

Contents

Symbols	5
Introduction	6
Game 1: J. Nunn – <i>The King</i> , AEGON Man vs Machine, The Hague 1993	10
Game 2: <i>The King II</i> – J. Nunn, AEGON Man vs Machine, The Hague 1993	13
Game 3: J. Nunn – I. Stohl, Pardubice 1993	16
Game 4: J. Nunn – M. Sadler, London (Lloyds Bank) 1993	21
Game 5: S. Conquest – J. Nunn, London (Lloyds Bank) 1993	26
Game 6: M. Sadler – J. Nunn, Hastings 1993/4	31
Game 7: J. Nunn – I. Rogers, Hastings 1993/4	35
Game 8: J. Nunn – D. Barua, Hastings 1993/4	41
Game 9: J. Nunn – M. Sher, Vejle 1994	45
Game 10: J. Nunn – V. Bologan, Bundesliga 1993/4	50
Game 11: S. Björnsson – J. Nunn, London (Lloyds Bank) 1994	54
Game 12: M. Petursson – J. Nunn, London (Lloyds Bank) 1994	55
Game 13: J. Nunn – J. Howell, Isle of Man 1994	60
Game 14: J. Nunn – R. Kuczynski, Bundesliga 1994/5	64
Game 15: V. Bologan – J. Nunn, Bundesliga 1994/5	70
Game 16: J. Nunn – C. Lutz, Bundesliga 1994/5	75
Game 17: D. Norwood – J. Nunn, Bundesliga 1994/5	83
Game 18: J. Nunn – Xie Jun, San Francisco 1995	85
Game 19: J. Nunn – A. Vydeslaver, Leeuwarden 1995	89
Game 20: E. Gleizerov – J. Nunn, Leeuwarden 1995	94
Game 21: A. Shirov – J. Nunn, Amsterdam (Donner Memorial) 1995	96
Game 22: J. Piket – J. Nunn, Amsterdam (Donner Memorial) 1995	101
Game 23: J. Nunn – P. van der Sterren, Bundesliga 1995/6	103
Game 24: J. Hodgson – J. Nunn, Bundesliga 1995/6	109
Game 25: J. Nunn – I. Stohl, Bundesliga 1995/6	117
Game 26: J. Nunn – B. Lalić, London 1996	124
Game 27: J. Nunn – R. Slobodjan, Bundesliga 1996/7	130
Game 28: M. Adams – J. Nunn, Hastings 1996/7	135
Game 29: J. Nunn – Xie Jun, Hastings 1996/7	143
Game 30: J. Nunn – S. Conquest, Hastings 1996/7	146
Game 31: J. Nunn – C. Ward, Hastings 1997/8	153
Game 32: J. Nunn – C. Ward, British League (4NCL) 1997/8	160
Game 33: J. Nunn – M. Chandler, British League (4NCL) 1998/9	167
Game 34: J. Nunn – J. Hector, Oxford 1998	172
Game 35: J. Nunn – N. Miezis, French League 1999	179
Game 36: J. Nunn – D. McMahon, European Clubs Cup, Reykjavik 1999	183

Game 37:	H. Teske – J. Nunn, Bundesliga 1999/00	184
Game 38:	J. Nunn – T. Hillarp Persson, Paignton (Golombek Memorial) 2000	190
Game 39:	J. Nunn – M. Borriss, Bundesliga 2000/1	198
Game 40:	J. Nunn – M. Stangl, Bundesliga 2000/1	201
Game 41:	J. Nunn – T. Heinemann, Bundesliga 2001/2	203
Game 42:	J. Nunn – U. Bönsch, Bundesliga 2001/2	207
Game 43:	J. Nunn – M. Krasenkow, German Team Cup Final, Baden-Baden 2002	214
Game 44:	J. Nunn – E. Lobron, Bundesliga 2001/2	220
Game 45:	P. Wells – J. Nunn, British League (4NCL) 2001/2	225
Game 46:	J. Nunn – L. Keitlinghaus, Bundesliga 2002/3	232
Studies		239
Solutions to Studies		246
Problems		261
Solutions to Problems		267
The State of the Chess World		270
Chess Publishing and the Batsford Story		278
Index of Nunn's Opponents		286
Index of Openings		287

stuck in the centre. Such a situation is fraught with danger and any error is likely to be severely punished. The crucial mistake came at move 13, and White's unexpected reply was effectively a knock-out blow.

Game 35

J. Nunn – N. Miezis

French League 1999

Sicilian Defence, 2 ♘f3 e6 3 c3

1 e4 c5
 2 ♘f3 e6
 3 c3

Miezis is an expert on the Kan System (3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 a6) and has achieved excellent practical results with it, so I decided to shift the battleground to something which I hoped he would be less familiar with. Unfortunately, I was also unfamiliar with it since I had never played the 3 c3 d5 4 e5 system before in my life. However, I preferred to fight on territory which was unknown to both of us rather than on my opponent's home ground.

3 ... d5

3...♘f6 4 e5 ♘d5 is of course also playable, transposing into a position normally reached via 2 c3 ♘f6 3 e5 ♘d5 4 ♘f3 e6. However, I had noticed that Miezis invariably meets 2 c3 by 2...d5, so it seemed unlikely that he would go in for this line.

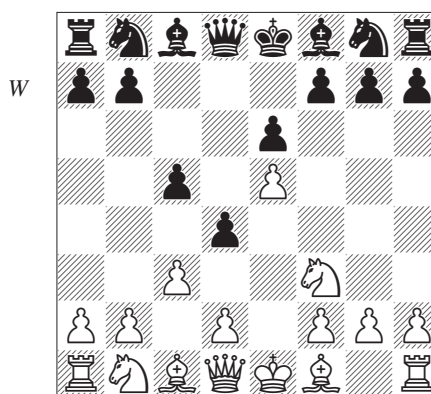
4 e5

For 4 exd5 see Game 28.

4 ... d4 (D)

If Black plays 4...♘c6, White will reply 5 d4 transposing into the Advance Variation of the French (normally reached after 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 ♘c6 5 ♘f3). However, many Sicilian players dislike this option, which leads to a type of position unfamiliar to them. The text-move is therefore a popular choice, cutting out d4 by White.

The position after 4...d4 is strategically quite interesting. The d4-pawn exerts a cramping influence on White's queenside and the fundamental question is whether White can solve the problem of developing his queenside pieces. Black has fewer development problems, but in the long run White's e5-pawn could form the basis of an attack by White if Black castles kingside.



5 ♙d3

This move may appear rather odd, because blocking the d3-pawn is not going to help White get his dark-squared bishop into play. The trouble is that White is more or less forced to block in one bishop or the other, since releasing the c1-bishop by d3 only obstructs the other bishop. Therefore, White aims to castle quickly, which at least gives him the chance to support his e5-pawn by ♖e1 and, if necessary, ♗e2.

5 cxd4 cxd4 6 ♗a4+ ♘c6 7 ♙b5 ♙d7 is wrong as White cannot now win a pawn (8 ♙xc6 ♙xc6 9 ♗xd4 ♗xd4 10 ♘xd4 ♙xg2 is obviously good for Black), while otherwise White's queen and bishop are exposed to attack.

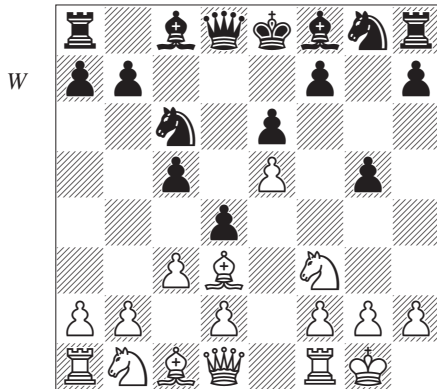
5 ... ♘c6

The most natural move. Note that Black should never play ...dxc3, because after the reply dxc3 White can easily develop his queenside pieces, and then the cramping e5-pawn gives him the advantage.

6 0-0 g5!? (D)

6...♘ge7 is the most common continuation, when White replies either 7 ♖e1 or 7 ♙e4.

The text-move was unexpected and I was now on my own. Black's plan is rather clear:



he simply intends to win the e5-pawn with a combination of ...g4 and ...g7. White cannot even reply 7 ♖e1?, because then 7...g4 traps the knight. At first I was at a loss as to how to proceed, but then I saw that by sacrificing the e5-pawn White could obtain a dangerous initiative.

7 ♗e4

Essentially the only move. White threatens to take on c6, not only relieving the pressure against e5 but also seriously damaging Black's queenside pawn-structure.

7 ... ♗d7

7...g4 8 ♗xc6+ bxc6 9 ♖e1 h5 10 d3 is slightly better for White, as there are tempting squares for the b1-knight at c4 and e4, while White can support his e5-pawn by playing f4. Therefore Black decides to spend a tempo countering the threat of ♗xc6+.

8 d3

Opening the line of the c1-bishop so that the f3-knight can jump to the active square g5.

8 ... ♗g4

9 ♖g5!

This position has arisen four times in practice, with White winning all four games. Two of these encounters occurred before the present game, but I only became aware of this when I checked my database after the game. 9 ♗xc6 ♗xc6 10 ♖g5 avoids losing a pawn, but after 10...♗d5 11 ♗xg4 ♗xe5 the position is starting to open up, and this favours the side with the two bishops.

9 ... ♗xe5

9...h6 is also possible:

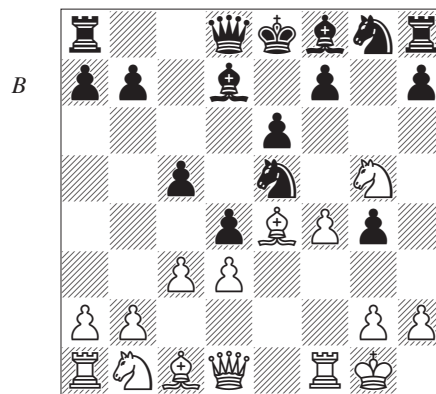
1) 10 ♖h7 ♗g7 (10...♗xe5 11 ♖xf8 ♗xf8 12 ♖e1 ♗f6 13 ♗xb7 ♖b8 14 ♗e4 and White regains the sacrificed pawn with a clear advantage

in view of Black's misplaced king and weakened dark squares) 11 ♗xg4 ♗xe5 12 f4 ♗f6 13 ♗d2 ♗e7 14 ♖a3 0-0-0 with a very sharp and unclear position.

2) 10 ♖xf7!? ♗xf7 11 ♗xg4 is a positional piece sacrifice. Currently White has just two pawns for the piece, but he has long-term attacking chances because the black king lacks a safe spot. After 11...♖ge7 (11...♖xe5? loses to 12 ♗h5+ ♗f6 13 ♗f4) 12 ♖a3 h5 13 ♗f3+ ♖f5 14 ♗f4 ♖c8 15 ♖ae1 White had sufficient compensation in Sanduleac-Rajković, Pančevo 2002, a game which White eventually won.

Accepting the pawn is double-edged, since Black's early g-pawn advance has left him with several weaknesses, especially along the f-file.

10 f4 (D)



This allows the f1-rook to join in the attack from its original square.

10 ... ♖g6

Black has various alternatives, but in every case White either regains the pawn or secures a dangerous initiative:

1) 10...h6 11 fxe5 hxg5 12 ♗xg4 ♗e7 was played in Tempone-Spangenberg, Buenos Aires 1992 and now 13 ♗xb7 ♖b8 14 ♗e4 ♗c7 15 ♗g3 ♖h6 16 ♖a3 would have been very good for White.

2) 10...♖c6 11 f5! exf5 and now:

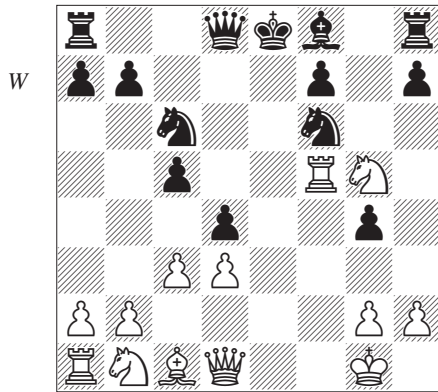
2a) 12 ♗d5 ♖h6 13 ♗b3 with another branch:

2a1) 13...♗e7 14 ♗f4! (14 ♗xb7 ♖b8 15 ♗c7 ♗e5 is unclear) 14...0-0-0 15 ♖a3 with a strong initiative in return for the two pawns.

2a2) 13...♗f6 14 ♖e1+ ♗e7 15 ♗xb7 ♖b8 16 ♗c7 ♖c8 17 ♗g3 0-0 18 ♗f4 gives White

fair compensation for the pawn, but he may not have any advantage.

2b) 12 ♙xf5 (this simple continuation is best) 12... ♜xf5 13 ♞xf5 ♘f6 (D) and now:



2b1) 14 ♘f7 ? (a tempting but unsound sacrifice) 14... ♚xf7 15 ♞b3+ ♜e8 (15... c4 ? 16 ♞xc4+ ♜e8 17 ♙g5 ♙e7 18 ♘d2 gives White a very dangerous attack) 16 ♞xb7 $\text{♞d7!$ 17 ♞xa8+ ♚f7 and White will lose his queen.

2b2) 14 ♘d2! ♙g7 15 ♘de4 dxc3 16 bxc3 and Black is in difficulties:

2b21) 16... h6 17 ♘xf6+ ♙xf6 18 ♘e4 ♙d4+ (18... ♙xc3 ? loses to 19 ♘xc3 ♞d4+ 20 ♚h1 ♞xc3 21 ♞e2+ followed by ♙b2) 19 ♚h1 ♘e7 20 ♞h5 ♙g7 21 ♙f4 with a large advantage for White.

2b22) 16... ♘e4 17 ♘e4 0-0 18 ♞xg4 ♚h8 19 ♞h3 , threatening 20 ♞h5 , with an enormous attack.

3) 10... gxf3 11 ♘f3 ♘g4 (11... ♘c6 ? 12 ♘g5 ♘h6 13 ♞h5 ♞e7 14 ♘h3 is winning for White, while 11... ♘g6 12 ♙xb7 ♞b8 13 ♙a6 gives White some advantage) 12 h3 ♘4f6 13 ♙xb7 ♞b8 14 ♙a6 ♙d6 15 ♘bd2 is better for White. It is very risky for Black to accept the pawn by 15... dxc3 16 bxc3 ♞a5 17 ♙c4 ♞xc3 , since 18 ♘b3 followed by ♞b1 and ♙b2 gives White a dangerous attack.

11 f5

Opening up lines and taking aim at the weak f7-square.

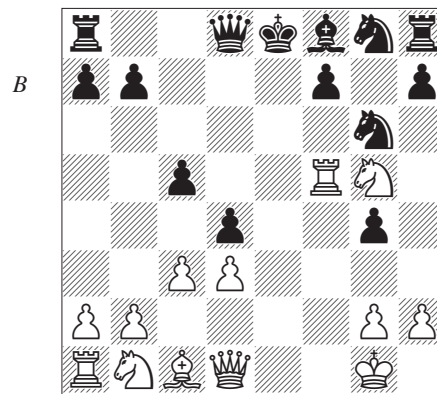
11 ... exf5
12 ♙xf5

12 ♞b3 ♘h6 13 ♙d5 looks dangerous, but after 13... ♞e7 14 ♞xb7 ♞d8 15 ♙d2 ♙g7 there is nothing clear for White.

12 ... ♙xf5

Or 12... ♘e5 13 ♞b3 (threatening both 14 ♞e1 and the neat 14 ♘f7 ♘f7 15 $\text{♙g6!$) 13... ♘h6 14 ♙e4 (stronger than 14 ♙xd7+ ♞xd7 15 ♘e4 0-0-0 16 ♙g5 ♘d3 , which isn't totally clear) 14... ♞b6 (after 14... ♙g7 15 ♞xb7 ♞c8 16 ♞xa7 White is a pawn up) 15 ♙xb7 ♞d8 16 ♞e1 ♙g7 17 ♙f4 18 ♙d5 with very unpleasant pressure for White.

13 ♞xf5 (D)



13 ... ♘h6?

Up to here, Black has not made a significant error, but this natural move turns out to be a serious mistake. Black hopes to force the rook back and thereby gain time to develop his pieces, but after White's reply this scheme collapses and it turns out that Black has fatally weakened the f6-square. Alternatives:

1) 13... ♘f6 14 ♘d2 (simple development is best) 14... dxc3 15 ♞b3! (15 bxc3 ♙g7 16 ♘de4 0-0 is fine for Black) 15... ♞d7 16 ♞xf6 cxd2 17 ♙xd2 gives White a strong attack.

2) 13... ♞d7! is the right way to attack the rook and keeps White's advantage to a minimum:

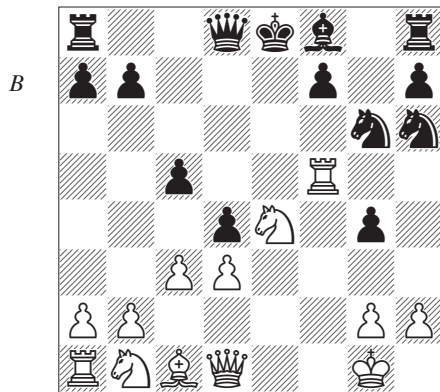
2a) 14 ♞e2+?! ♘8e7 (not 14... ♞e7 15 ♘e4 ♞e6 16 ♙g5 ♙e7 17 ♘bd2 0-0-0 18 ♙xe7 ♘8e7 19 ♞f6 ♞d5 20 ♞xg4+ ♚b8 21 c4 with a massive advantage for White) 15 ♞xf7 h6 (not 15... ♙h6 16 ♘e4 ♚xf7 17 ♙xh6 ♘f5 18 ♞xg4 with excellent compensation for White) 16 ♞f6 hxg5 17 ♞xg6 g3 gives Black the initiative.

2b) 14 ♞f1 f6 15 ♞e2+ ♙e7 16 ♘e6 ♚f7 leads to a likely draw after 17 ♘g5+ .

2c) 14 ♞xf7! ♙e7 15 ♞f1 (15 ♞b3 ♘f6 is unclear) 15... h6 16 ♘e4 0-0-0 17 c4 gives White

an excellent knight on e4, but he has still to complete his queenside development. On balance, I think White should be slightly better here.

14 ♖e4! (D)



For a moment my opponent looked stunned as I played this move, so I suppose it was a complete surprise for him. White clears the g5-square for ♕g5, while at the same time the f6-square beckons to the knight. The crucial point is that taking the rook by 14...♗xf5 costs Black his queen after 15 ♖a4+ ♖e7 (or 15...♗d7 16 ♗f6+) 16 ♕g5+.

14 ... ♕g7

There is nothing else. It is unusual for a player to be able to launch such a vicious attack with most of his pieces still on their original squares.

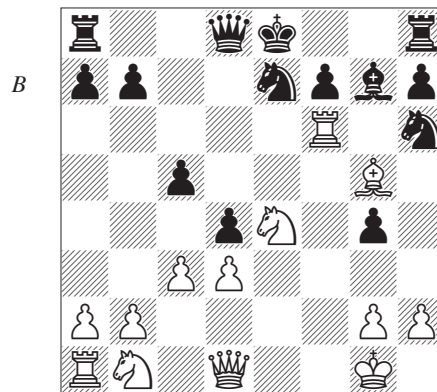
15 ♕g5 ♗e7

This move surprisingly costs Black a piece, but the position was lost in any case; for example, 15...♖b6 16 ♗f6+ ♕xf6 17 ♗xf6 ♖xb2 18 ♗d2 and the threats of ♗c4, ♗b1, ♖a4+ and ♕xh6 are too much, or 15...dxc3 16 bxc3 ♖c7 17 ♗xc5 ♖b6 18 ♖a4+ ♖f8 19 ♗bd2 followed by ♗c4 and Black's position is a total wreck.

16 ♗f6! (D)

Of the three leagues I played in during 1998/9, the French League proved the most troublesome for me. I scored just 4½/8, compared to 3/4 in the (second) Bundesliga and an excellent 5/6 in the 4NCL. In fact, after this season I only played one further game in the French League, since although I had agreed with the Monaco team captain to play in certain matches during the 2000 season, when the matches actually arrived I was left out of the team.

Since my chess was by now largely confined to national leagues, the summer period was inevitably one of little chess activity. In September I travelled to Reykjavik to play for my 4NCL club, Invicta Knights, in a qualification group for the European Clubs Cup. My experience is that if you have a long period away from chess, the first part of your chess ability that you lose is your common



Threatening to take on h6, or to play 17 ♗d6+.

16 ... dxc3

16...♕xf6 17 ♗xf6+ ♖f8 18 ♕xh6# is a nice mate.

17 bxc3 ♗d5

18 ♗d6 ♗f5

19 ♕xh6

White cashes in his attack to win a piece.

19 ... ♕xh6

20 ♗xh6 0-0-0

Setting a neat trap.

21 ♗bd2

Now that White has avoided 21 ♗d6+?? ♗xd6 22 ♗xd6 ♖f4 trapping the rook, Black could well resign, but he limps on for several moves.

21 ... ♗g6

If 21...♗xd3, then 22 ♗d6+.

22 ♖b3 ♗d5

23 ♖xd5 ♗xd5

24 ♗f1 ♗f8

25 ♗xh7 f5

26 ♗h5 ♖c7

27 ♗c4 ♗e7

28 ♗h7 ♖d7

29 ♗e3 1-0