



C O L U M N I S T S

Over the Horizons

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Symmetry and Chaos: Balogh's Defense

Symmetry on the chessboard inspires comparisons. For example, the Danish theoretician Orla Herman Krause (1867-1935) once claimed that the King's Gambit should be treated like a mirrored Queen's Gambit. According to Krause, in a 1908 article published in *Tidskrift för Schack*, 1 e4 e5 2 f4 d6! 3 Nf3 f5! was the "solution of the King's Gambit problem." Maybe he is right, in his main line 4 exf5 Bxf5 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bb5 e4 7 Nd4 Qd7, Black apparently isn't worse (for more analysis see *Kaissiber* #25, pp. 6-7).

The symmetry isn't so obvious for another pair of openings. Sveshnikov's Variation of the Sicilian Defense (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5) is a well-respected line, in spite of Black's backward d-pawn. On the other hand, the Balogh Defense (1 e4 d6 2 d4 f5) has never received similar attention. Here Black's backward e-pawn is said to be almost fatal. In any overview of established lines against 1 e4, Balogh's move will be listed last – a black sheep between dozens of more reliable systems.



What makes Sveshnikov's Variation so much superior to Balogh's Variation to justify the bad image of the latter? In the first case, Black exchanges his c-pawn for White's d-pawn. In this respect Balogh's situation is practically a mirror image, because in the great majority of games the f5- and e4-pawns will be exchanged. The placement of the remaining pawns, however, isn't exactly the same. In a typical

Sveshnikov situation, the black pawns are on d6 and e5, and the standard continuation a6 and b5 (invited by White's tempo-losing knight!) helps a great deal against White's ambitions to use the weakness d5 for his maneuvers.

In Balogh's Defense, you will rarely meet an analogous scheme of

development. To achieve the formation d5-e6 and h6-g5 at least requires some assistance from the opponent (perhaps a provoking Bc4), and g5 is only possible in connection with queenside castling. Apparently the analogy between Sveshnikov and Balogh comes to an abrupt end here. However, the differences are not all in White's favor. Many variations of the Balogh include an early e7-e5, which may lead to an isolated pawn on e5. Other lines with fxe4 followed by g6 result in positions with similarities to a Leningrad Dutch. And there are variations where the e6-weakness is compensated by means of active piece play. Altogether, I wouldn't deny that the Balogh structure involves more risks for Black than the Sveshnikov, but to claim that Black's backward pawn at e7 loses the game by force would be rather naïve.

Instead of the weakness of the backwards pawn, I'd rather direct your attention to another, less obvious danger for Black. After **1 e4 d6 2 d4 f5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bd3 Nc6 5 Nf3**, Black can no longer maintain the tension in the center and has to take, losing valuable time: **5...fxe4 6 Nxe4 Bg4 7 h3 Bh5 8 Ng3 Bxf3 9 Qxf3**. This tactical sequence may be more critical for the opening than a general discussion of the pawn structure. For Simon Alapin concrete variations always triumphed over strategic assessments. I had the opportunity to test this "main line" in a correspondence game. Instead of neat symmetry, the outcome of the opening was sheer chaos.



Dr. János Balogh

Source: *Das Grosse Fernturnier 1932*

Roland del Rio – Stefan Bücken

German Correspondence Bundesliga, Board 4
 November 2005-May 2006
 Balogh's Defense [A82]

1 e4 d6 2 d4 f5

At the end of the 1920s, Dr. János Balogh began to use 2...f5 in his correspondence practice. The move had been played before, but without convincing results. For the next decades, Balogh's attractive games and analyses in [1], [2], [4] became the most relevant source for this opening. According to Balogh [2], the pawn e4 "sooner or later will be exchanged against pawn f5. Thus Black will be left with an advantage in the middlegame: an extra pawn in the center." He mentioned the possible drawback of a backwards or isolated e-pawn, but claimed that this danger could be avoided by following his variations [2].

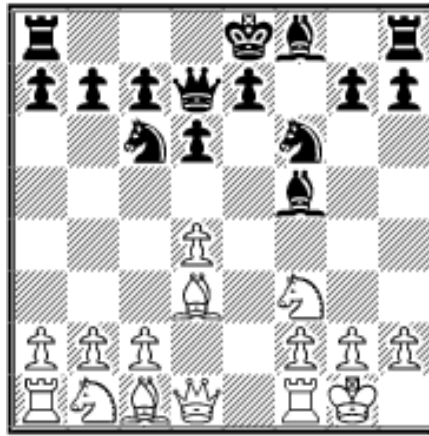
3 Nc3

Most books recommend 3 exf5 Bxf5. Euwe considered this position as difficult for Black:

(a) 4 Qf3 Qc8 5 Bd3 (Euwe – Weenink, Amsterdam 1923) 5...Bg4! (suggested by Byrne & Mednis in *ECO A*, Belgrade 1979) 6 Qg3 g6, and Black can be satisfied with his position.

(b) 4 Nf3 Nf6 5 Bc4 was the line that Erich Dyckhoff regarded as unplayable for Black in an article in *Wiener Schachzeitung 1930* [3]. 5...Nc6! 6 Bf4? e5! 7 dxe5 dxe5 8 Qxd8+ Rxd8 9 Bxe5 Bxc2 10 Nc3 Nxe5 11 Nxe5 Bb4 12 Nf7 Rd4 –/+ Folkmann – Balogh, corr. 1937. A critical continuation was 6 d5 Nb4 7 Nd4 Bg4! (better than Balogh's 7...Be4, which runs into difficulties after 8 Nc3!) 8 f3 Bd7 9 Nc3 c6 10. dxc6 Nxc6! =; for example, 11 Be3 Rc8 12 Qe2 d5 13 Bd3 e6.

(c) 4 Bd3 Qd7! (Balogh's move. 4...Bxd3? happened in some old games: Jaenisch – Kolisch, St. Petersburg 1863, or Walbrodt – Makovetz, Dresden 1892, but it loses time) 5 Nf3 Nc6 6 0–0 Nf6



7 Bb5 a6 8 Ba4 b5 9 Bb3 Na5 10 Re1 Nxb3 11 axb3 g6 (perhaps better: 11...e6 12 Nh4 Bg4 13 f3 Bh5 14 Qe2 Be7!) 12 Bg5 Bg7 13 Nc3 0-0 14 b4 e6 15 h3 Qc6 16 Bxf6 Rxf6 17 Ng5 d5 18 Nf3 Qc4 19 Qd2 Rff8 20 Ne5 Qxb4 21 g4 Bxc2 22 Qxc2 Qxd4 23 Nxb5 axb5 24 Rxa8 Rxa8 25 Qc6 Bxe5 26 Qxa8+ Kf7 27 Qd8 Qf4 28 Qd7+ Kf8 ½-½, Zapf – Bückner, German Corr. Bundesliga 2005-06.

In the diagrammed position, instead of 7 Bb5 the quiet 7 c4 seems equally critical. Possible continuations then would be 7...Bxd3 8 Qxd3 e6 or 7...d5!? 8 c5 g6. These characteristic positions after 3 exf5 should not be underestimated. Nevertheless, I believe that 3 Nc3 is the real test, which forces matters and was chosen in two of my three Balogh games in the Bundesliga (Corr.) tournament.

3...Nf6 4 Bd3



A harmless alternative is 4 e5 dxe5 5 dxe5 Qxd1+; for example, 6 Nxd1 Nd5 7 Ne3 c6 (e6!) 8 Bc4 (Nf3) e6 9. Ne2 Bc5 10 Nxd5 cxd5 11 Bb5+ Nc6 12 f4 Bd7 13 Bxc6 bxc6 14 c3 Bb6 15 Nd4 c5 16 Nc2 (Selg – Bückner, Bad Wiessee 2005), now the best solution was 16...d4! 17 0-0 d3 18 Ne3 c4 19 b3 Bb5 20 bxc4 Bc6 21 Kf2 g5 -/+.

4...Nc6

The sharpest continuation, advocated by Balogh. Solid and fully playable is 4...fxe4 5 Nxe4 Nxe4! (not 5...g6? 6 Nxf6+ exf6 7 Ne2 Bg7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Nf4, with the dangerous threat 10 Nxc6!) 6 Bxe4 g6, the treatment recommended by Correspondence-IM Keith Hayward in his valuable series of Balogh articles, which are available online [\[7\]](#).

For example: 7 Qf3 c6 8 Bg5 Nd7 9 Qe3 Bg7 10 0-0-0 Nf6 11 Bf3 Bf5 12 Ne2 h6 13 Bxf6 Bxf6 14 h4 Qa5 15 Kb1 0-0-0 16 g4 Bd7 17 Nf4 g5 18 Ne6 Bxe6 19 Qxe6+ Kb8 20 hxg5 hxg5 21 c3 d5 22 Rh5 Qc7 23 Rdh1 Rhf8 24 Rh7 Qd6 25 Qe3 e5 26 dxe5 Bxe5 27 R1h6 Bf6 28 Rh3 d4 29 cxd4 Bxd4 30 Qb3 Bb6 31 a3 Qe5 32 Qc2 Rd6 33 Be4 Bxf2 34 Bf5 Bb6 35 Qh2 Qxh2 36 Rxh2 Bd4 37 b4 a6 38 Kc2 Bf6 39 R2h3 Re8 40 Bd3 Re7 41 Rxe7 Bxe7 42 Rh7 Re6 43 Bf5 Re5 44 Kc3 Ka7 45 Kd4 Bf6 46 Kd3 a5 47 Rf7 Be7 48 Kd4 Re1 49 bxa5 Ka6 50 Bc8 Kxa5 51

Bxb7 Kb6 52 Bc8 Bxa3 53 Rb7+ Ka5 54 Ra7+ Kb4 ½–½, P. Rimlinger – K. Hayward, EMN-A-15 APCT, 2000 [7].

5 Nf3

5 d5 Ne5 offers the following possibilities:

(a) 6 exf5 Nxd3+ 7 Qxd3 Qd7! 8 Nb5 Nxd5! 9 Qxd5 c6 10 Nxd6+ exd6 11 Qe4+ Qe7 12 Qxe7+ Bxe7 13 Bf4 Bxf5 14 0-0-0 d5 15 Re1 Kd7 16 Nf3 Raf8! =+ S. Macht – Balogh, corr. 1928 [2].

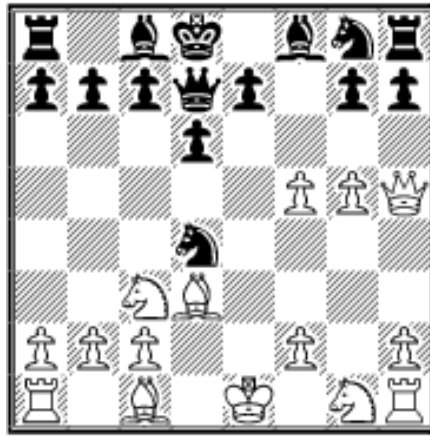
(b) 6 Nf3 fxe4 7 Nxe5 (7 Nxe4 Bg4 8 Nxf6+ exf6 9 Be2! Nxf3+ 10 Bxf3 Bd7! = F. Kunert – Dr. Balogh, corr. 1927 [2]) 7...exd3 8 Nxd3 e5 9 0-0 Be7 A. Winkler – Dr. Balogh, 1927, and Balogh says that on 10 f4 the pawn sacrifice 10...0-0! would be very strong [2].

5 Nge2 fxe4 6 Nxe4 (6 Bxe4 d5! 7 Bd3 e5 8 Bb5 e4 de Veer – Dr. Balogh, corr. 1927 [2]) 6...e5 7 c3 (Balogh [2] considers 7 Nxf6+ Qxf6 8 d5 Ne7 and 7 0-0 Be7 =) 7...Nxe4 8 Bxe4 d5 9 Bc2 g6? 10 0-0 Bg7 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 f4! Nf7 13 f5 gxf5 14 Nf4! with a strong attack, Palda – H. Keller, Vienna 1948 (*Wiener Schachzeitung* 1948, p. 23). Correct was 9...Bd6! 10 0-0 0-0 11 dxe5 Bxe5 12 f4 Bf6 =. In comparison to the game, now there is no weakness at g6 and Black has nothing to fear.

5 exf5 is called “an annoyingly strong move” by Keith Hayward [7], although Black’s chances in the resulting mess after 5...Nxd4 6 g4 don’t seem worse. Now Black has to choose between these alternatives:

(a) 6...h5 led to an attractive win in one of Balogh’s earliest attempts with the system: 7 f3 hxe4 8 fxe4 Qd7! 9 h3 Qc6 10 Rh2 Qc5 11 Bf4 e5! 12 Bg5 Ne6! 0-1, Dührssen – Balogh, corr. 1928. However, in a later source [4] Balogh writes that 7 f3 was a mistake, and that line “a” was good for White. Probably he had the following sequence in mind: 7 g5! Ng8 (7...Ng4? 8 f4) 8 f6! e5 (or 8...Nf5 9 Qf3 e6 10 Qe2) 9 Bg6+ Kd7 10 Nf3 c5 11 Nd5 gxf6 12 c3 Nxf3+ 13 Qxf3 += with a lasting advantage for White.

(b) 6...Qd7!? (Bücker) comes into consideration: 7 g5 Ng8! 8 Qh5+ Kd8



9 Bf4 Nxf5 10 0-0-0 c6 11 Bc4 e6
12 Ne4 Kc7 13 Rd2 g6 14 Qd1 e5
15 Bxe5 Qe8 16 Bxh8 Qxe4 17
Bxg8 Qxh1, unclear. However, in
the diagrammed position 9 Nge2!
seems stronger: 9...Nxf5 10 Qf7
Qe8 11 Qb3 Nh4 12 Be4 c6 13 Be3
Kc7 14 0-0-0, and White's activity
more than compensates the
sacrificed pawn.

(c) 6...Nd7! was Balogh's
improvement (over 6...h5, above), and in fact this should be preferred
to the alternatives above. In Olland – Balogh, corr. 1932 [4], White
replied 7 Nce2 (7 Bc4 c5 8 Nf3 h5! Balogh [2]; or 7 g5 Ne5 8 Qh5+ g6!
9 fxg6 Bg7 10 gxh7+ Kf8 = 11 Be4? d5! +/- Balogh [4]) 7...Nxe2 8
Nxe2 Ne5 (later Balogh recommended 8...e5 9 fxe6 Ne5, but after 10
Nd4 Qe7 11 0-0 Bxe6 12 Nxe6 Qxe6 the move 13 Bf5! +/- is a nasty
surprise) 9 Nd4 g6 10 f4 Nxd3+ 11 Qxd3 gxf5? 12 gxf5 Olland –
Balogh, corr. 1932 [4] and Black got into trouble because of the threat
Qd3-e2-h5+ (1-0, 38). Perhaps Balogh overlooked 11...c5 12 Ne6 Bxe6
13 dxe6 Qb6, when Black has a safe and at least equal position.

5...fxe4

5...e5? 6 dxe5 fxe4 (6...dxe5 7 exf5) 7 exf6 exd3 8 0-0 +/- . But the
fianchetto 5...g6!? at least deserves a second look: 6 exf5 gxf5 7 Qe2
Bg7 8 Bc4 d5 9 Bb5 0-0 10 0-0 (Flohr – Hasenfuss, Kemerer 1939), and
now instead of the time-wasting 10...Kh8 11 Bf4, the alternative
10...Qd6 += seems playable.

6 Nxe4 Bg4

6...Nxe4 7 Bxe4 d5 (as suggested by Keith Hayward in [7]) is refuted
by 8 Bxh7!! Rxh7 9 Qd3 Rh6 (9...Rh8 10 Qg6+ Kd7 11 Qf7 a5 12 c4
+-) 10 Bxh6 gxh6 11 Qg6+ Kd7 12 Qf7! Kd6 13 0-0 Be6 14 Qf4+ Kd7
15 Rfe1 Qe8 16 Rxe6 Kxe6 17 c4 Nb4 18 cxd5+ Kd7 19 Ne5+ Kc8 20
Re1 +/-.

Against 6...d5 (Ebert – Diemer, Karlsruhe 1934, *Wiener Schachzeitung*
1934, p. 294), Diemer's proposal 7 Neg5! would have been strong.

7 h3



On 7 c3, the reply 7...Nxe4 8 Bxe4 d5 9 Bc2 e5 seems best and is about equal, while Balogh's 7...e5 is met by 8 Qb3!.

7...Bh5

The immediate exchange 7...Bxf3? 8 Qxf3 Nxd4 9 Nxf6+ exf6 10 Qxb7 Qc8 (Baulig – Czech, Giessen 1991) results in a clearly worse ending after 11 Qxc8+.

8 Ng3

Years ago Keith Hayward and I discussed the alternative 8 g4 Bg6 in detail. While he remained skeptical, I liked Black's counter chances – and I still do. The text move, which I faced twice in my correspondence games, forces Black's bishop h5 to take on f3. Retreating to f7 would be too passive. With his little maneuver, Black at least has lured the Ne4 to the less active square g3.

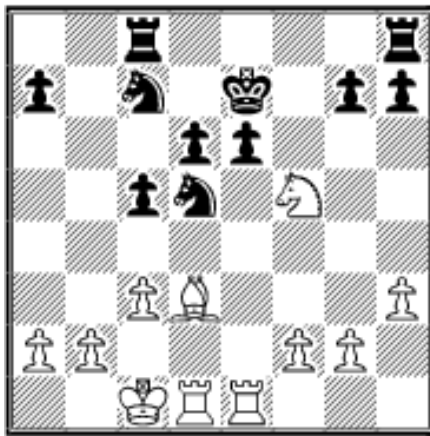
8...Bxf3 9 Qxf3 Nxd4

None of the alternatives is playable:

- (a) 9...d5 10 c3 g6 11 Bg5 Bg7 12 0-0-0 Qd7 13 h4 etc.;
- (b) 9...Qd7 10 c3! e6 11 0-0 Be7 12 Re1 0-0 13 Qe2; or finally
- (c) 9...g6 10 Bb5 d5 11 Bxc6+ bxc6 12 h4 etc.

10 Qxb7 e5!?

A critical moment. Actually I had intended to play 10...Qc8 11 Qxc8+ Rxc8, but now I began to study the following natural reply and got a bit worried: 12 c3 Ne6 13 Be3 c5 14 0-0-0 Nc7 15 Rhe1 e6 16 Bf4 Nfd5 17 Bg5 Be7 18 Bxe7 Kxe7 19 Nf5+



Only later I recognized that the ending 19...Kd7 20 Nxg7 Nf4 21 g3 Rcg8! 22 gxf4 Rxc7 23 f5 Rf8 24 fxe6+ Ke7 25 Rg1 Rxc1 26 Rxc1 Nxe6 27 Bxh7 Rxf2 28 Rh1 Nf4 29 h4 Kf6 is hardly dangerous for Black. So when the same situation appeared in my next game against Dr. Thal, I confidently played the solid 10...Qc8. This game is still in progress.

11 c3

White could include 11 f4 Be7 12 fxe5 dxe5 13 c3 +=, or he could try 11 0-0 Qc8 12 Qb4 d5 13 Qa5 Bd6 14 Ba6. The situation is so complicated that it is impossible to give a detailed analysis of all possibilities. But the line that really tortured me was 11 Ne4!? (threatens Nxf6+ and c3, when White's queen and bishops rule the board) 11...Nd7 12 Ng5 Nc5



13 Bb5+! Nxb5 14 Qc6+ Ke7 (14...Nd7? 15 Qd5!! +-) 15 Qxb5 h6 16 Nf3 (16 Qc4 Qd7! 17 Nf3 is another difficult line) 16...Kf7 (not 16...Qd7 17 Qc4 Qa4? 18 Nxe5!) 17 Be3 Ne6 18 0-0 and White has the better prospects (+=).

11...Rb8 12 Qa6

12 Qxa7? Ra8 leads to a draw by repetition of moves.

12...Ne6 13 b4

Again, there are plenty of alternatives:

(a) 13 0-0!? (13 Qa4+ Kf7) 13...Nc5 14 Bb5+ Kf7 15 Qa5 a6 16 Bc6 d5 17 c4 dxc4 18 Be3 Qd6 19 Bf3 Nd3.

(b) There are several variations where White can win the a-pawn, and Black gets sufficient compensation. Here is one of them: 13 Ne4 Be7 14 Bc4 Rb6 15 Qa4+ Qd7 16 Qxa7 0-0 17 Bxe6+ Qxe6 18 Qxc7 Nd7 19 b4 d5 20 Ng5 Bxg5 21 Bxg5 Rc6 22 Qa7 Ra6. White cannot escape the draw: 23 Qe3? h6 24 Bh4 Rf4! -/+.

13...Be7 14 Nf5



I cannot exclude that one of White's many possibilities would have won. But getting a passed a-pawn doesn't automatically win, when Black has a strong center: 14 Be3 (14 Bb5+ Kf7 15 Bc6 Rb6 16 Qa4 d5 =) 14...Qc8 15 Qxc8+ Rxc8 16 Bxa7 Nd5, for example 17 Ba6 Ra8 18 Bb7 Rxa7 19 Bxd5 Kd7 20 a4 c6 21 Bxe6+ Kxe6 22 a5 d5 23 Ke2 Rb8 24 Rhb1 Rb5 25 Kd3 c5, and Black seems to have sufficient counterplay.

White could even take the pawn at once: 14 Qxa7 0-0 15 0-0 Qd7, with complications.

14...Qd7

Black cannot castle: 14...0-0 15 Bc4 Qd7 16 Qc6! (hoping for 16...Qxc6 17 Nxe7+) 16...Kf7 17 Qxd7 Nxd7 18 Nxg7 Kxg7 19 Bxe6 Nf6 20 Be3 +/- with a clear advantage in the ending. Black's position isn't yet bad enough for the desperate 14...Rb6 15 Qxa7 e4 16 Be2 0-0.

15 Be3

15 Bc4 d5 16 Bb3 Nc5! offers excellent counter chances; for example, 17 Nxg7+ Kf8 18 bxc5 Kxg7 19 c6 Qe6 20 0-0 Rhg8 21 Qxa7 Kh8 22 Qe3 Bc5 23 Qf3 Rg6 24 Kh1 e4 25 Qf4 Rbg8 —+.

15 a4 c6 16 Nxe7 Qxe7 17 Qxc6+ Kf7 18 0-0 e4! 19 Bb5 Rhc8 20 Qa6 Nc7 21 Qa5 Nxb5 22 axb5 Rxc3 23 Qxa7 Rxb5 is about equal.

15...Kf7!

If 15...0-0, he could again try 16 Qc6!? Kf7 (there is nothing better) 17 Qxd7 Nxd7 18 Bxa7 Ra8 19 Be3 Ra3 20 Bc1 Rxc3 21 Kd2 Bf6!?. Black seems to hold. However, the text move is more ambitious.

16 a4



After 16 0-0 d5?! 17 f4! the open f-file would be a problem, so Black should have searched for something else (16...g6, 16...c6).

A position full of tension. Black has achieved what he could expect from the Balogh Defense: a pawn majority in the center. Yet, in the near future, White's threat of establishing a passed pawn on the a-file seems more important. Can

Black find a way to push his center pawns?

16...Rhc8! 17 Nxe7

(a) If 17 Rd1 Nd5 18 Bb5, Black sacrifices the exchange: 18... Rxb5! 19 axb5 Nxc3 =.

(b) 17 Qxa7 Qc6 18 0-0 Ra8 19 Bb5 Qxc3 20 Qb7 d5 = isn't much better.

(c) 17 Bb5 c6 18 Nxe7 Qxe7 19 Bxc6 d5 20 Qxa7 d4! is an important resource.

(d) 17 0-0 c5; or (e) 17 b5 e4 18 Nxe7 Kxe7 19 Bc4 c5. Black has nothing to fear.

17...Qxe7 18 Qc6

18 Qxa7 (or 18 Bf5!?) d5 19 Bd2 Nf4 20 Bxf4 (or 20 Bf1 Ne4 21 Qe3 Re8!) 20...exf4+ 21 Kf1 Qe5 22 Qc5 Re8 23 Kg1 f3! 24 g3 Nd7 with attacking chances.

18...a5!

The only reasonable alternative was 18...Nd8 19 Bc4+ Kf8 20 Qf3 c5 21 bxc5 Nb7, but then White has 22 g4! h6 23 h4 e4 24 Qf5 Nxc5 25 g5 Qd7 26 Qf4 Qc7 27 gxf6 Nd3+ 28 Bxd3 Qxc3+ 29 Kf1 Qxa1+ 30 Kg2 Qxf6 31 Qxf6+ gxf6 32 Bxe4 +-.

19 bxa5 d5 20 0-0

The last moves were almost forced. At this stage I feared another continuation: 20 a6! Nf4 21 Bf1 Ra8 22 a7 Rd8 23 Rd1 Re8 24 Rb1 Qa3 25 g3!, which looked very difficult for Black. However, 20...d4! 21 Bd2 Qd6 (del Rio) seems to hold.

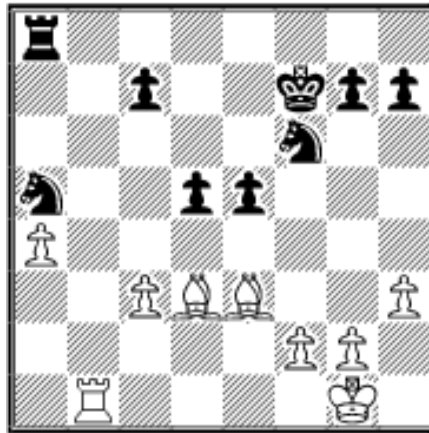
20...Nd8 21 Qc5 Qxc5 22 Bxc5 Nb7 23 Be3

The ending 23 Ba7 Ra8 24 a6 Rxa7 25 axb7 Rb8 isn't better.

23...Nxa5 24 Rfb1

Because he has a passed pawn, it is only natural that White exchanges the rooks.

24...Rxb1+ 25 Rxb1 Ra8



26 g4

White has to avoid situations where Black's pieces are controlling the center. For example, after 26 f4 e4 27 Be2 Ke6 28 g4 g6 29 Kf2 Ne8 30 Bd4 Nd6 31 h4 Nac4 32 Ra1 Ra5 33 Ra2 c5, Black could start to play for a win.

26...g6 27 Rb5

The passive 27 Ra1? Ke6 28 Ra2 Ne4 Bxe4 dxe4 30 Kf1 Nc4 31 Bc5 Kd5 obviously favors Black; for example, 32 Be7 Ra5 33 Bb4 Ra6 34 Be7 e3 35 f3 e4!.

27...Ke6

It isn't the safest strategy to allow the exchange of the remaining rooks by 27...c6 28 Rb6 Nd7 29 Ra6 Rxa6 30 Bxa6. Nevertheless, Black holds the game: 30...Ke7 31 Be2 c5 32 Bb5 d4 33 Bd2 Nb3 34 Be1 Kd6 35 cxd4 Nxd4 36 Ba6 Kd5 37 Bb7+ Kc4 =.

28 f4

To my disappointment, White strives for simplifications. A wise decision, otherwise Black's center could have become a problem: 28 g5 Nd7 29 f3 c6 30 Rb4 Kd6 31 h4 c5 32 Rb1 c4 33 Bc2 Nb3 34 h5 gxh5 35 Bxh7 d4 36 Rd1 d3 37 Re1 Nbc5 with advantage for Black.

28...exf4

Returning the favor. The more ambitious 28...c6?! 29 f5+! Ke7 30 Rb1 would be too risky, because White's passed pawn can easily become the decisive factor. For example, 30...e4 31 Be2 Nd7 32 h4 gxf5 33 gxf5 Ne5 34 Bg5+ Kd7 35 Rb6 Rg8 36 Kf2 Rf8 37 Ra6 Rxf5+ 38 Kg3 h6 39

Bxh6 Nac4 40 Ra7+ Ke6 41 a5 c5 42 Ra8 Rf6 43 Bg5 Rf7 44 a6 Nc6
45 Bg4+ Kd6 46 Bf4+ N4e5 47 Rg8 Re7 48 Rg6+ Kc7 49 h5 +-.

29 Bxf4 Nc4

29...c6 30 Rb6 Nd7 31 Ra6 Rxa6 32 Bxa6 Nb6 may still be a draw, but why should I take unnecessary risks? The text move forces the draw.

30 Bxc7 Rxa4 31 Bxc4 Rxc4 32 Rb6+ Ke7 ½-½

Sources:

- [1] J. Balogh: *Wiener Schachzeitung* 1928, p. 208.
- [2] J. Balogh: *Wiener Schachzeitung* 1930, p. 98-100.
- [3] E. Dyckhoff: *Wiener Schachzeitung* 1930, p. 188-189.
- [4] F. Chalupetzky: *Das Grosse Fernturnier* 1932, Kecskemét 1936.
- [5] W. Kübel: *Balogh-Verteidigung*, Cologne 1974. Reprint of [2].
- [6] R. Schlenker: (same as [5], adding one supplementary page), Tübingen 1985
- [7] Analyses by FM and Correspondence IM Keith Hayward (Texas/USA), published on the [Internet](#).

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