

From unpublished archives of IM Nikolay Minev

(A23) The Central Gambit – English Opening

A23 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6

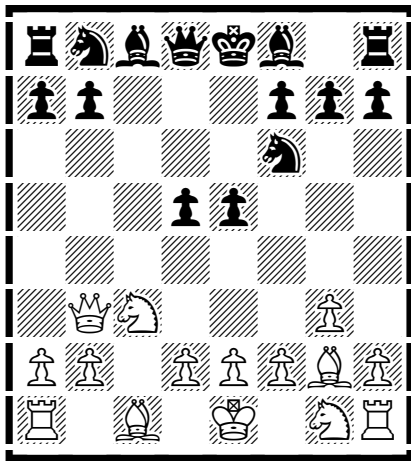
The material is presented in following order:

Variation A 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3

Variation B 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4

Variation C 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4

Variation A 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3



A23 Kapostas – Kallai

Hungary (ch team) 2001

1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 Nf6 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nc6 7.Nxd5 Nd4 8.Qa4+?!

The theory considers 8.Nxf6+ Qxf6 9.Qd1 to be White's best.

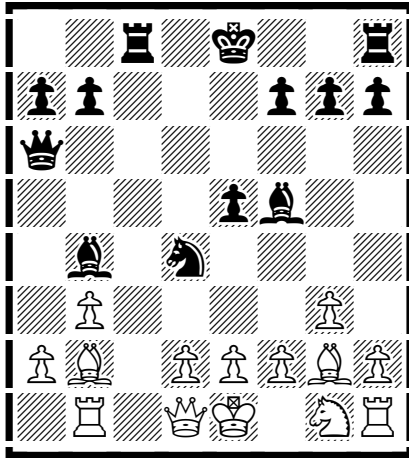
8...Bd7 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.Qd1 Rc8 11.Rb1?

If 11.Kf1 Qa6!

11...Qa6! 12.b3 Bb4! 13.Bb2

If 13.Nf3 Bf5! 14.Rb2 Rxc1! and wins.

13...Bf5



14.Bxd4?

After 14.Rc1 Rc2! 15.Bc3 Qa3 Black keeps the pressure

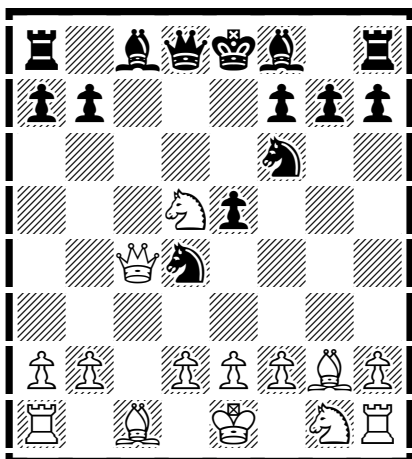
14...Bxb1 15.Qxb1

Or 15.Bc3 Bxa2! 16.Bxb4 Bxb3

15...Qxa2! 16.Qb2 exd4! 0-1

A23 Sazonov - Anishchenko
USSR 1970

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nc6 7.Nxd5 Nd4 8.Qc4??



8...Nxd5 9.Bxd5 b5 10.Bxf7+

Or 10.Bc6+ Bd7 11.Bxd7+ Qxd7 12.Qd3 Qc6! 13.Nf3 Nc2 14.Kd1 Nxa1 15.Qc3 Rc8
16.b3 Nc2 17.Qxe5 Be7 18.Bb2 Nd4 19.Ne1 Ne6 0-1 Klinger – Zuger, Budapest 1989

10...Ke7 11.Qd5 Nc2+ 12.Kd1 Nxa1 13.Qxa8

Or 13.b3 Qc7! 14.Ba3+ Kf6 15.Qf3+ Bf5 0-1, P. Bidev - V. Pirc, Yugoslavia (ch) 1956

13...Qc7 14.Bb3 Be6! 15.e4 Nxb3 16.axb3 g6! 0-1

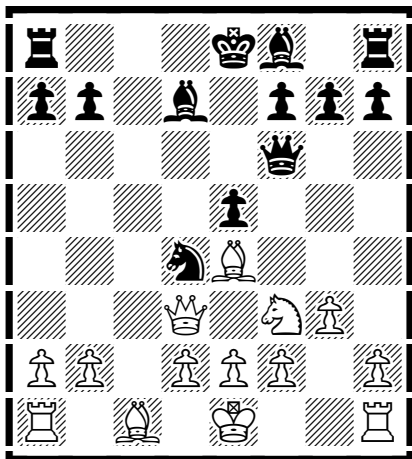
A23 Fijalkowski - Grzelak

Poland 1972

**1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nc6 7.Nxd5 Nd4 8.Nxf6 Qxf6
9.Qd3 Bf5 10.Be4 Bd7?!**

Deserving attention 10...Bxe4 11.Qxe4 Rc8.

11.Nf3



11...Ne6?

Correct is 11...Bb5 12.Qb1 Nxe2 13.a4 Rc8! etc.

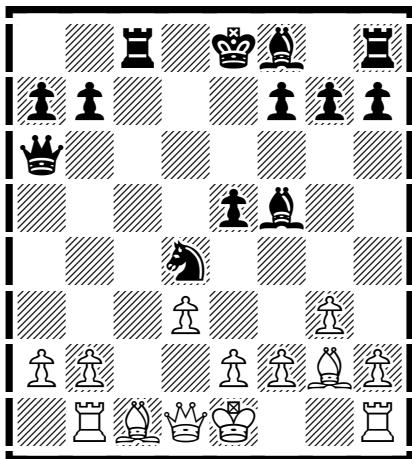
12.Qd5! Bc6 13.Qxe5 Bxe4 14.Qxe4 Bc5 15.Qa4+ Ke7 16.Qe4 Rhd8 17.d4! Bb4+ 18.Kf1 Rxd4 19.Qxb7 1-0

A23 Steiner -Duball
West Germany 1973

1.g3 e5 2.Bg2 Nf6 3.c4 c6 4.Nc3 d5 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nc6 7.Nxd5 Nd4 8.Nxf6 Qxf6 9.Qd1 Bf5 10.d3 Rc8 11.Rb1

If 11.Kf1 Qa6!

11...Qa6



12.a3?

12.Nf3!? Qxa2 13.Bd2 is unclear.

12...Be6! 13.b4 Ba2 14.Rb2 Qxa3 15.Nf3 Qc3 0-1

For if 16.Nd2 Qxc1 17.Rxa2 Nc2 etc.

A23 Nybaek – Asauskas

Hengelo 2002

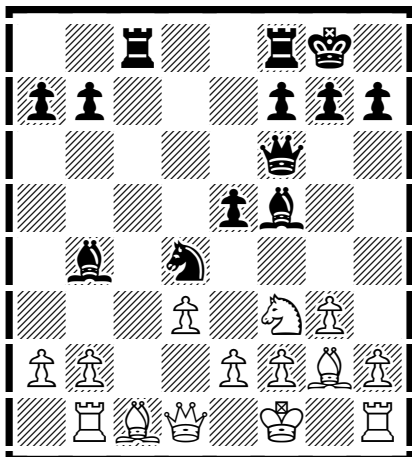
**1.c4 e5 2.g3 c6 3.Bg2 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Qb3 Nf6 6.Nc3 Nc6 7.Nxd5 Nd4 8.Nxf6+ Qxf6
9.Qd1 Bf5 10.d3 Rc8 11.Rb1 Bb4+**

Instead of 11...Qa6 as in previous game.

12.Kf1

12.Bd2!?

12...O-O 13.Nf3

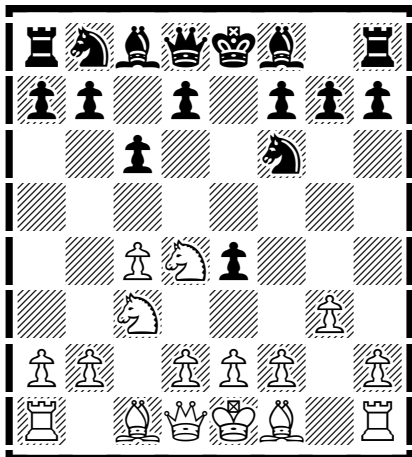


13...Nxe2! 14.Kxe2

If 14.Qxe2 Qa6!

14...e4 15.Nh4 Bg4+ 16.f3 Rfe8! 17.Kf2 Bc5+ 18.Kf1 Qd4 19.Qd2 exd3 20.b4 Re2
0-1

Variation B 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4



1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 d5 6.cxd5 Qb6

Instead the continuation 6...cxd5 7.d3 Bc5 8.Nb3 is shown in ECO as favorable to White.

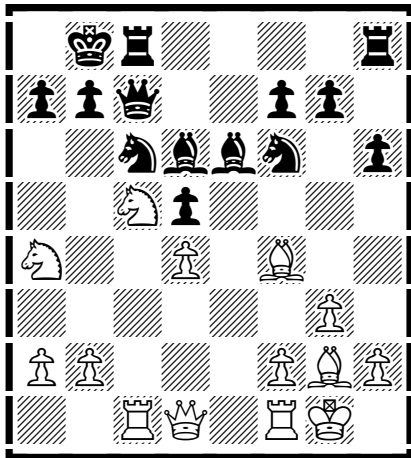
7.Nb3 cxd5 8.Bg2 Bf5 9.d3 exd3 10.O-O! Nc6

For 10...d4 – see next game.

11.Bg5 O-O-O 12.exd3 Be6 13.Rc1 Kb8 14.d4

White stands clearly better.

14...Be7 15.Na4 Qc7 16.Nbc5 h6 17.Be3 Rc8 18.Bf4 Bd6



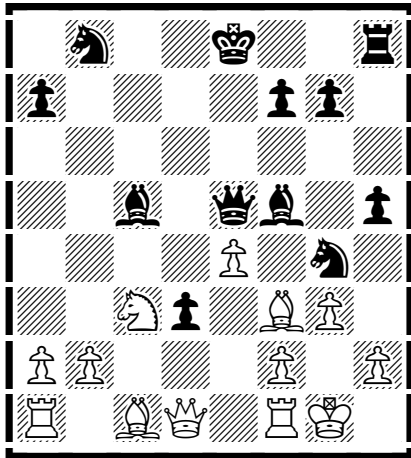
19.Qb3! 1-0

A23 A. Vitolins - V. Zhuravlev
Riga 1972

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 d5 6.cxd5 Qb6 7.Nb3 cxd5 8.Bg2 Bf5 9.d3 exd3 10.O-O d4? 11.Nxd4

Also 11.Na4 Qb4 12.exd3 Kd8 13.Nac5 Bxc5 14.Bd2 Qa4 15.Nxc5 Qxd1 16.Nxb7+ Kc7
17.Ba5+ 1-0, H. Kleissl - W. Dur, Austria (ch team) 1997

11...Qxd4 12.Bxb7 Ng4 13.Bxa8 Bc5 14.e3 Qe5 15.Bf3 h5 16.e4



16...Nxf2 17.Rxf2 h4 18.Bf4 hxg3?? 19.Bxe5 Bxf2 20.Kf1 Bh3 21.Bg2 1-0

A23 I. Radulov - Z. Ribly
St.Petersburg 1977

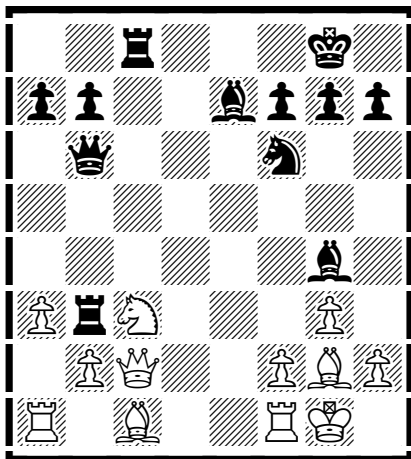
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 c6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 Qb6 6.Nc2 Bc5 7.e3?!

7.Ne3! Bxe3 8.dxe3 Qb4 9.Qd4 O-O 10.a3 Qb3 11.g4 Nxg4 12.Rg1 f5 13.Nxe4 d5
14.Nd6 Na6 15.h3 Nf6 16.e4 Qb6 17.Qe5 fxe4 18.Rxg7 Kh8 19.Rf7 1-0, P. Dubinin –
Tille, Corr. 1972/74

7...Be7!

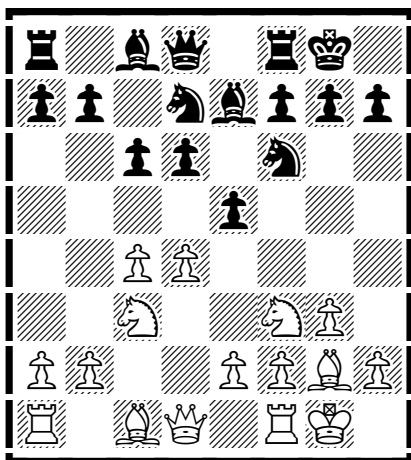
Probably the most interesting idea for Black.

**8.d3 d5 9.cxd5 cxd5 10.Bg2 Bg4 11.Qd2 O-O 12.O-O Rd8 13.Nd4 Nc6 14.dxe4 dxe4
15.Nxe4 Nxd4 16.exd4 Rxd4 17.Qc2 Rc8 18.Nc3 Rb4 19.a3 Rb3**



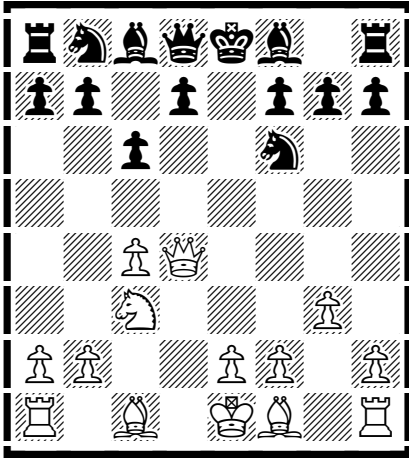
20.Rb1?? R8xc3! 0-1

In this main line, instead of 4...e4, the continuation **4...d6 5.d4 Nbd7 6.Bg2 Be7 7.0-0 0-0** (see diagram below) transposes into...



...the Old King's Indian (A54), which looks like a better option for Black.

Variation C 1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 c6 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4



A23 Bakonyi - G. Szilagyi
Hungary (ch) 1951

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e5 3.g3 c6 4.d4 exd4 5.Qxd4 d5 6.Bg2 Be6

6...dxc4!?

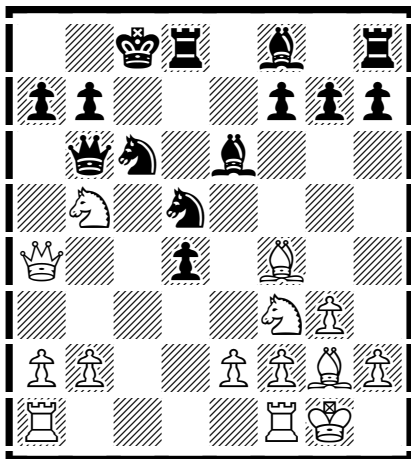
7.cxd5 cxd5 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Qa4 Qb6

But not 9...d4?? 10.Nxd4!

10.O-O O-O-O?

10...Be7!?, followed by 0-0, 10...Rd8!?

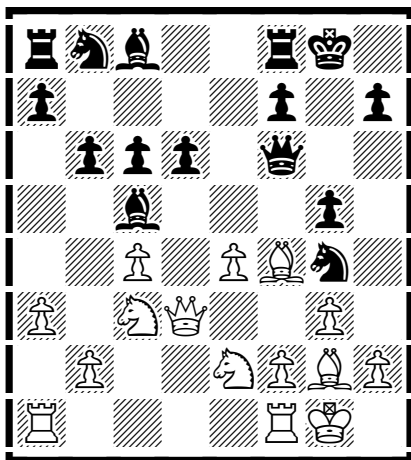
11.Nb5 d4 12.Bf4! Nd5



13.Rac1! Nxf4 14.Nxa7 Kd7 15.gxf4 Bd6 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Rxc6! Ra8 18.Qxa8 1-0

A23 Babris – A. Shirov
Riga 1985

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 Be7 6.Nc3 O-O 7.e4 b6! 8.Nge2 Bc5
9.Qd3 d6 10.a3 Ng4 11.O-O Qf6 12.Bf4 g5!



13.e5 Qh6 14.h3 Nxf2 15.Rxf2 gxf4 16.gxf4 dxe5 17.fxe5 Bxf2+ 18.Kxf2 Be6 19.Ne4
Nd7 0-1