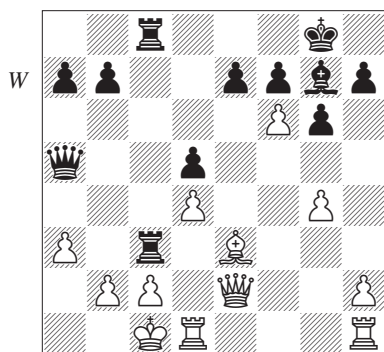


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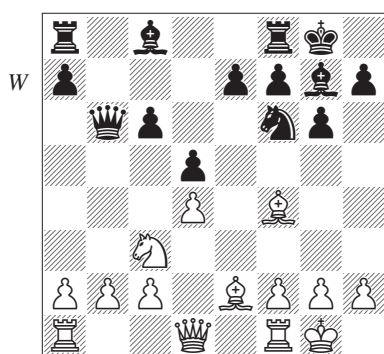
with a draw, he was certainly in for a rude awakening. Perhaps the earlier repetition had lulled him into a peaceful frame of mind.

**22...♖xc2 23 ♜d2 1-0**

White will win a piece.

Game 13  
**Hebden – Nunn**  
*Hastings 1996/7*

**1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 ♙f4 ♙g7 5 e3 0-0 6 ♙e2 c5 7 ♘e5 ♘c6 8 0-0 cxd4 9 exd4 ♖b6 10 ♘xc6 bxc6 (D)**



**11 ♘a4 ♖a5 12 c3**

The nice thing about White's position is that he can clamp down on the pawn-break that would most improve Black's position, namely ...c5. This only gives Black one other meaningful pawn-break, ...e5. However, even when Black achieves this, he is still left with the worse pawn-structure.

**12...♘d7**

Psakhis suggested 12...♙a6!? 13 ♘c5 ♘h5! (13...♙xe2 14 ♖xe2 ♘h5 15 ♙e5 f6 16 b4 ♖b5 17 ♖xb5 cxb5 18 ♙c7 ♜ac8 19 ♘e6 ♙f7 20 ♜fe1 ± Abergel-Lanzani, San Marino 2006) 14 ♙g5 (14 ♙xa6 ♘xf4 15 ♜e1 e5 16 b4 ♖c7 is unclear) 14...♙xe2 15 ♖xe2 ♜fe8 =. Still White's position looks more comfortable after 16 f4.

**13 b4 ♖d8 14 ♖d2**

14 ♙g5 is an alternative approach. White entices the black kingside pawns forward in an attempt to exploit the resulting weaknesses. 14...f6 15 ♙h4 ♘b6 16 ♘c5 g5?! 17 ♙g3 e5 18 a4 ♖e7 19 dxe5 fxe5 (although the black pawn-structure in the centre is solid, his kingside weaknesses give cause for concern) 20 ♜e1 ♘d7 21 ♘xd7 ♙xd7 22 c4 ♖e6 23 ♜c1 d4 24 c5 (White prepares a light-square bind) 24...♙h8 25 ♙c4 ♖f5 26 ♙d3 ♖f7 (White has a clear positional advantage; as so often happens in such cases, the clearest way to exploit this is tactical) 27 ♜xe5! ♙xe5 28 ♙xe5+ ♙g8 29 ♖d2 h6 30 ♙xd4 (there is not much Black can do about the coming invasion on the dark squares) 30...♙f5 31 ♙c4 ♙e6 32 ♙f1 ♜fe8 33 ♙b2 ± as ♖c3 will follow, Antoshin-Balashov, Moscow 1967.

**14...e5**

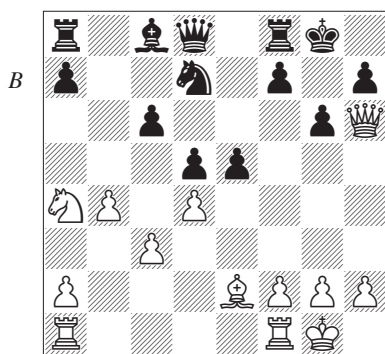
Or:

a) 14...a5 15 a3 ♖e8 16 ♗fe1 axb4 17 axb4 e5 18 dxe5 ♙xe5 19 ♙xe5 ♗xe5 20 ♘b2 ♙b7 21 ♘d3 and White has somewhat the better prospects thanks to his stronger bishop, Saldano Dayer-Romon Poves, La Roda 2006.

b) 14...♗e8 15 ♙h6 ♙h8 16 f4 a5 17 b5 cxb5 18 ♙xb5 ♙a6 19 ♗ab1 ♙xb5 20 ♗xb5 e6 21 ♗d3 ♗c7 22 f5 exf5 23 ♗xd5 ♘f6, Salvador-Zezulkin, Lodi 2005. White should now have seized his chance with 24 ♗dx5! gxf5 25 ♗xf5. Then Black has nothing better than giving back a piece by 25...♘h5 26 ♗xh5 when White has the stronger minor pieces and two connected passed pawns for the exchange.

**15 ♙h6**

This is an important theme, because White assures himself of the better bishop. White is seeking to accumulate small advantages, *à la* Steinitz, which can be an effective way of increasing a positional edge.

**15...♙xh6 16 ♗xh6 (D)****16...♗e8**

16...♗f6 17 ♗e3 exd4 18 cxd4 a5 19 b5 ♙b7 20 ♗ac1 ♗fe8 21 ♗d2 ♗e7 22 ♗fe1 ± Hebden-Lalić, Port Erin 1999.

**17 ♗fe1 ♗b8 18 dxe5 ♗xe5 19 ♗d2 a5 20 ♙f1 axb4 21 cxb4 ♗f6 22 ♗xe5 ♘xe5 23 ♗e1 ♙g7 24 ♘c5!**

White occupies an excellent outpost. Now the main question is who can make more of their passed pawn.

**24...♙f5 25 a3 d4**

If Black is to stay in the game, he must play actively. This move is correct, but needs to be followed up accurately, and in practice this increases the chance of an error, even in a high-level game such as this.

**26 f4 ♘d7?**

26...♘g4 keeps the game equal.

**27 ♘d7 ♙xd7 28 ♗e5!**

This is the problem: Black must lose a pawn.

**28...c5 29 ♗xc5 ♙f5 30 ♗d5 d3 31 ♙xd3**

With his extra pawn, White holds a large advantage.

**31...♗a1+ 32 ♙f1 ♗xa3 33 ♗d4+f6 34 ♗d6 ♗xb4 35 ♗xf6+ ♙h6 36 h3 ♗xf4? 37 ♗d4**

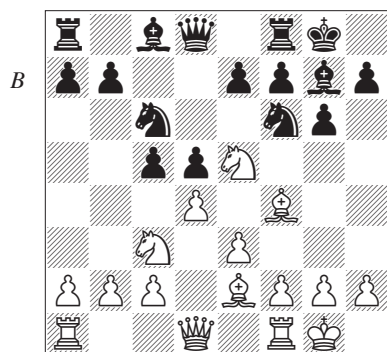
Now White is winning.

**37...♗e3+ 38 ♙h2 1-0**

Black has no good answer to ♗h4#.

Game 14  
Brousek – Rivest  
corr. 2003

**1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♘c3 d5 4 ♙f4 ♙g7 5 e3 0-0 6 ♙e2 c5 7 ♘e5 ♘c6 8 0-0 (D)**



This is a more sensible approach than we saw in Game 11, if a little sedate. Instead of wielding the axe, White plays for a small positional advantage.

#### 8...cxd4

Black has also tried:

a) 8...♖b6? loses a pawn to 9 ♘a4.  
 b) 8...♙f5 is Gallagher's recommendation and indeed is a very solid option, although uninspiring for Black. After 9 ♗d2 cxd4 10 exd4 Black has:

b1) 10...♖b6 11 ♘xc6 leads to positions similar to this or the previous game, depending on Black's recapture.

b2) 10...♘e4 11 ♘xe4 ♙xe4 (if 11...dxe4, then 12 ♘xc6 bxc6 13 c3 ±) is an attempt by Black to benefit from the fact that White has no knight to land on c5, and so reach an improved version of Game 13. However, there is a tactical drawback, in that the bishop on e4 is woefully short of squares after 12 ♘xc6 bxc6 13 g4! ♖b6 14 c3, when Black must lose material due to the threat of f3.

b3) 10...♘d7 11 ♘xd5 ♘dx5 12 dxe5 ♙xc2 (12...♘e5 13 ♗ad1 e6 14

♘e3 ♖xd2 15 ♗xd2 ♙e4 16 ♗fd1 is slightly better for White due to his control of the d-file) 13 ♙f3 ♙f5 14 ♖e3 ♙e6 15 ♗fd1 ♙xd5 16 ♗xd5 ♖b6 17 ♖xb6 axb6 18 ♗b5 ± Hebden-Fernandez Garcia, Linares Zonal 1995. In conjunction with Black's queenside pawn weaknesses, White enjoys the advantage of the bishop-pair.

9 exd4 ♖b6 10 ♘xc6 ♖xc6 11 ♙b5 ♖b6 12 a4

White threatens simply to gain space on the queenside with a5, when the black queen will be embarrassed for decent squares. In the original edition of this book, analysis stopped here with the conclusion '±'.

#### 12...♖a5!

This suggestion by Prié might be enough to hold the theoretical balance. Other continuations give White a pleasant edge:

a) 12...♘h5 13 ♙g5 ♖d6 14 ♗e1 ♙e6 15 a5 h6 16 ♙e3 ♘f6 17 ♖d2 g5 18 f3 a6 19 ♙d3 ± Hebden-Gladyszev, Marseilles 2006.

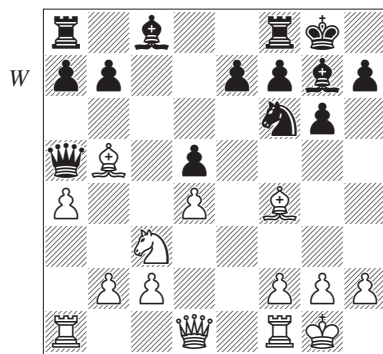
b) 12...a5 13 ♙e5 ♙e6 14 ♗e1 ♗fd8 15 ♗a3 ♘d7 16 ♙xg7 ♘xg7 17 ♗b3 ♖c7 and after 18 ♘e2 ♗ac8 19 ♗c3 ♖d6 chances were balanced in Fierro Baquero-Burijovich, Buenos Aires 2005. It seems that natural development by 18 ♖d2 ♘f6 19 ♙d3 ensures a small edge; e.g., 19...♘g4 20 g3 ♘f6 21 ♘b5 ♖d7 22 ♗c3 ±.

c) After 12...a6 13 a5 ♖d8 14 ♙e2 White's position is visually pleasing and although he hasn't proved much in any of the examples, it isn't hard to find alternative tries:

c1) 14...♙f5 15 ♚e5 (Rybka prefers the somewhat loosening 15 g4!?) 15...♞e4 16 ♞xe4 ♙xe5 17 dxe5 ♙xe4 18 c3 ♖c7 19 f3 ♙f5 20 ♗d4 ♗ac8 = Brousek-Peli, corr. 2007.

c2) 14...♙d7 15 ♗d2 (here Rybka's 15 ♙f3 ± is easier to trust) 15...♗c8 16 ♗fe1 e6 17 ♙h6 ♙xh6 18 ♗xh6 ♞e8 19 ♙d3 ♗f6 20 ♗e3 ♞d6 21 ♞a4 ♙xa4 22 ♗xa4 ♗c6 = Hebden-Tukmakov, Neuchâtel 2003.

We now return to the position after 12...♗a5 (D):



### 13 ♙e5!?

Objectively this may offer no more than the alternatives but one advantage of White's marginally more comfortable position is that it's relatively easy to find playable alternatives to those defused by theory.

a) It's food for thought that two years later Brousek deviated from this game with 13 ♗d2 a6 14 ♙d3 ♞h5 15 ♙h6 ♗e8 16 ♙xg7 ♞xg7 17 ♗fe1 ♙f5 18 ♙e2 ♗ad8 19 ♙f3 ♙e6 20

♞e4 ♗xd2 21 ♞xd2 and chances were equal in Brousek-Hybl, corr. 2005.

b) Prié's analysis focused on 13 ♗e1, when 13...a6 14 ♙f1 ♗e8 15 ♙e5 ♙f5 16 ♗a3 (16 f3?! ♗ac8 17 g4 ♙d7 18 ♗a3 ♙c6 19 ♞e2 ♙h6 20 c3 ♞d7 21 b4 ♗b6 22 ♙g3 e5 ♣ Breivik-Gullaksen, Oslo 2005) 16...♞e4 17 ♙xg7 ♞xc3 18 ♗d2 ♙xg7 19 ♗xc3 ♗xc3 20 ♗xc3 e6 seems to be dead equal (21 ♗c7?! ♗ec8 22 ♗xb7 ♗xc2 may even be better for Black).

**13...a6 14 ♙d3 ♙g4 15 ♗d2 ♗ac8 16 ♗fb1**

16 ♗a3 also appears quite promising.

**16...♗fd8 17 ♗f4 ♙e6 18 b4 ♗b6 19 a5 ♗a7?! 20 ♞a4**

This position nicely illustrates what White can hope for when playing 12 a4. His queenside grip is just on the verge of turning into something tangible. Black needs to improve over his last few moves if he wants to demonstrate that his position is playable.

**20...♞d7 21 ♙xg7 ♙xg7 22 ♞c5 ♞xc5 23 bxc5**

White is close to winning, not so much because of his terrible threats – they are actually quite modest – but because of Black's lack of any active play.

**23...♗c6 24 ♗e5+ f6 25 ♗e3 ♗d7 26 ♗b6 ♗dc7 27 c4 ♗a8**

Black is helpless. He cannot play 27...dxc4 due to 28 ♙e4 and 27...♙f7 28 cxd5 ♙xd5 29 ♙c2! is just as hopeless.

**28 ♗xc6 1-0**