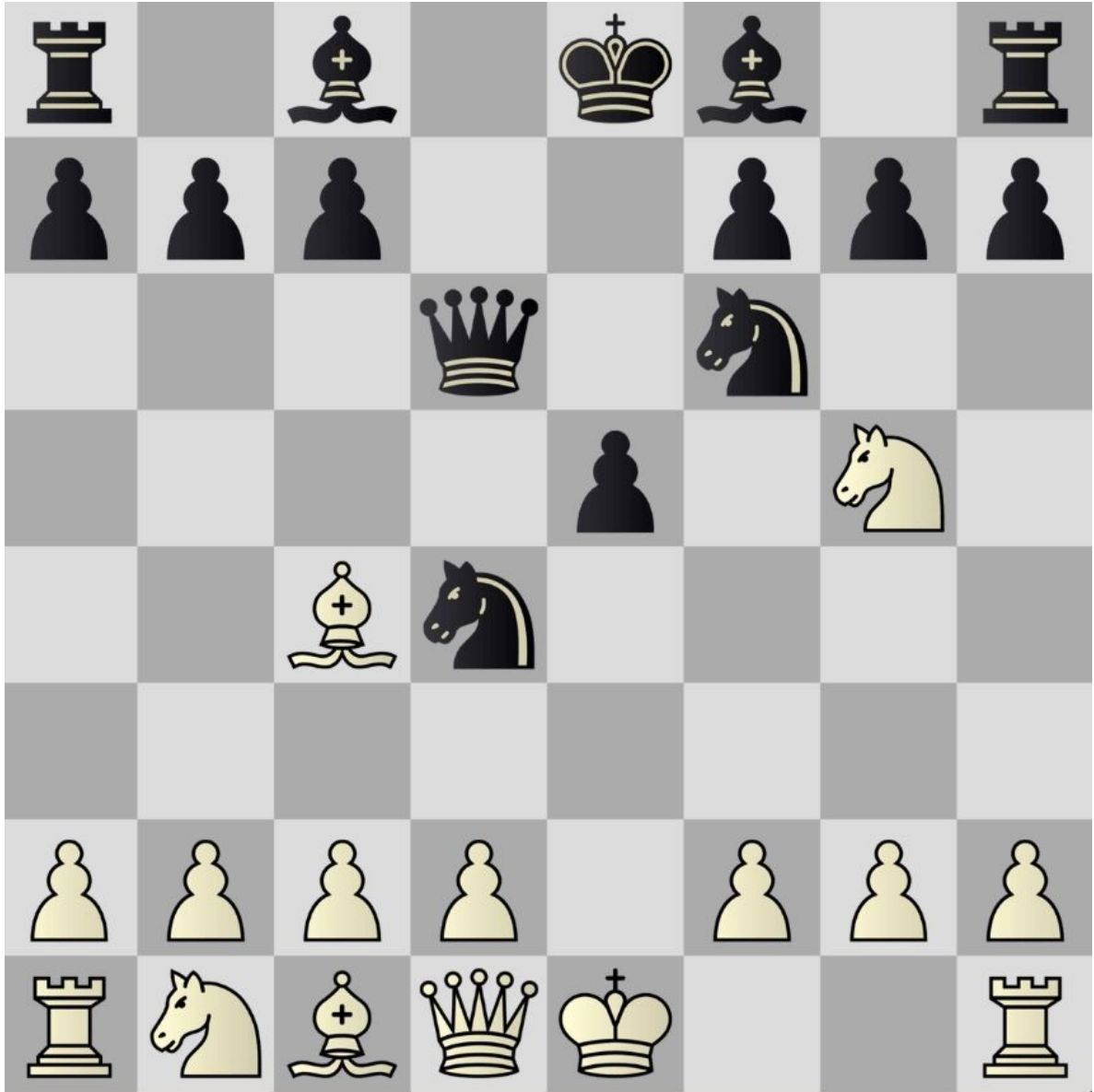
Italian Game: Two Knights Defense- Fritz Variation

1. e4 e5 2.  f3  c6 3.  c4  f6 4.  g5 d5 5. exd5  d4 6. d6  xd6

White to move

69.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♗c4 ♗f6 4. ♗g5 d5 5. exd5 ♗d4 6. d6 ♘xd6



Solution: 7. ♗xf7+ Now Black doesn't have any tactics. (7. ♗xf7? This move runs into 7... ♘c6 attacking the Bishop and looking at g2! 8. d3 (8. ♗f1 ♗xc2+) (8. O-O ♘xc4) 8... ♘xg2) 7. d3 or 7. O-O Also correct solutions.

70.

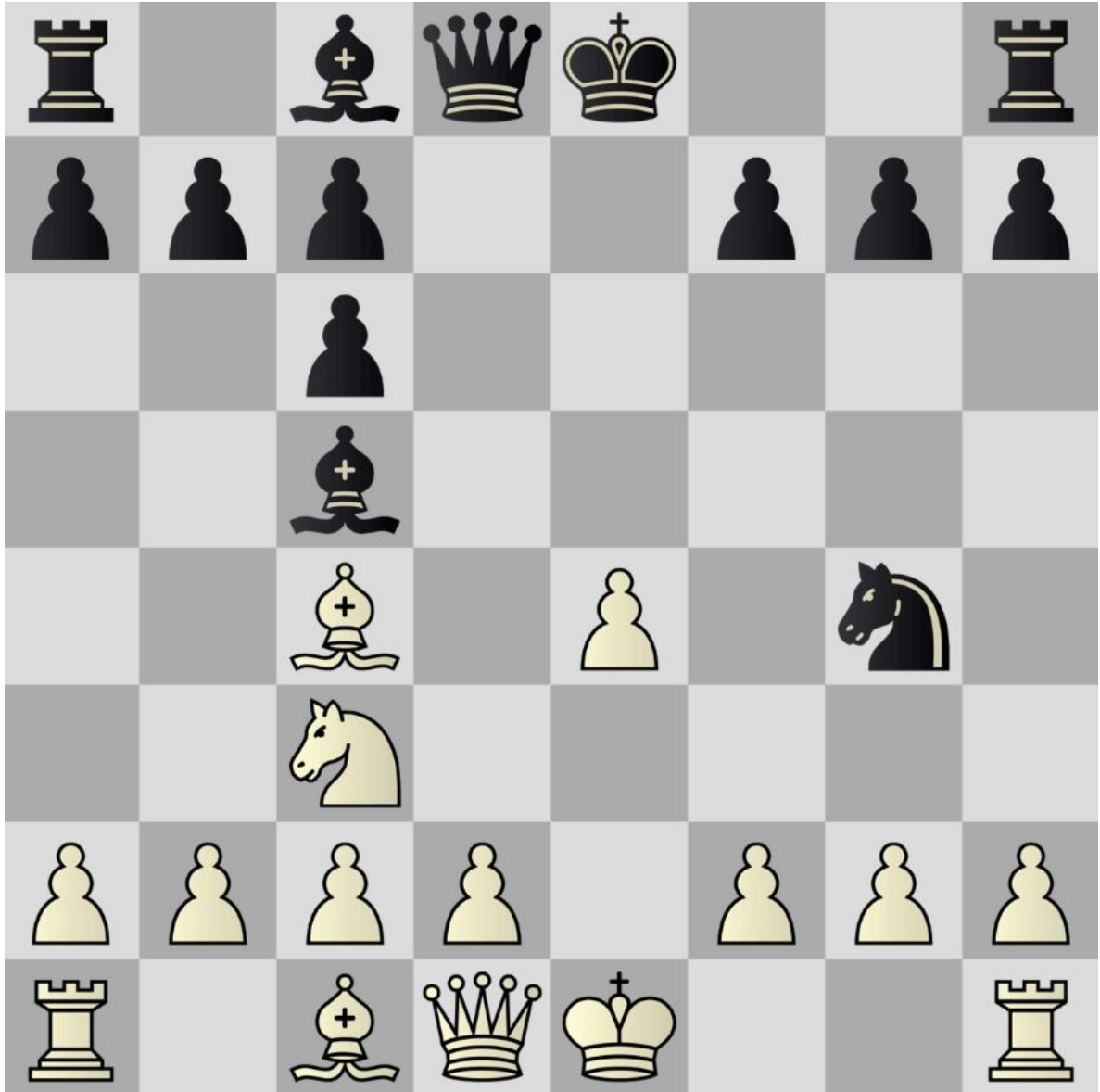
Russian Game: Stafford Gambit

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. ♗xe5 ♗c6 4. ♗xc6 dxc6 5. ♗c3 ♖c5
6. ♖c4 ♗g4

White to move

70.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♗xe5 ♗c6 4. ♗xc6 dxc6 5. ♗c3 ♘c5 6. ♘c4?!
 ♗g4



Solution: 7. ♜f1! *Best option in a tough position.*

(7. O-O?? ♖h4! *The King has moved into an ambush.* 8. h3 ♗xf2 9. ♜xf2 ♖xf2+ 10. ♖h1 *White has big problems to solve.*) (7. ♖f3 *Second best option* ♗e5 8. ♖h5 (8. ♖e2 ♖h4 9. g3 ♖h3) 8... ♖d4 9. ♖e2 ♖xf2+ 10. ♖d1) 7... ♖f6 (7... ♗xh2?? 8. ♖h5) 8. ♖e2 *Protecting f2.* 8... ♗xh2 9. ♖h5! ♗xf1 (9...

♙d6 10. ♖h1) **10. ♜xc5** *If 9... ♙d6 it gets a bit complicated, but White is slightly worse.*

71.

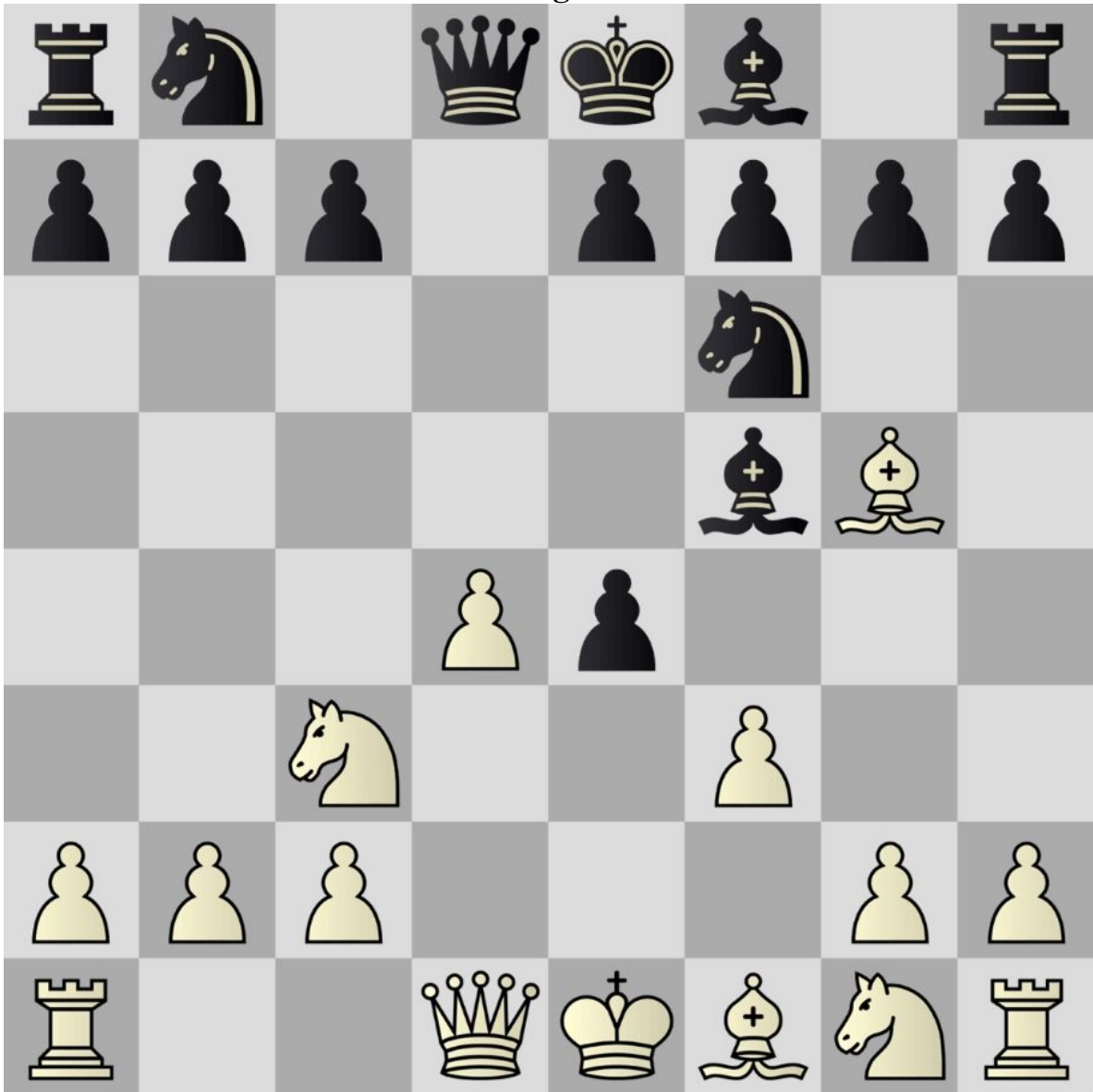
Blackmar-Diemer Gambit: Gedult Gambit

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. f3 ♘f6 4. ♖g5 ♗f5 5. ♘c3

Black to move

71.

1. e4 d5 2. d4 dxe4 3. f3 ♖f6 4. ♗g5 ♜f5 5. ♖c3



Solution: 5... ♖bd7 best move according to Stockfish, while 5... ♗g6 or e3 also has been played in masters games (5... e6? this move walks into a trap 6. fxe4 ♗g6 (6... ♗g4

7. ♗xf6 ♜xf6 8. ♜xg4) 7. e5 h6 8. ♗h4 the traditional g5 move isn't available due to the Bishop on g3)

72.

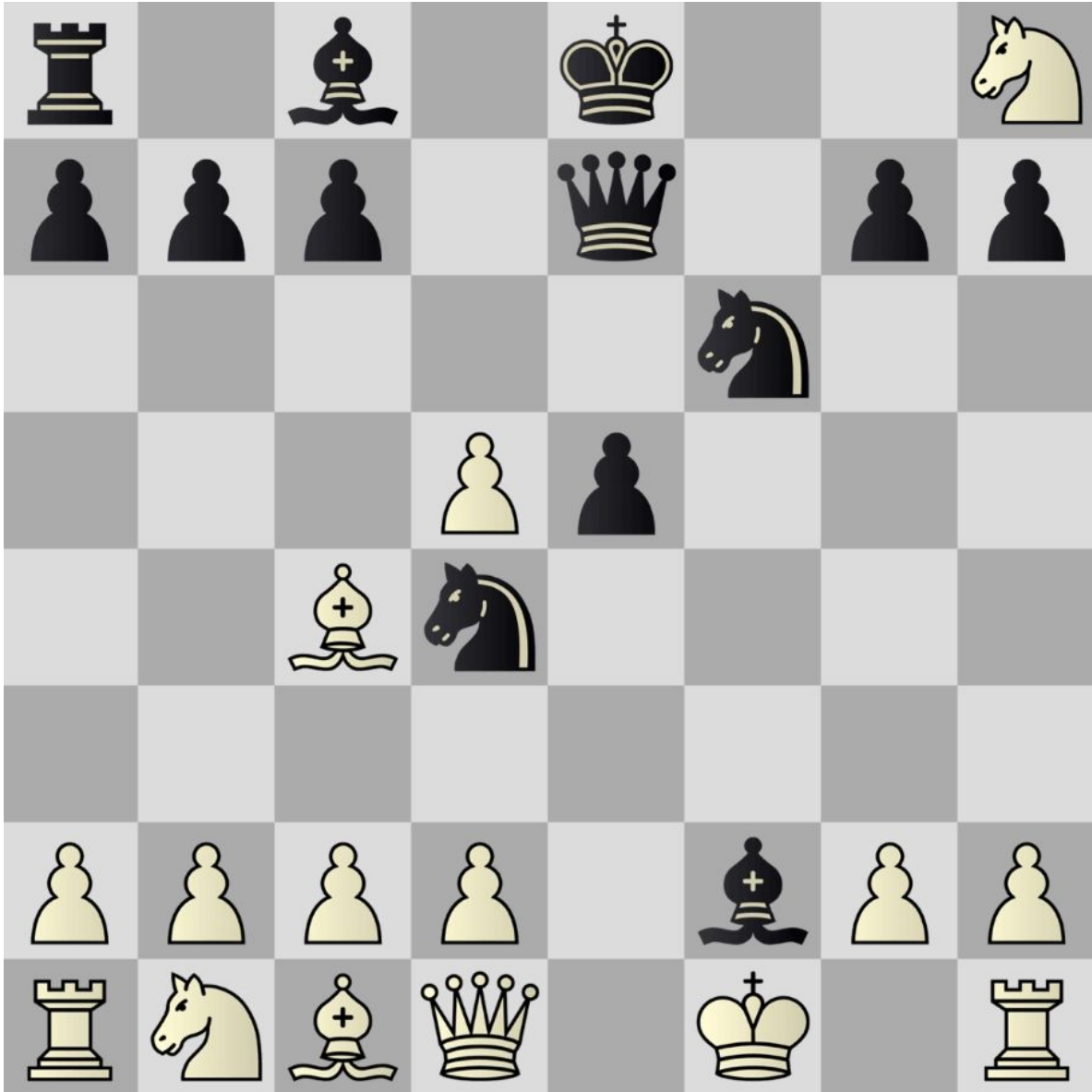
Italian Game: Two Knights Defense- Traxler Counterattack- Knight
Sacrifice Line

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖c4 ♘f6 4. ♘g5 ♖c5 5. ♘xf7 ♖xf2+ 6. ♔f1
♔e7 7. ♘xh8 d5 8. exd5 ♘d4

White to move

72.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖c4 ♘f6 4. ♘g5 ♖c5 5. ♘xf7 ♖xf2+ 6. ♔f1 ♘e7 7. ♘xh8 d5 8. exd5 ♘d4



Solution: 9. d6! Avoiding ♖g4 move and opening the protection of the f7-square for the Knight in the corner. Another acceptable way to avoid the move is with h3. (9. c3?? ♖g4! Now the Queen will have to move away from defending the King. 10. ♔a4+ ♘d7 11. ♔xf2 (11. cxd4 ♔f6) 11... ♔h4+ 12. g3 (12. ♔f1 O-O-O Stockfish gives mate in 12 from here.) 12... ♔f6+ 13. ♔e1 ♔f3 14. ♖f1 ♔e4+ 15. ♔f2 O-O-O 16. cxd4 ♖f8+ 17. ♔g1 ♔xd4+ 18. ♔g2 ♔e4+ 19. ♔g1 ♖xf1+ 20. ♖xf1 ♔xa4 21. ♘c3 ♔d4+ 22. ♔g2 e4 23. ♖e2 ♖xe2 24. ♘xe2 ♔d3 25. ♘f4 ♔f3+ 26. ♔h3 g5 27. ♘e6 h5 Malada, V. - D., Kenad, 0-

1, 2001) **9...** ♖xd6 (9... ♗g4 10. dxe7 ♗xd1 11. ♕xf2 *White is winning.*) **10.**
♗f7

73.

Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defense

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 ♘f6 4. ♖xc6 dxc6 5. d3 ♖c5

White to move

73.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♘b5 ♗f6 4. ♘xc6 dxc6 5. d3 ♘c5



Solution: 6. ♗bd2, O-O, h3, ♜e2, ♘e3, ♘g5, ♗c3 Are all playable. (6. ♗xe5?? On Lichess this move is played about 18% of the time. 6... ♜d4! 7. ♘e3 ♜xe5 8. d4 ♜xe4 9. dxc5 ♜xg2)

74.

Sicilian Defense: Dragon Variation - Levenfish Variation

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6

5. ♘c3 g6 6. f4 ♗g7 7. e5 dxe5 8. fxe5

Black to move

74.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♖f6 5. ♗c3 g6 6. f4 ♘g7 7. e5 dxe5 8. fxe5



Solution: 8... ♗fd7 (8... ♗d5?? *This move is too optimistic and will be punished by White!* 9. ♘b5+! ♜f8 (9... ♗c6 10. ♗xc6 bxc6 11. ♘xc6+ now the Rook drops) (9... ♘d7 10. ♗xd5) 10. O-O White now has a Rook on the King and better development. 10... ♗c6 11. ♜f3) (8... ♗g4 is better than ♗d5, but also runs into problems after: 9. ♘b5+ ♗c6 (9... ♘d7 10. ♜xg4) 10. ♗xc6 ♜xd1+ 11. ♗xd1 Salinnikov, D. Y. - Olenin, N., 1/2-1/2, 1998) 9. e6 ♗e5 10.

exf7+ (10. ♖b5+ ♗bc6) **10...** ♔xf7 *White is slightly better according to Stockfish.*

75.

Indian Game: Budapest Defense - Rubinstein Variation

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 ♘g4 4. ♖f4 ♘c6
5. ♘f3 ♖b4+ 6. ♘bd2 ♔e7 7. a3 ♘gxe5

White to move

75.

1. d4 ♘f6 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 ♘g4 4. ♖f4 ♘c6 5. ♘f3 ♖b4+ 6. ♘bd2 ♜e7
7. a3 ♘gxe5



Solution: 8. ♘xe5 (8. axb4?? ♘d3# *Would be a rough (and short) day at the office for White.*) (8. ♖xe5 is also fine. 8... ♖xd2+ 9. ♜xd2 ♘xe5 10. ♘xe5 ♜xe5) 8... ♘xe5 9. e3

76.

Blackmar-Diemer Gambit: Gedult Gambit

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. f3 exf3 4. ♔xf3 ♔xd4 5. ♘c3 ♘f6 6. ♖e3 ♗b4 7.
O-O-O ♖g4

White to move

76.

1. d4 d5 2. e4 dxe4 3. f3 exf3 4. ♖xf3 ♜xd4 5. ♔c3 ♕f6 6. ♞e3 ♞b4?!
 (6... ♞g4! *Would be better played in the game: Kireev, S. - Kund, W., 1/2-1/2, 2006*) 7. O-O-O ♞g4?



Solution: 8. ♕b5! *Threatening checkmate on c7! ♕a6 is the best try (8... ♞xf3 Taking the Queen is a no-go. 9. ♕xc7#) (8... ♞xb5 9. ♞xb5+ and Black can't win back the Queen. 9... c6 10. ♞f4 cxb5 11. ♞c7 ♕bd7 12. ♕f3) 9. ♞xb7! ♞e4 10. ♞xa6 Credit to you if you calculated this far! (10. ♞xe4*

Maybe the simplest way. 10... ♖xe4 11. ♖f3) 10... ♙xd1 11. ♚xd1 ♜d8+ (11... ♚xe3 12. ♚c6+ ♖d7 13. ♚xa8+) 12. ♙d2 ♜xd2+ Black can try this, but the Black Queen can't keep checking the White King. 13. ♚xd2 ♚f4+ 14. ♚e2 e6 and White have a winning position.

77.

French Defense: Advance Variation

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 cxd4 5. cxd4 ♖b4+ 6. ♗c3 ♗e7 7. ♗f3 O-O 8. ♖d3 ♗bc6

White to move

77.

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 cxd4 5. cxd4 ♖b4+ 6. ♗c3 ♗e7 7. ♗f3 O-O 8. ♖d3 ♗bc6?? (8... h6 +/-)



Solution: 9. ♖xh7+! *Almost all French players have walked into this move at some point. 9... ♗xh7 (9... ♗h8 10. ♖c2 g6 11. ♖g5 ♗c7 12. ♖f6+ ♗g8 13. ♗d2 Jaroka, S. - Nagy, Z., 1-0, 1996) 10. ♗g5+ ♗g6 (10... ♗g8 11. ♗h5 ♗e8 12. ♗xf7+ ♗h8 13. ♗h5+ ♗g8 14. ♗h7+ ♗f8 White is having so much fun here.) 11. h4! (11. ♗d3 works as well) f5 12. h5+ ♗h6 13. ♗xe6+ Now the Queen drops!*

78.

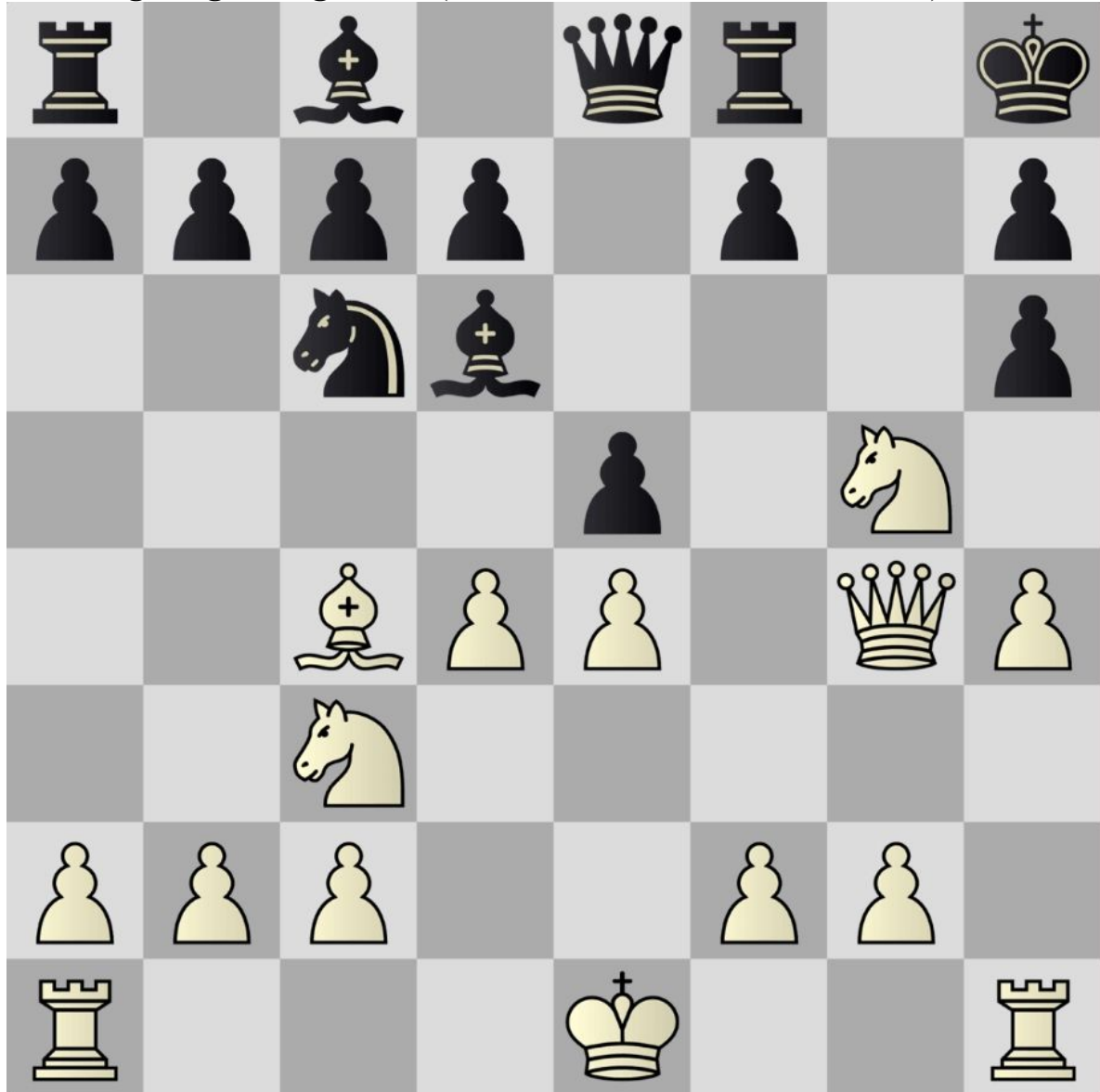
King's Knight Opening

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘d6 3.♙c4 ♗h6 4.d4 ♘c6 5.♗c3 O-O 6.h4 ♚e8 7.♙xh6
gxf6 8.♗g5 ♚g7 9.♚g4 ♚h8

White to move

78.







1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♗d6 3.♙c4 ♘h6 4.d4 ♘c6 5.♘c3 O-O 6.h4 ♚e8 7.♙xh6
gxh6 8.♘g5 ♚g7 9.♚g4 ♜h8 (Haufiku, T. - Ambade, R. S., 2014)



Solution: 10.♚f5! *Setting up a mating net.* hxg5 11.hxg5 h5 12.♗xh5+
♚g7 13.♚h7#

79.

Caro-Kann Defense

1. e4 c6 2.  c3 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. d4  c6 5.  b5  d7 6.  xd5 e6 7.
 e2

Black to move

79.

1. e4 c6 2. ♖c3 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 4. d4 ♖c6 5. ♙b5 ♙d7 6. ♖xd5 e6 7. ♜e2?? (7. ♖c3!)



Solution: 7... ♖xd4! 8. ♙xd7+ (8. ♜d3 ♖xb5 and Black is up a piece ♙xb5 also works.) 8... ♜xd7 White can't move the Queen and protect the Knight in the same move.

80.

Ruy Lopez: Berlin Defense- Beverwijk Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 ♖c5 4. O-O ♘f6
5. ♜e1 O-O 6. ♘xc6 dxc6 7. ♘xe5 ♜e8 8. ♘d3

Black to move

80.










1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♙b5 ♙c5 4. O-O ♘f6 5. ♚e1 O-O 6. ♙xc6 dxc6
7. ♘xe5 ♚e8 8. ♘d3?? (8. ♘f3 was the better way back)



Solution: 8... ♙g4! *The f-pawn really would like to help, but it is tied down by the Bishop on c5.* 9. ♚e2 *Now Black has several ways to continue and win the game.* 9... ♙xe2 10. ♙xe2 ♘xe4

81.

Scotch Game: Haxo Gambit

1. e4 e5 2.  f3  c6 3.  c4  c5 4. d4 exd4 5. O-O d6 6. c3 dxc3 7.  xc3
 g4 8.  xf7+  xf7 9.  g5+

Black to move

81.

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♙c6 3. ♖c4 ♗c5 4. d4 exd4 5. O-O d6 6. c3 dxc3 7. ♘xc3 ♖g4 8. ♗xf7+ ♘xf7 9. ♘g5+?



Solution: 9... ♘xg5! *Black now wins a piece!* (9... ♖e8??
10. ♖xg4) 10. ♗xg5 ♗xd1 11. ♖axd1

82.

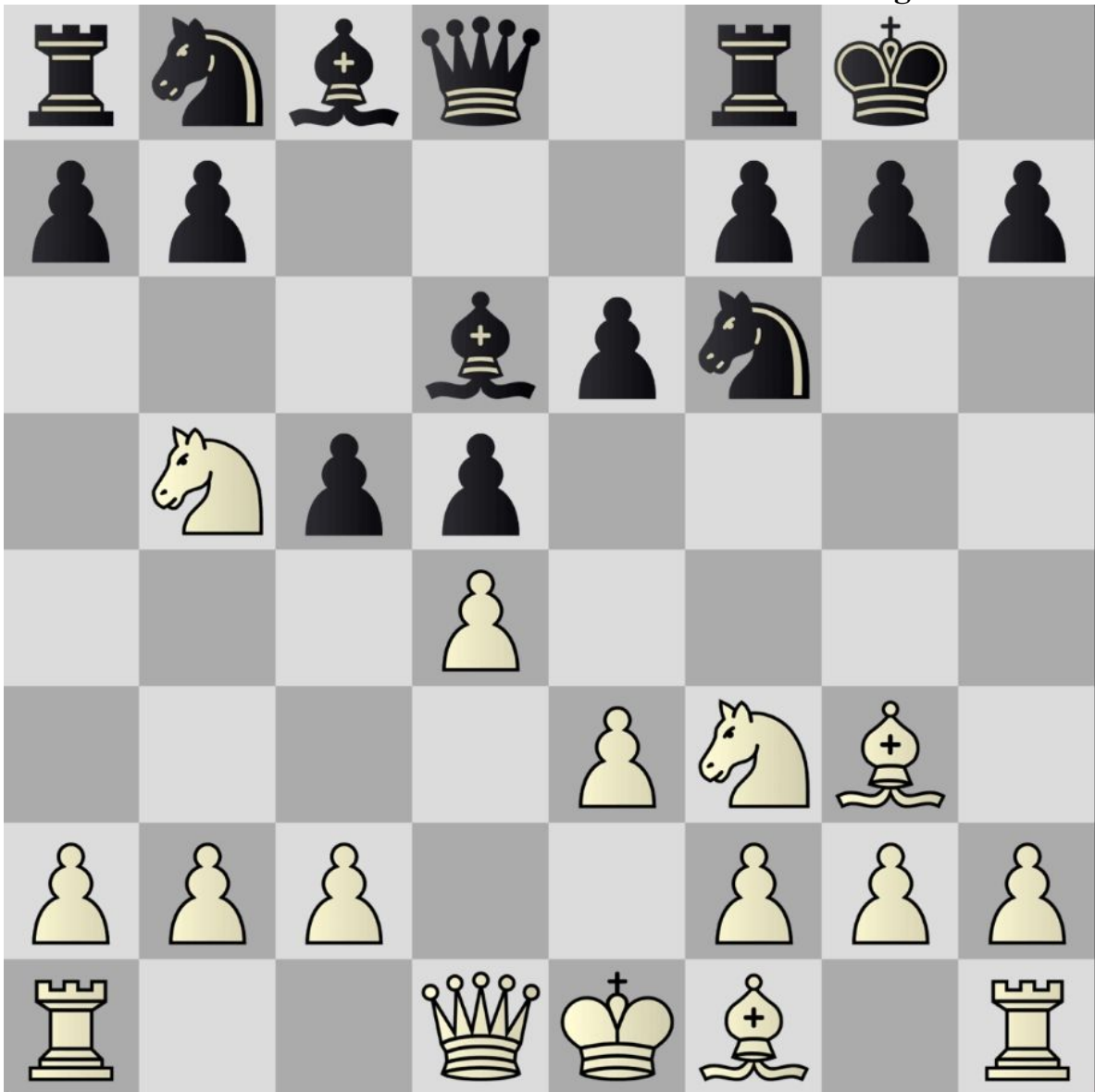
Queen's Pawn Game: Mason Variation

1. d4 d5 2. ♖f4 ♗f6 3. e3 e6 4. ♗f3 c5 5. ♗c3 ♖d6 6. ♖g3 O-O
7. ♗b5

Black to move

82.

1. d4 d5 2. ♘f4 ♙f6 3. e3 e6 4. ♚f3 c5 5. ♚c3 ♘d6 6. ♘g3 O-O 7. ♙b5



Solution: 7... ♘xg3 This is the Stockfish move ev. -0.9. (7... ♙a5+?? This time ♙a5+ actually loses a piece! 8. b4! ♙xb4+ (8... cxb4 9. ♚xd6) 9. c3 ♙a5 10. ♘xd6) 8. hxg3

If 7... ♙e4 8. ♙xd6 ♙xd6 9. dxc5 White is slightly better.

83.

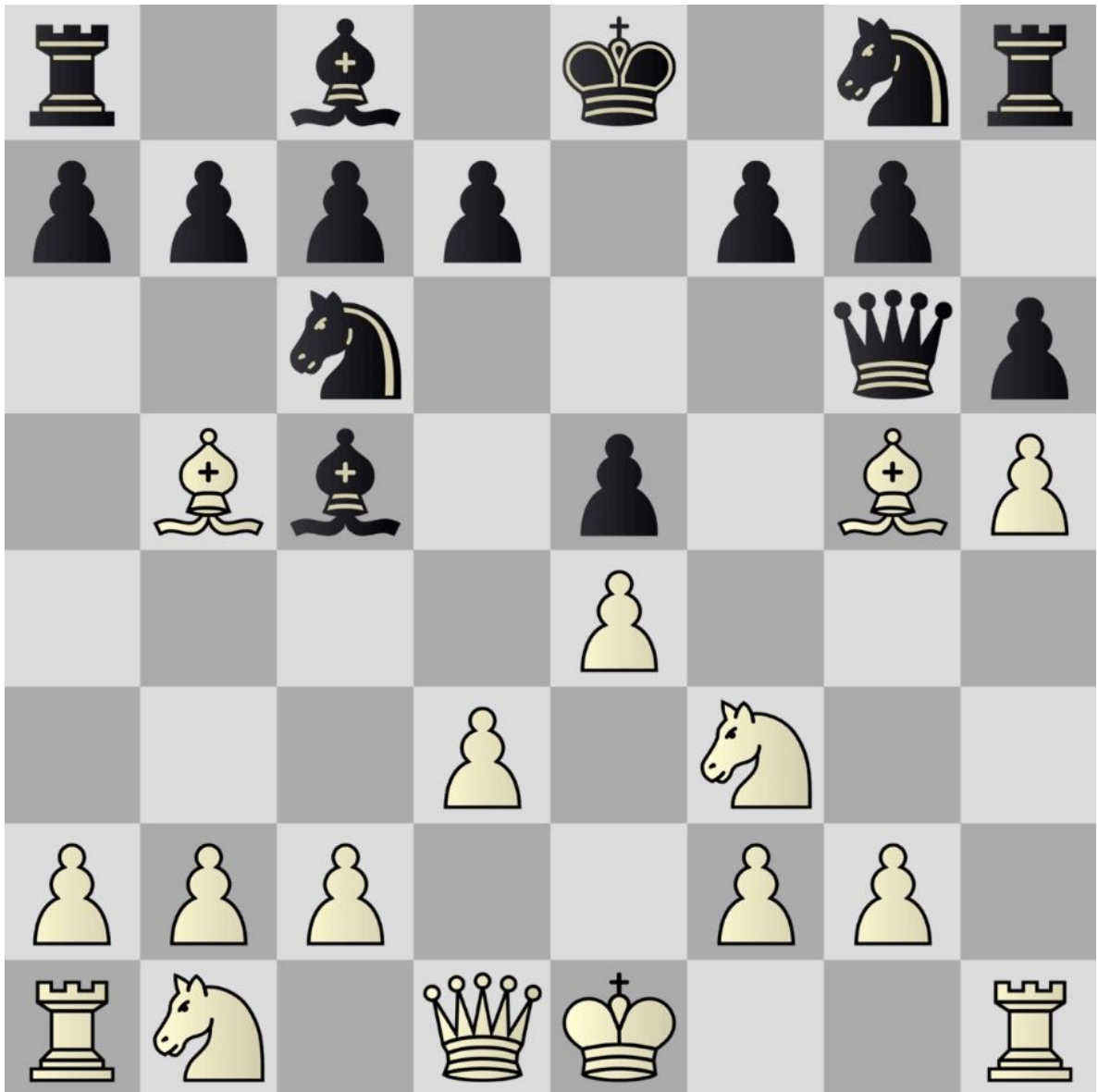
Ruy Lopez

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖b5 ♚f6 4. d3 ♖c5 5. ♖g5 ♚g6 6. h4 h6 7. h5

Black to move

83.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♜c6 3. ♙b5 ♚f6 4. d3 ♙c5 5. ♙g5 ♚g6 6. h4 h6 7. h5??
(7. ♙e3)



Solution: 7... hxg5! *Black can regain the Queen with interest.* 8. hxg6 ♜xh1+ 9. ♚e2 ♜xd1 10. ♚xd1

84.

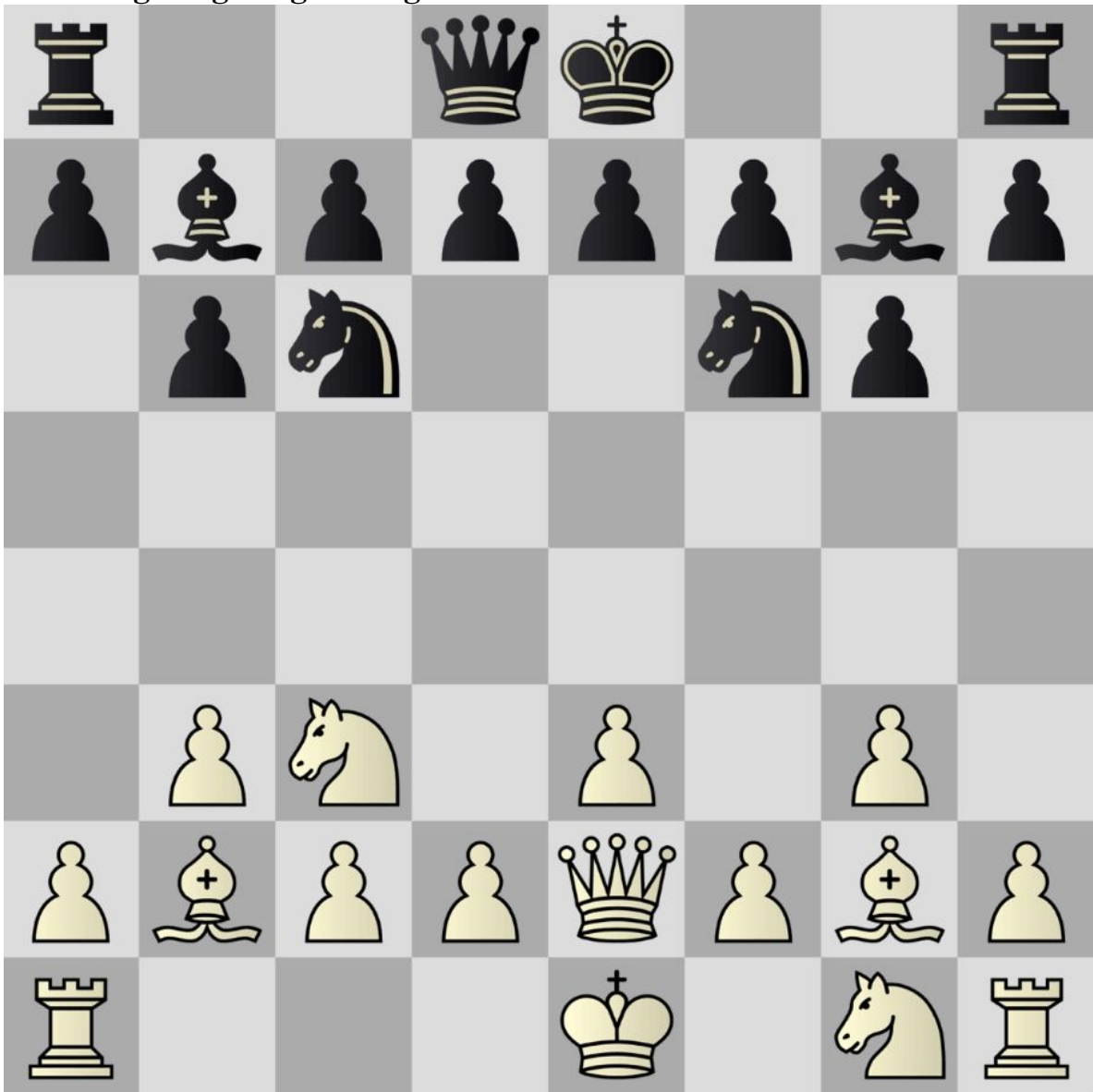
Van't Kruijs Opening

1. e3 g6 2. g3 ♖g7 3. ♖g2 ♞c6 4. ♞c3 b6 5. b3 ♖b7 6. ♖b2 ♞f6 7. ♔e2

Black to move

84.

1. e3 g6 2. g3 ♖g7 3. ♗g2 ♜c6 4. ♜c3 b6 5. b3 ♗b7 6. ♗b2 ♝f6 7. ♚e2



Solution: 7... ♜d4! Only spotted 2% of the time on Lichess. 8. ♚d3 White will lose material in all variations. (8. ♚f1 ♜xc2+ 9. ♚d1 ♗xg2 10. ♚xg2 ♜xa1) 8... ♗xg2 9. exd4 ♗xh1 10. f3 h5 11. ♚f1 d5 12. ♜ge2 ♗xf3 13. ♚xf3 Black is up 2 pawns and the exchange!

85.

Russian Game: Modern Attack

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. d4 exd4 4. e5 ♚e7 5. ♞c4 d5 6. O-O dxc4 7. exf6
♚xf6 8. ♖e1+ ♞e6 9. ♘xd4 ♞c5

White to move

85.











1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘f6 3. d4 exd4 4. e5 ♜e7 5. ♞c4 d5 6. O-O dxc4 7. exf6 ♜xf6 8. ♚e1+ ♞e6 9. ♘xd4 ♞c5?? (9... ♘c6 ev. 0.0 Stockfish.)



Solution: 10. ♚xe6+! (10. ♘xe6? ♞xf2+) 10... fxe6 11. ♜h5+ *The Bishop will drop.* 11... ♜g6 12. ♜xc5

86.

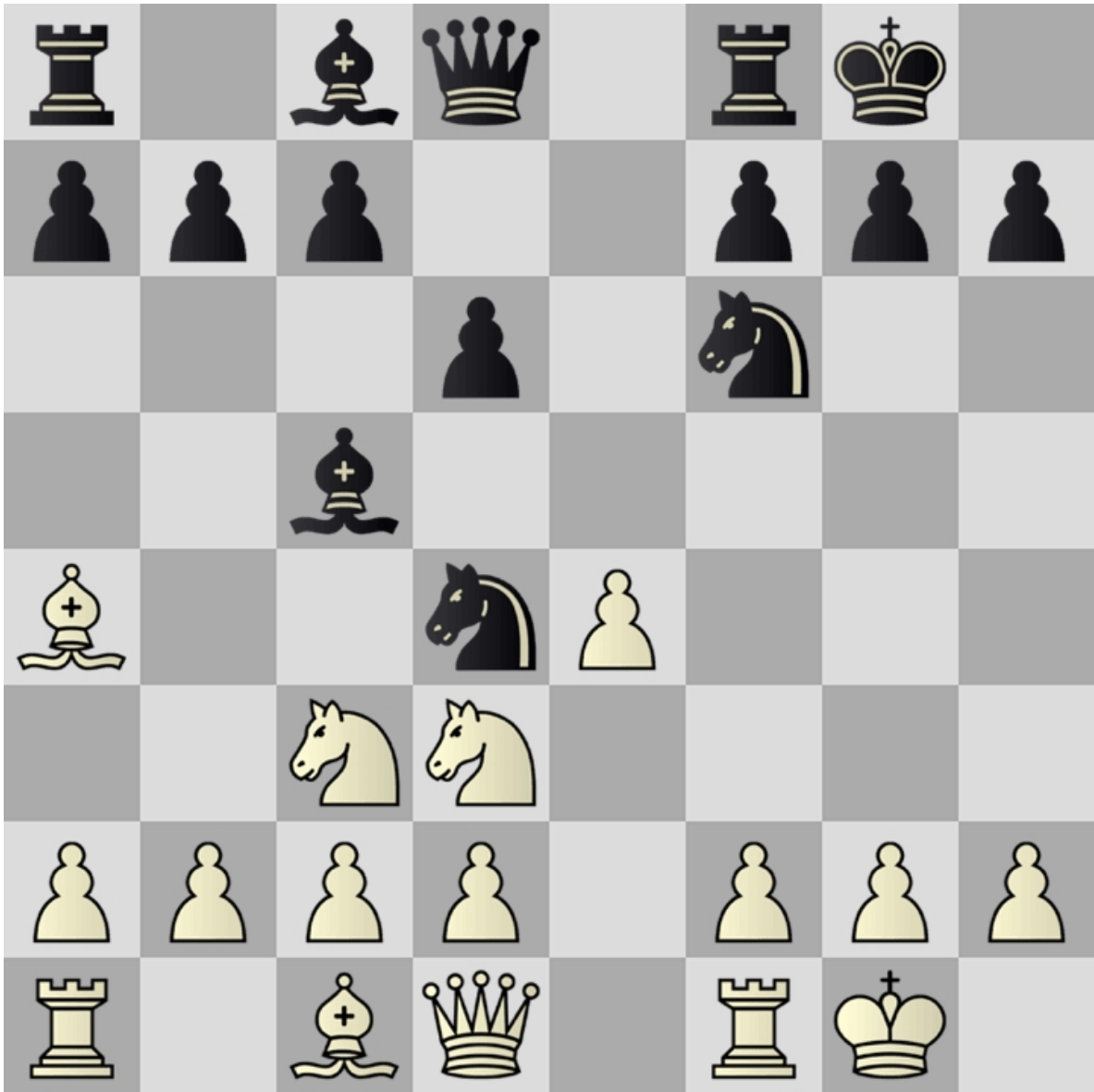
Four Knights Game: Spanish Variation, Rubinstein Countergambit

1. e4 e5 2.  f3  c6 3.  c3  f6 4.  b5  d4 5.  a4  c5 6. O-O O-O 7.
 xe5 d6 8.  d3

Black to move

86.

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♖c3 ♖f6 4. ♗b5 ♖d4 5. ♗a4 ♗c5 6. O-O O-O 7. ♖xe5 d6 8. ♖d3 (8. ♖f3 Sanchez, J. - Dervishi, E., 2004, 1-0)



Solution: 8... ♖g4! 9. ♗e1 ♖f3+ 10. gxf3 ♗xf3 11. ♖xc5 ♖g4 White is lost after the Queen enters on h4.

3. The Hard Ones!

87.

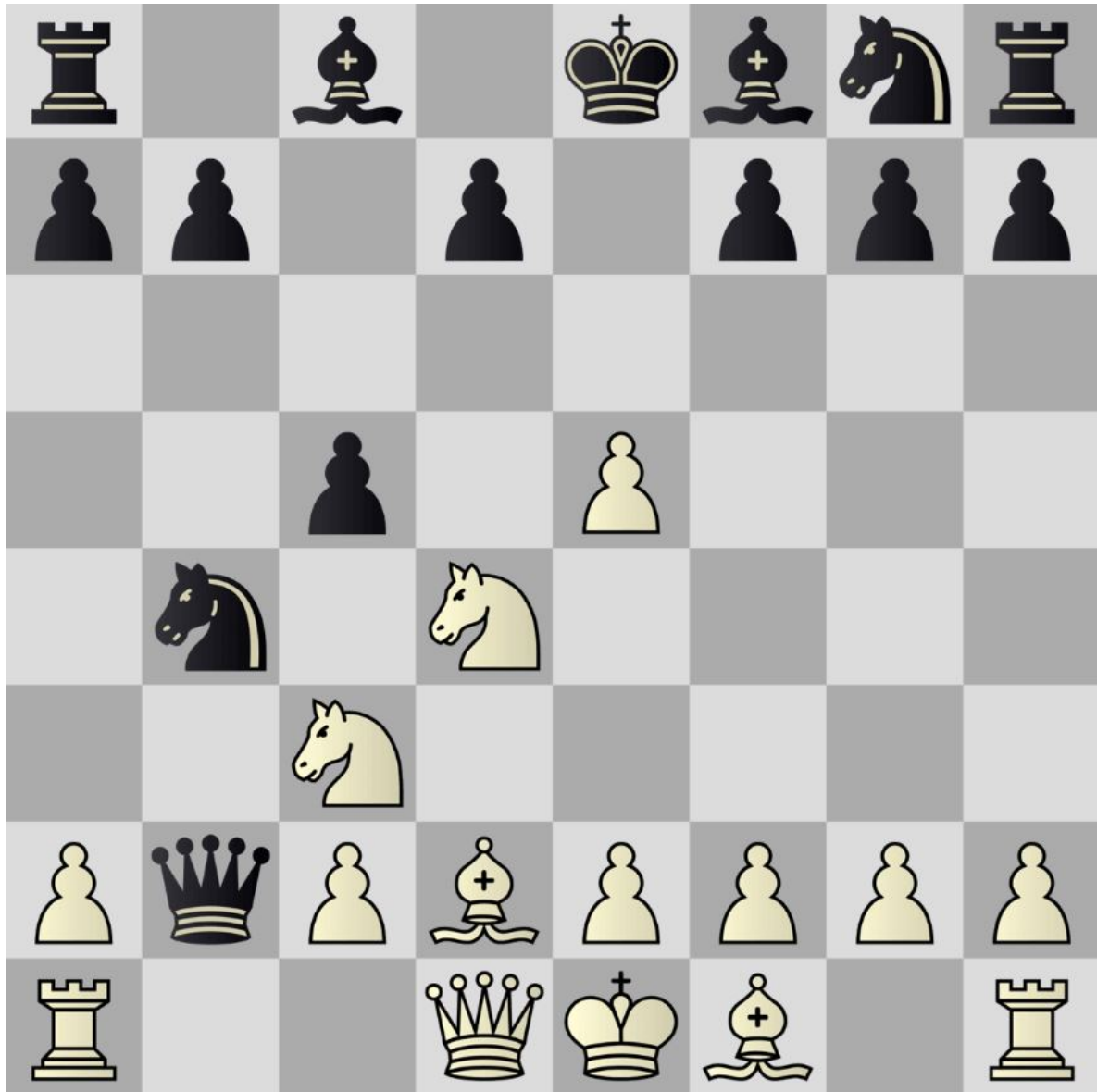
Englund Gambit

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 ♞c6 3. ♞f3 ♚e7 4. ♞g5 ♚b4+ 5. ♞c3 ♚xb2 6. ♞d2
♞b4 7. ♞d4 c5

White to move

87.

1. d4 e5 2. dxe5 ♖c6 3. ♗f3 ♜e7 4. ♘g5 ♝b4+ 5. ♗c3 ♝xb2 6. ♙d2 ♗b4 7. ♗d4 c5?? (7... ♗a6 is the best, but Black is already having a bad day.)



Solution: 8. ♜b1! (8. ♗cb5 Fails because of 8... cxd4) (8. ♗db5 and Black can win the Queen. 8... ♗xc2+ 9. ♝xc2 ♝xc2) **8... ♝a3** (8... ♝xb1 9. ♝xb1) **9. ♗db5 ♝a5 10. a3 ♗c6** (10... a6 11. axb4 cxb4 12. ♜a1 ♝b6 13. ♗d5) **11. ♗d5 ♝a4 12. ♗bc7+ ♜d8 13. ♗xa8** Extra credit if you saw this far.

88.

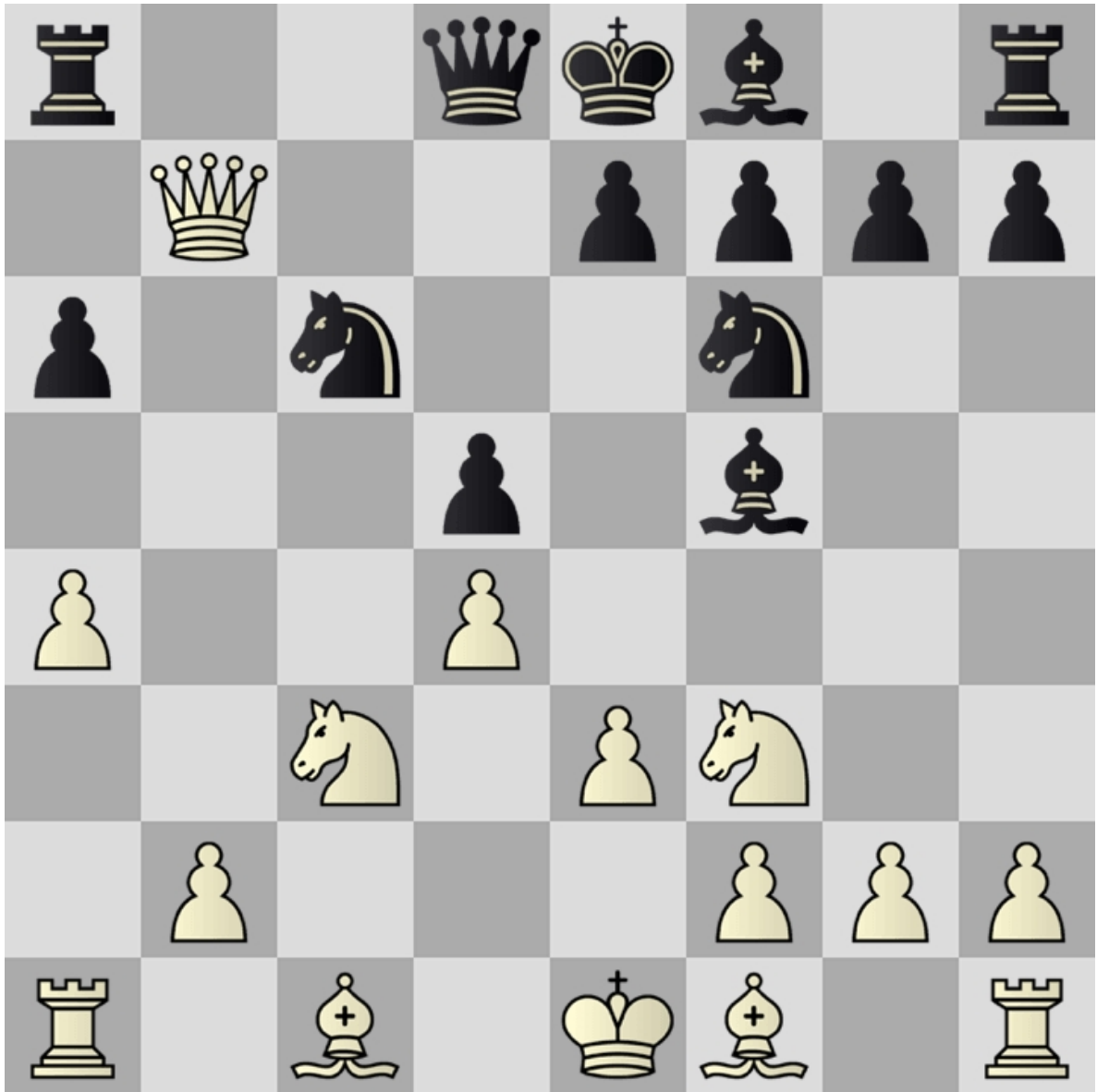
Slav Defense: Modern, Chameleon Variation

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♘c3 ♘f6 4. ♘f3 a6 5. e3 ♗f5 6. ♖b3 b5 7. cxd5 cxd5
8. a4 b4 9. ♕xb4 ♘c6 10. ♕b7

Black to move

88.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. ♖c3 ♖f6 4. ♖f3 a6 5. e3 ♗f5 6. ♘b3 b5 7. cxd5 cxd5
8. a4 b4 9. ♘xb4 ♖c6 10. ♘b7?? (10. ♘c5 Gives the best results for White according to the database.)












Solution: 10... ♖a5! *The White Queen is in danger!*

(10... ♖b8?? 11. ♘xc6+) (10... ♗d7? 11. ♘b3 *The Queen escapes.*) 11. ♘b4

(11. ♖b5+ *This move does not solve the problem.* 11... axb5 12. ♔xb5+ ♖d7 13. ♕d3 ♗b3 14. ♖b1) **11... e5!**

89.

Sicilian Defense: Normal Line, 5.Nc3

1. e4 c5 2.  f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4.  xd4  f6 5.  c3  c5 6.  e3  b6 7.
 a4  b4+

White to move

89.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 ♗c5 6. ♗e3 ♘b6 7. ♖a4 ♘b4+?? (7... ♘a5+ *The correct move here.* 8. ♖c3)



Solution: 8. c3! ♘a5 9. ♖xc5! (9. b4?! *Not as strong and Black still has a chance.* 9... ♗xb4 10. cxb4 ♘xb4+ 11. ♗e2 ♖xe4) 9... ♘xc5 10. ♖b5 *Black is behind in development and will lose material.* (10. ♖xe6 is also playable.) 10... ♘c6 (10... ♘e7 11. ♖c7+) 11. e5 ♖e4 12. ♘g4 g6 13. ♘xe4 ♘xe4 14. ♖d6+

90.

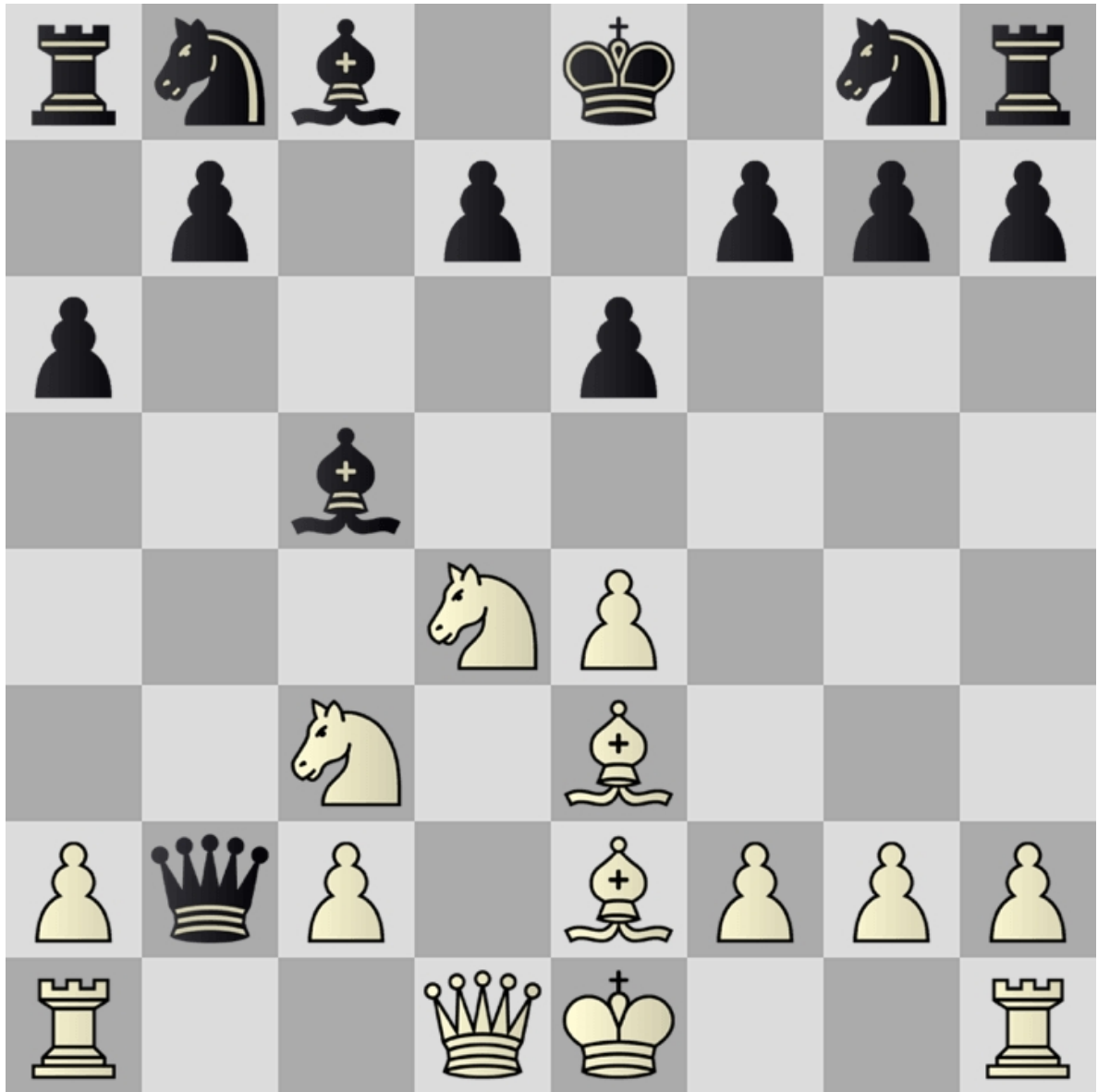
Sicilian Defense: Kveinis Variation

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♚b6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♞e2 ♞c5 7. ♞e3
♞xb2

White to move

90.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♜b6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♕e2 ♕c5 7. ♕e3 ♜xb2?? (7... ♜c7 Played in the game Llaneza V., M. - Zeng, C., 0-1, 2014)



Solution: 8. ♖a4! *Forking the Queen and Bishop.* 8... ♜b4+ 9. c3 ♜a5 10. ♖xc5 ♜xc5 11. ♖b5 ♜c6 12. ♖d6+ *Black is way behind in development for just one pawn.* 12... ♜e7 13. ♜d4 (13. e5 Also an option for White.) 13... ♜xd6 (13... ♜f8 14. O-O) 14. ♜xg7!

91.

Queen's Gambit Declined: Marshall Gambit

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♘c3 c6 4. e4 dxe4 5. ♘xe4 ♙b4+ 6. ♙d2 ♚xd4 7.
♙xb4 ♚xe4+ 8. ♙e2 ♘a6 9. ♙a5 b6 10. ♚d6 ♘e7

White to move

91.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. ♖c3 c6 4. e4 dxe4 5. ♖xe4 ♖b4+ 6. ♗d2 ♜xd4 7. ♗xb4 ♜xe4+ 8. ♗e2 ♖a6 9. ♗a5 b6 10. ♜d6 ♖e7 (10... ♗d7 Van Wely, L. - Shirov, A., 0-1, 2002)



Solution: 11. O-O-O! Besides being played 32 times on Lichess this position has also happened in 2 master's games. Black actually managed to win one of them from this position. **11... O-O** (11... f6 12. ♔d8+ ♚f7 13. ♔xh8 Elsness, F. - Argandona Riveiro, I., 1-0, 2011) **12. ♜xe7 bxa5**

(12... ♖f4+ 13. ♙d2 ♖xf2 14. ♙c3 ♖f4+ 15. ♚b1 e5 16. ♙xe5 ♙f5+ 17. ♚a1 ♖e4 18. ♙d6 ♖c2 19. ♖e3 ♜fd8 20. ♞f3 c5 21. a3 ♜e8 22. ♞e5 ♜ad8 23. ♙d3?? (23. ♙h5 g6 24. ♖g5 *White have a winning attack.*) 23... ♙xd3 Nezd, H. - Tsharotschkin, M., 2014, 0-1) **13. ♜d8 ♙b7 14. ♖xf8#**

92.

King's Gambit: Falkbeer Countergambit

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3. ♖f3 dxe4 4. ♖xe5 ♙c5 5. ♖c3 ♗f6 6. ♚e2 ♖c6 7.
♜xf7 ♚e7 8. ♖xh8 ♜d4 9. ♚d1

Black to move

92.

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3. ♖f3 dxe4 4. ♖xe5 ♙c5 5. ♖c3 ♗f6 6. ♚e2 ♖c6 7.
♜xf7 ♚e7 8. ♖xh8 ♜d4 9. ♚d1



Solution: 9... ♖f3+! 10. gxf3 exf3+ 11. ♙e2 f2+! 12. ♚f1 ♙h3# *From the game Alfred K. Ettlinger vs. David Janowski, New York, 1898.*

93.

Sicilian Defense: Open

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♞e2 d6 7. ♞g5
e6 8. O-O ♞e7 9. f4

Black to move

93.

Sicilian Defense: Open

1. e4 c5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♘xd4 ♘f6 5. ♘c3 a6 6. ♖e2 d6 7. ♖g5
e6 8. O-O ♖e7 9. f4

Black to move

93.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 ♗c6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♗f6 5. ♗c3 a6 6. ♘e2 d6 7. ♘g5 e6 8. O-O ♘e7 9. f4



Solution: 9.. ♘b6! *There is no way to add extra protection to the Knight (9... O-O Fishbein, A. - Sokolov, A., 1/2-1/2, 1990, If you solved it remember to give yourself some credit.) 10. e5 ♗xd4 11. ♘h1 ♗d5 and Black is up a Knight. The starting position of the puzzle has been reached 651 times on Lichess and only 156 times was ♘b6 found.*

94.

Sicilian Defense: Alapin Variation

1. e4 c5 2. c3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. cxd4 d5 5. exd5 ♔xd5 6. ♘c3 ♞b4
7. ♘f3 ♘f6 8. ♞d3 ♘e4 9. ♞d2 ♞xc3 10. bxc3 ♘c6

White to move

94.

1. e4 c5 2. c3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. cxd4 d5 5. exd5 ♖xd5 6. ♕c3 ♟b4 7. ♕f3 ♕f6 8. ♟d3 ♕e4 9. ♟d2 ♟xc3 10. bxc3 ♕c6?? *Taking away the square from the Queen.*



Solution: 11. c4! ♖f5 12. ♖e2! *Now the Knight is lost or the Queen.*

(12. ♖c2? ♕xd4! 13. ♖d1 ♕xf3+ 14. gxf3 ♕xf2! 15. ♖a4+ (15. ♖xf2 ♖xd3) 15... b5 16. ♟xf5 bxa4 17. ♖xf2 *We are about equal here!*) 12... ♕xd2 13. ♟xf5 ♕xf3+ 14. gxf3

95.

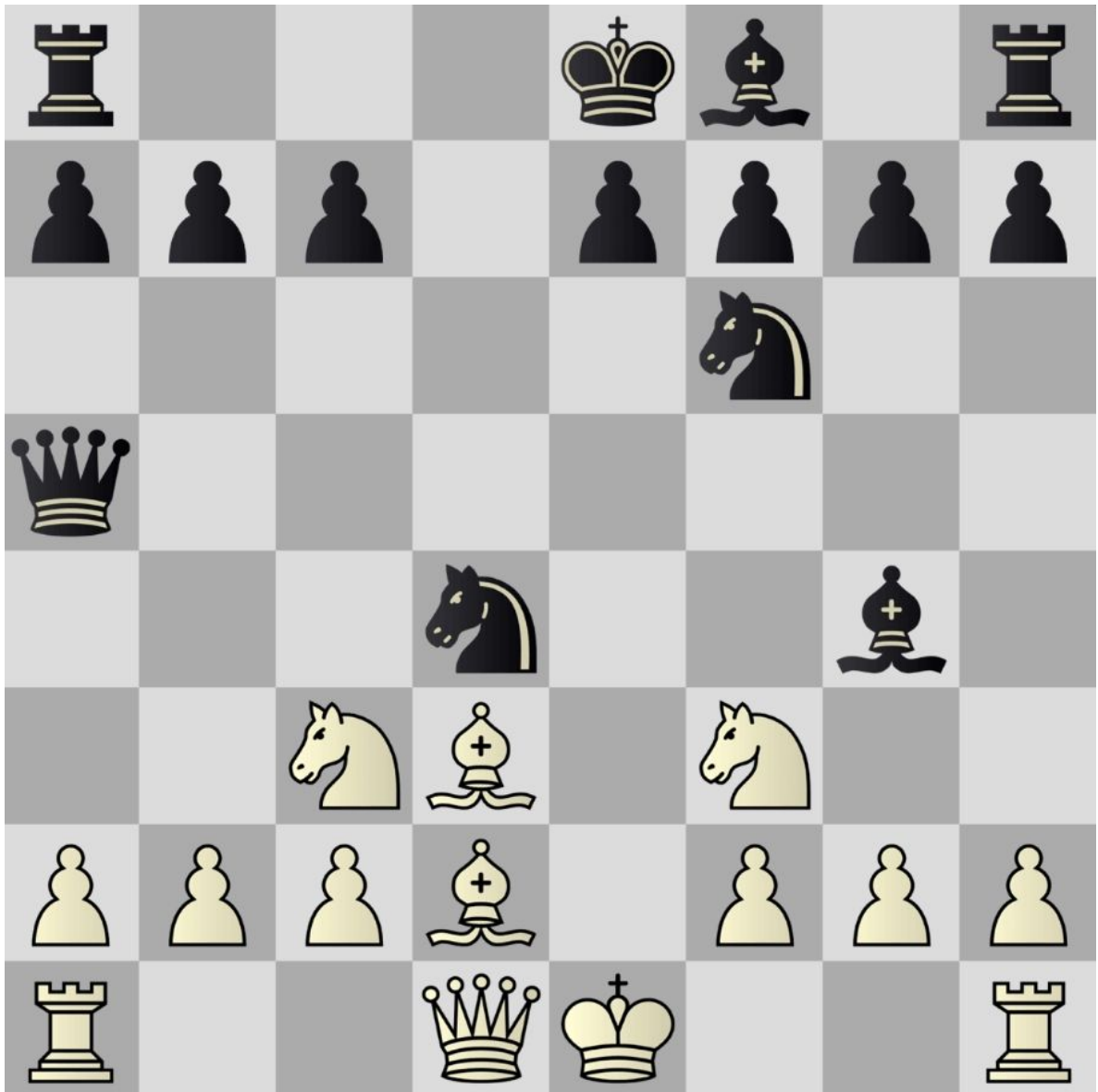
Scandinavian Defense: Main Line

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♚xd5 3. ♘c3 ♚a5 4. ♘f3 ♘f6 5. d4 ♘c6 6. ♖d3 ♖g4 7.
♗d2 ♘xd4

White to move

95.

1. e4 d5 2. exd5 ♖xd5 3. ♗c3 ♜a5 4. ♗f3 ♗f6 5. d4 ♗c6 6. ♘d3 ♘g4
7. ♘d2 ♗xd4? (7... O-O-O Gives an equal game.)










Solution: 8. ♗b5! White attacks the Queen and Knight. Only spotted in 27 out of 182 games on Lichess. 8... ♘xf3 (8... ♗xf3+ 9. gxf3 ♘xf3 10. ♖xf3 and White is up a piece with better development.) (8... ♜b6 Fleeing with the Queen also fails due to 9. ♗bxd4 e5 10. ♖e2 O-O-O 11. ♘f5+! ♘xf5 12. ♗xf5 White is up again.) 9. ♘xa5 ♘xd1 10. ♗xc7+ forking the King and Rook 10... ♜d7

11. ♖xd1 (11. ♘xa8? ♙xc2) 11... b6 12. ♘xa8 bxa5 13. ♙b5+ ♚d6 14. ♖xd4+ *White is winning.*

96.

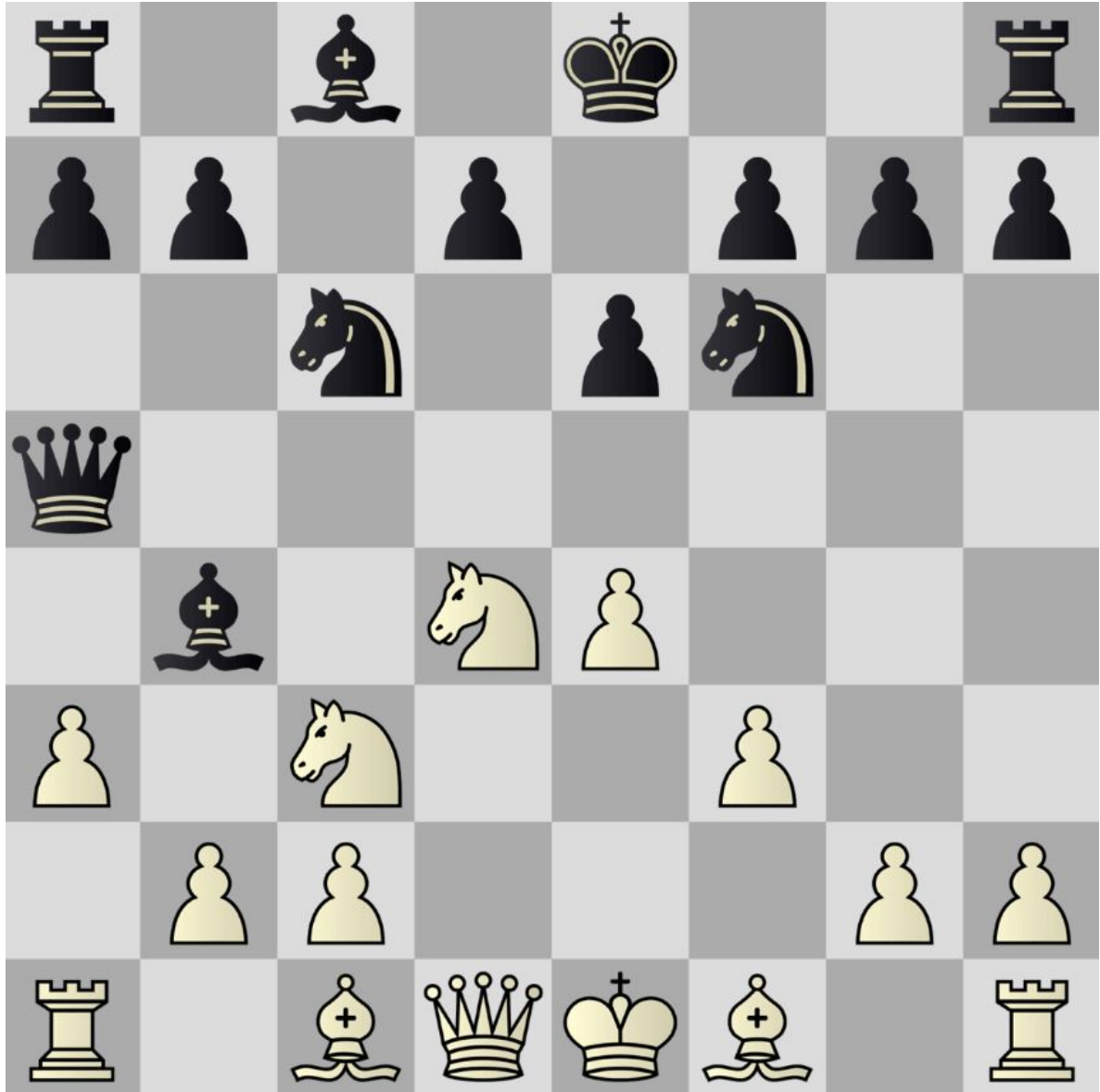
Sicilian Defense: Four Knights Variation

1. e4 c5 2.  f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4.  xd4  f6 5.  c3  c6 6. f3  b4 7. a3
 a5

White to move

96.

1. e4 c5 2. ♖f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 ♖f6 5. ♗c3 ♗c6 6. f3 ♘b4 7. a3 ♚a5?



Solution: 8. axb4!! Only found in 8 out of 92 games on Lichess. Some of them who found the move have sadly gotten their accounts deleted due to cheating. 8... ♚xa1 9. ♗b3! The idea behind axb4 trapping the Queen.

97.

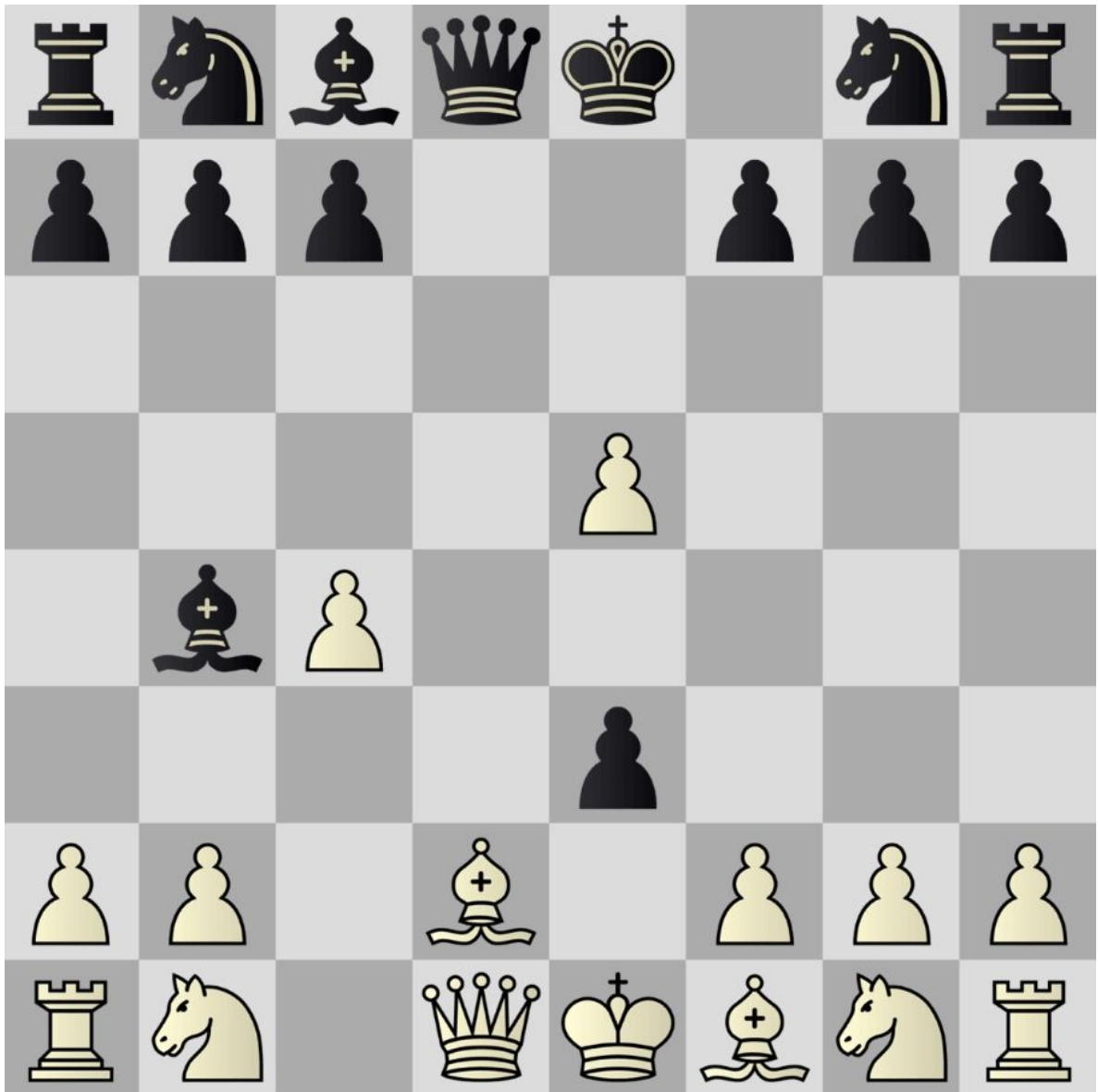
Queen's Gambit Declined: Albin Countergambit

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 d4 4. e3 ♖b4+ 5. ♖d2 dxe3

White to move

97.

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 d4 4. e3?! (4. ♖f3 *the mainline*) 4... ♜b4+ 5. ♜d2 dxe3



Solution: 6. fxe3! (6. ♜xb4?? *This blunder has been committed more than 6000 times on Lichess and is called the Lasker trap!* 6... exf2+ 7. ♚e2 fxe3=♚+!! 8. ♚e1 (8. ♜xg1 ♜g4+) 8... ♚h4+ 9. g3 (9. ♚d2 ♖c6 (9... ♜g4 Pavlov, B. S. -Wilton, G., 0-1, 1973)) 9... ♚e4+ 10. ♚f2 ♚xh1)

(6. ♖a4+? ♗c6 7. ♙xb4 (7. fxe3 ♖h4+ *Black is still attacking the White King.*) 7... ♖h4! *Now White is under some real pressure from the Queen and pawn.* 8. g3 exf2+ 9. ♖xf2 ♗d4+ 10. ♖e1 (10. ♖g2 ♖xb2+ 11. ♙e2 ♖xa1) 10... ♗e4+ 11. ♖f2 ♖xh1) 6... ♖h4+ 7. g3 ♖e4 8. ♖f3 *White is still in the game* (Shumiakina, Tatiana - Raetsky, A., 0-1, 1995).

98.

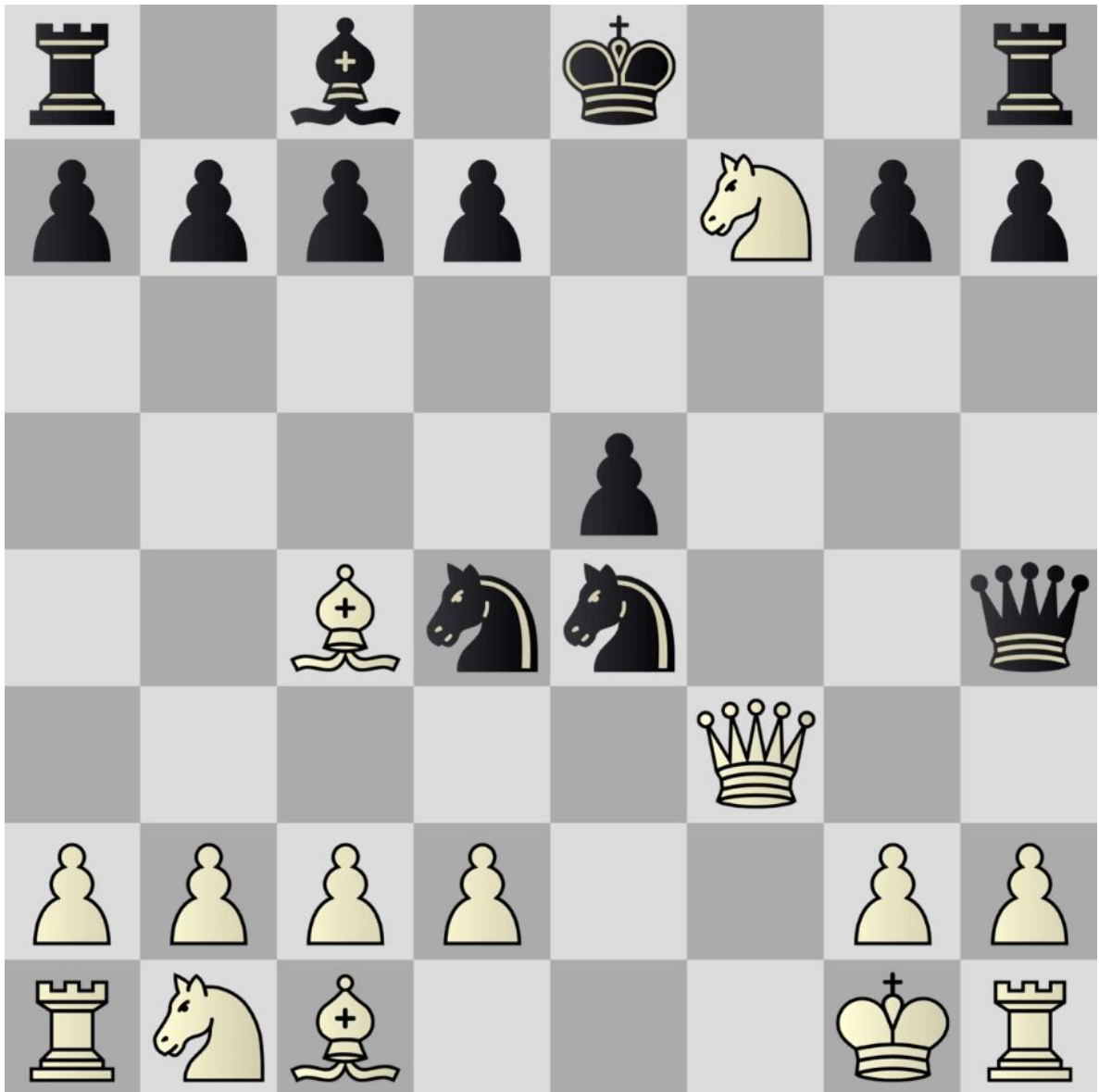
Italian Game: Two Knights Defense - Traxler Counterattack - Knight
Sacrifice Line

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♖c4 ♗f6 4. ♗g5 ♖c5 5. ♗xf7 ♖xf2+ 6. ♔xf2
♗xe4+ 7. ♔g1 ♗h4 8. ♔f3 ♗d4

White to move

98.









1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. ♙c4 ♗f6 4. ♗g5 ♙c5 5. ♗xf7 ♙xf2+ 6. ♚xf2
 ♗xe4+ 7. ♚g1 ♘h4 8. ♘f3 ♗d4



Solution: 9. ♘e3! *The only move!* (9. ♘f1? ♗f8! 10. ♗c3 ♗g5 and Black are going to pick up the Knight 11. d3 ♗xf7) (9. ♗d6+?? ♗xd6) (9. ♚d1 ♘f2#) (9. ♚d3 ♘f2#) 9... ♗xc2 10. ♘e2 ♗f8 *The game is a mess, but equal.* (10... ♗d4 11. ♘e3 ♗c2 12. ♘e2 draw.)

99.

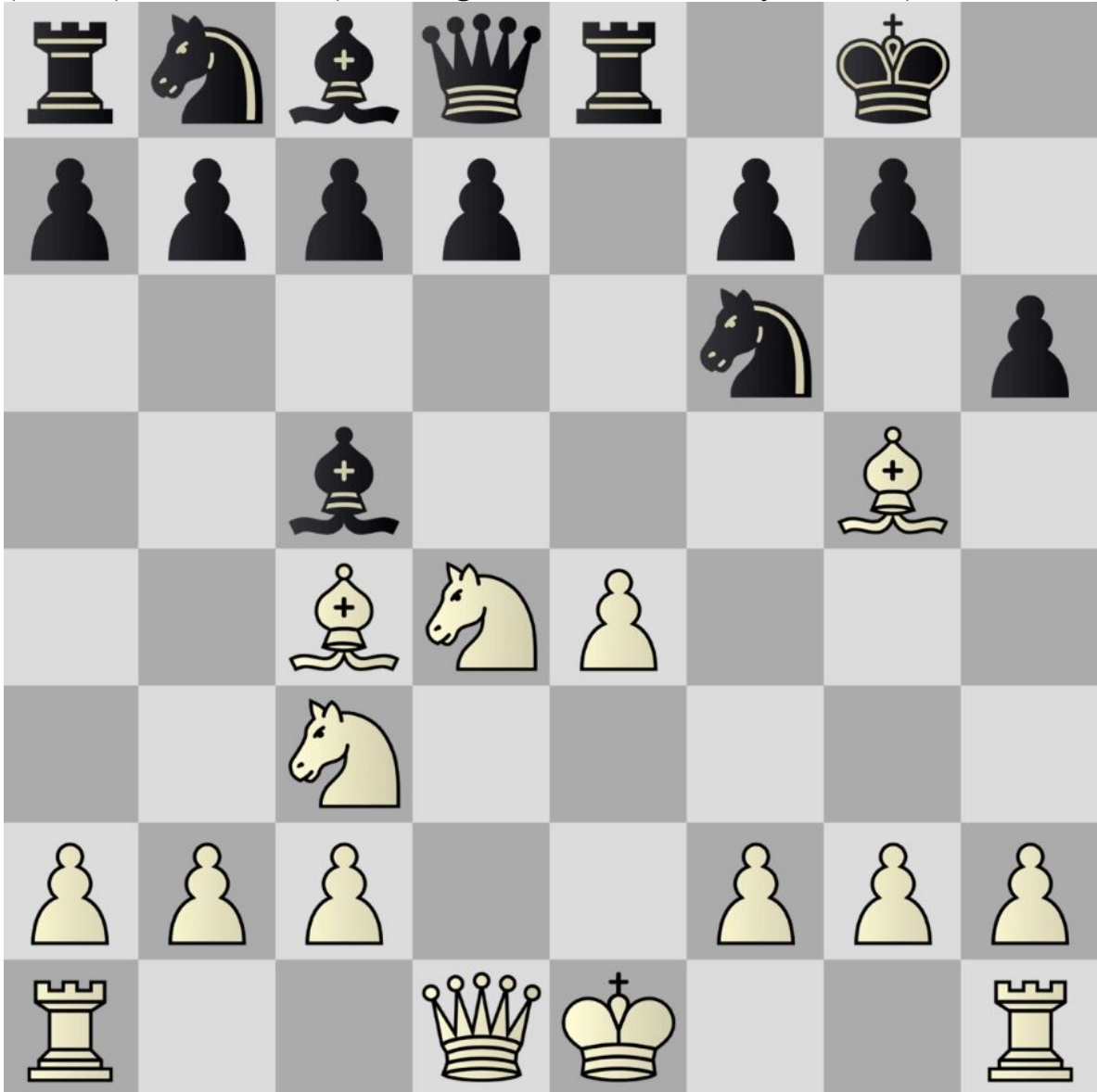
Center Game: Kieseritzky Variation

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3.  f3  c5 4.  xd4  f6 5.  g5 O-O 6.  c4  e8 7.
 c3 h6

White to move

99.

1. e4 e5 2. d4 exd4 3. ♖f3 ♘c5 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♘g5 O-O 6. ♘c4 ♜e8
(6... d5!) 7. ♖c3 h6?? (7... d5 Again this move is best for Black.)



Solution: 8. ♘xf7+! Only spotted in 1 game out of 86 games. The game is no longer in the database, so maybe it was a cheater? So well done, if you found this one! (8. ♘h4 g5 9. ♘g3 ♖xe4) 8... ♚xf7 (8... ♚h8 9. ♘xe8) 9. ♘xf6 ♜xf6 10. ♜h5+ ♜f8 11. ♜xc5+

100.

Scotch Game: Classical Variation

1. e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♘xd4 ♙c5 5. ♙e3 ♚f6 6. c3 ♘ge7 7.
♙e2 d5 8. ♙f3 dxe4 9. ♙xe4 O-O

White to move

100.

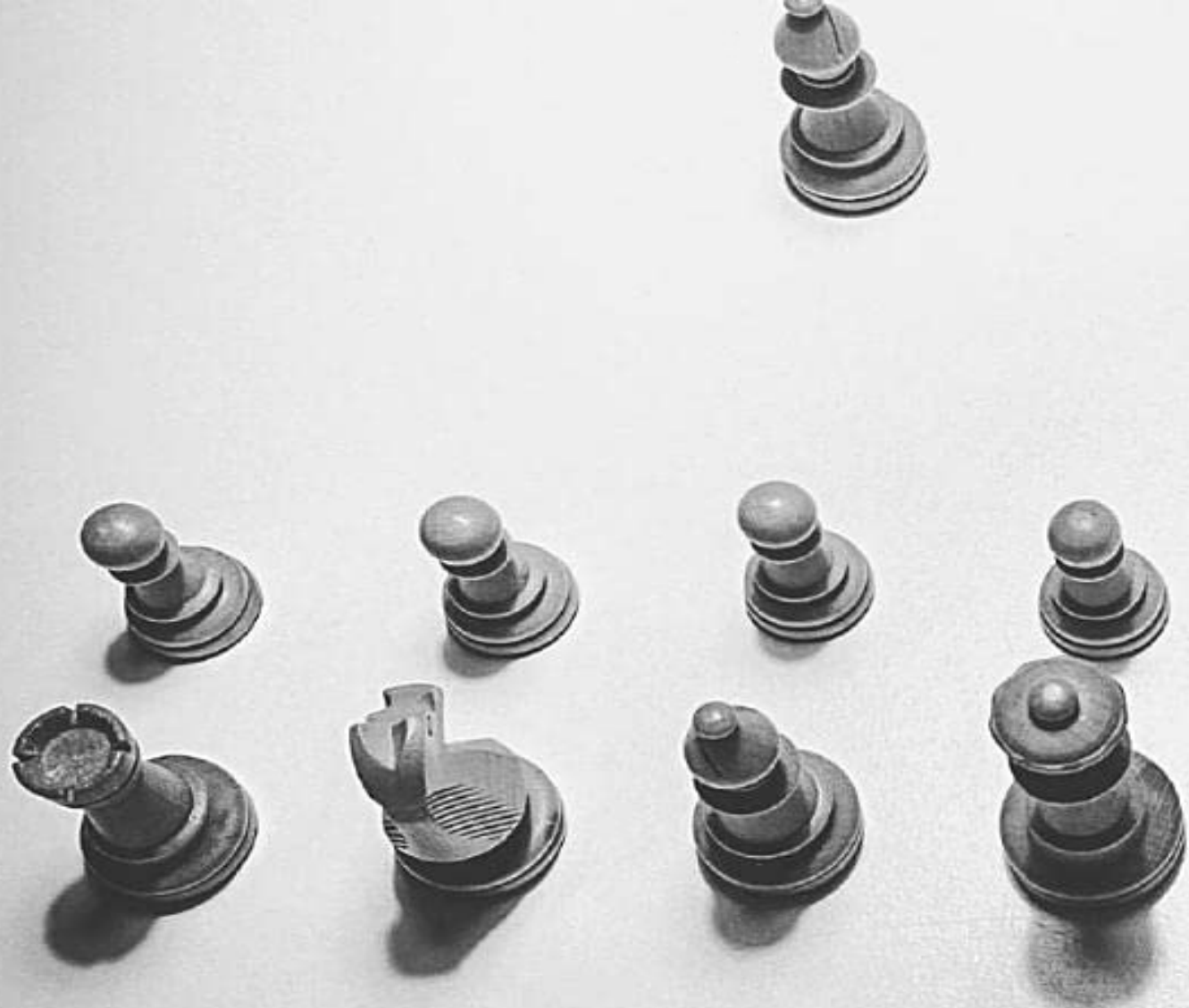
1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖c6 3. d4 exd4 4. ♖xd4 ♙c5 5. ♙e3 ♜f6 6. c3 ♖ge7 7. ♙e2 d5 8. ♙f3 dxe4 9. ♙xe4 O-O?? (9... ♙xd4 Kertesz, F. - Nagy, K., 0-1, 1993)



Solution: 10. ♜h5! Threatening mate and the Bishop on c5. (10. O-O By far the most played move in this position.) 10... ♖f5 Blocking with the Knight does not save Black. (10... ♙d6 11. ♙xh7+ ♜h8 12. ♙g6+ ♙g8 13. ♜h7#) 11. ♖xf5 ♙xf5 (11... ♙xe3 12. ♖e7+ ♖xe7 13. ♜xh7#) 12. ♙xf5 g6 13. ♙xg6 hxg6 14. ♜xc5

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/Martin B. Justesen



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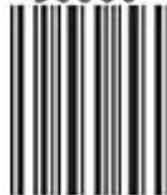
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