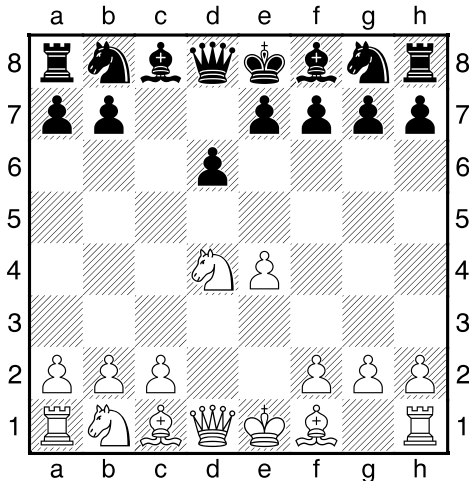


Shirov,A (2723) – Ljubojevic,L (2570) [B81] Monte Carlo 12th Amber Rapid Monaco (9), 25.03.2003

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♞xd4



4...♞f6

[≤4...e5 5.♞b5+ ♞d7 6.♞xd7+ ≤♞xd7 (6...♞xd7?! 7.♞e2!?

a) 7.♞b3!? ♞f6 8.♞c3 ♞c6 (**a**) 8...d5 is perhaps to prefer here as it puts up a better contest for the center and puts up a fight for the initiative at very little cost 9.♞xd5 ♞xe4 10.0-0 ♞c6 11.♞d3 f5 12.♞d1± and Black is a little worse but has fine prospects) 9.♞e2 ♞a6 10.♞g5 ♞c7 11.0-0-0 ♞d7 12.♞b1 a5 13.♞d5 a4 14.♞c1 ♞e6 15.♞e3 Tishin,P–Piraeve,P/Tula 2003/ ½-½ (43);

b) 7.♞f5!? ♞f6 8.f3 d5! 9.♞g5! d4 10.♞xf6 gxf6 11.c3; 7...♞f6 8.♞ec3 ♞c6 9.♞e2 ♞bd7 10.0-0 h6 11.♞d1 ♞e7 12.b3 0-0 13.♞b2 ♞c5 14.♞d2 ♞e6 15.g3 ♞d4 16.♞d3= Palac,M–Kovacevic,V/CRO–Cup Pula 1992/0-1 (45))

7.♞f5 ♞df6! is worth the try

a) 7...♞gf6!? 8.♞c3±;

b) 7...♞c5? 8.♞c3! g6 (**b**) 8...♞c8) 9.♞g3 is also good here(**b**) 9.♞e3! ♞f6 10.f3 ♞e7?!

b1) 10...♞c8?! isn't correct here either as White can continue to strengthen his pos.hold on the center uninterrupted 11.0-0 ♞e6 12.♞ed5 ♞e7? (**b1**) 12...♞g7 is a better defensive attempt) 13.♞e3+- Rozanski Robert–Gaiter Warren/P-1874 1999/0-1 (38);

b2) 10...♞g7 seems to be the best continuation in this position 11.0-0 0-0 12.a4± and White has

a comfortable game;

b3) 10...♞e6 11.♞ed5! ♞g7 12.0-0 0-0 13.♞e3 ♞xd5 14.♞xd5 f5 15.♞d3± and White still holds a steady grip on the game; 11.0-0 (**b**) 11.♞ed5!) 11...0-0 12.b3? (**b**) better would have been 12.a4) 12...a6 (**b**) 12...♞e6!) 13.a4± Dobrin,D–Stanton,T/P-1385 IECC email 1998/1-0 (40)) ; 8.♞c3 (8.♞d3 d5!) 8...♞d7 9.♞e3 ♞e7 10.0-0±]

5.♞c3 Best 5...a6 Controls b5

[5...e5 is still not the optimal continuation here. Better is to acknowledge the "hole" on d5 and scurry the men to keep it defended at this point in the game. 6.♞f5? (6.♞b5+!) 6...♞xf5! 7.exf5 a6

a) 7...♞e7 8.♞c4 0-0 9.0-0 ♞c6 10.♞d5 ♞d4 11.♞d3 ♞xd5 12.♞xd5 ♞d7 13.♞e4 d5 14.♞f3 ♞ac8 15.c3 ♞xf3+ 16.♞xf3± Bellil,N–Crysler,J/E Lansing ch–MI clsDE 1995/1-0 (41);

b) 7...d5! 8.f4 (**b**) 8.♞b5+ ♞c6 9.0-0=) 8...♞d6 9.♞b5+ ♞c6 10.0-0±; 8.♞c4 (8.♞g5!) 8...♞c7 (♞8...♞c8 9.♞b3 ♞xf5 10.♞d5±) 9.b3 ♞bd7 10.a4? White slips up and loses in a few moves 10...♞b6 11.♞d5?? ♞bxd5 12.♞xd5 ♞xd5? (12...♞a5+-) 13.0-0 ♞f6 14.g4 h6 15.♞e1 ♞c8 16.c4+- Wallace,M–Hoban,K/Scottish Minor 1995/0-1 (41); 5...♞bd7 6.♞e3 g6 7.f4±]

6.♞e3

[6.♞g5 ♞a5

a) 6...♞d7 7.♞xf6 (**a**) 7.♞e2) 7...gxf6 8.♞h5 e6 9.♞d3 ♞c6 10.♞xc6 bxc6 (**a**) 10...♞xc6!) 11.0-0 ♞b6 12.♞ab1 a5 13.♞e2± which ended in a draw(**a**) ♞13.♞h4!);

b) 6...♞c6 7.♞d2 ♞d7 8.♞e2 ♞xd4 9.♞xd4 ♞a5 10.♞d2± seems to give an acceptable balance for Black in the opening play.; 7.♞d2 ♞b4 (7...♞bd7 8.♞b3 (8.0-0-0 h6 (8...b5!? 9.♞b3 ♞c7 10.♞d5±) 9.♞h4 e5? here Black goes astray and later lost the game (9...b5! 10.♞b3 ♞c7=) 10.♞f5 b5? too late 11.♞xd6+ ♞xd6 12.♞xd6 ♞b7 13.♞xf6+- De Lima Neto,P–Braga Castro,A/Fortalez ch Cearense 1999/1-0 (43)) 8...♞c7 9.0-0-0?! (9.♞d3!) 9...h6 10.♞h4 g6 11.f4 ♞g7 12.♞d3 b5 13.♞b1 (13.♞he1) 13...♞b7 14.♞he1 0-0 15.h3 ♞fe8 16.g4 ♞c5 and with 17.e5? White lost his way and later the game in Schweizer,R–Rickenbach,J/Leukerbad 2002/0-1 (69)(♞17.♞xc5)) 8.♞e2 ♞xb2 9.0-0 ♞c6 10.♞xc6 bxc6]

6...e6 Secures d5+f5

[6...e5 7.♖b3 ♗e7 8.♗e2 (8.♞d2 ♞c7 8...♗g4 9.0-0-0 is worse

a1) 9.g3 is also not really in tune with the position 9...♗e6 10.f4? (**a1**) ♠10.h4) 10...♗xe3 11.♞xe3 exf4 12.gxf4 ♗h4+ 13.♗d2 ♗c6 14.♗g1? Zubov,A–Neverov,V/Zonal 2000/0-1 (45) and White ultimately lost the game;

a2) 9.♗d5! ♗xe3 10.♞xe3;

a3) 9.♗c4!; 9...♗xe3 10.fxe3;

b) 8...♗e6; 9.0-0-0 ½-½ Simic,D–Kurcubic,A/Cup Yug M 2002/ (9)) 8...0-0 9.0-0 ♗e6 10.a4 (♠10.♞d3) 10...♗bd7 11.a5 ♗c8 12.♞d2 (♠12.♗e1) 12...♗e8 13.♗fd1 h6 14.♗f3 ♞c7 15.♗c1 ♗f8 16.h3= Marjanovic,S–Fedorowicz,J/Paris 1986/0-1 (76); 6...♗g4 7.♗g5 h6 8.♗h4±]

7.g4!?

[7.♗d3! ♗bd7 (7...b5!? is slightly worse 8.0-0 ♗b7 9.a3 ♗bd7 10.f4 ♗e7 11.♞f3 ♗c5 12.b4 ♗xd3 13.cxd3 0-0 14.♗b3 ♗c8 15.♗ac1 ♗d7 16.♗e2 Radulov,I–Hort,V/Nice ol (Men) fin–A 1974/½-½ (23)) 8.0-0 ♗e7 9.h3

a) 9.♗b3 ♗e5 (**a**) 9...b5 10.♗h1 (**a**) 10.a3) 10...♗b7 11.f3 0-0 12.a4? (**a**) ♠12.♞e1) 12...b4! 13.♗e2± (**a**) ♠13.♗a2) 13...d5 14.exd5 ♗xd5 15.♗f2 ♗f6 16.♗a2? is not good (**a**) ♠16.c4 bxc3 17.bxc3 ♗c8 18.♗c1 ♞c7 19.♞c2) 16...a5 17.♗d2± Krivoshiyski,A–Latinov,G/Teteven 1991/½-½ (49)) 10.f4 ♗fg4 11.♗d4 ♗xd3□ 12.♞xg4!±;

b) 9.f4! 0-0

b1) ≤9...♞c7 10.h3 (**b1**) ♠10.♞f3) 10...b5 11.a3 ♗b7 12.♞f3 ♗b6 (**b1**) 12...0-0) 13.♞e2 ♗c4? (**b1**) ♠13...♗c8) 14.♗dxb5! axb5 15.♗xb5 ♞c6? (**b1**) 15...♞b8!) 16.♗xc4± 1-0 Kisonova Katarina–Tuitebaeva Dinara/Ch World (cadets) (under 1994 (22);

b2) 9...♗c5 10.♗c1 0-0 11.♞f3 e5 12.fxe5 ♗g4! 13.e6 ♗xe3 14.exf7+ ♗h8 15.♞xe3 ♗g5 16.♞f2 ♗xc1 17.♗xc1±; 10.♗ce2? (**b**) ♠10.♞f3 ♗c5 11.♗ad1! (**b**) 11.♗ac1! e5 12.fxe5 dxe5 13.♗f5 ♗xd3 14.♗cd1 ♗xf5 15.♞xf5 ♞c8 16.♗xd3±) 11...♗xd3 12.cxd3) 10...♞c7 11.c3 ♗c5 12.♗g3 ♗xd3 13.♞xd3 b5 14.♗ad1 ♗b7 15.♗f3 ♗ad8 16.♞b1± 1-0 Gremy,P–Bouquin,A/Avoine 2002 (23); 9...0-0 10.f4 (10.♞f3 b5) 10...♞c7 11.♞f3 b5 12.♗ce2 ♗b7 13.a3=; 7.♗d3 ♗c6±]

7...h5?! Possibly too aggressive

[7...e5 8.♗f5 g6 9.♗h6 (9.g5 Perenyi Attack

9...gxf5 10.exf5? (10.gxf6) 10...d5 11.♞f3 d4 12.0-0-0 ♗bd7 13.♗d2 dxc3 (13...♞c7 14.gxf6 (14.♗e2 ♗g8 15.f6 (15.♗g3)) 14...dxc3 15.♗xc3 ♞c6 16.♞g3 ♗h6+ 17.♗b1 ♗f4 18.♞d3 ♗g8 (18...0-0 19.♗g1+ ♗h8 20.♗b4 ♗c5 (20...♗g8 21.♗xg8+ ♗xg8 22.♗e7± 1-0 Shirov,A–Van Wely,L/Rubinstein–mem37 2000 (33); 20...♗e8 21.♞b3 ♞xf6 22.♗d6 ♞e7 23.♗c4 a5 24.♗e6!±) 21.♞c3 ♗xf5 (21...b6 22.♗g2 e4 23.♞h3 ♞xf6 24.♗xe4 ♗xe4 25.♗xf8 ♗xf5 26.♗g7+ ♞xg7 27.♞xf5 ♞e5 28.♞xf7±) 22.♗xc5 ♗fc8 23.♗d3 ♞xf6 24.♞b4 ♗g6 25.♞xb7 ♗ab8 26.♞e7 ♞xe7 27.♗xe7± De Vreugt,D–Korneev,O/Istanbul 2003/½-½ (82)) 19.♗h3 ♗d8 20.♗b4 ♞xf6 21.♞c4 ♗g5 22.♗d6 ♞g7 23.f6 ♗g1+ Shirov,A–Topalov,V/Wijk aan Zee 2001/1-0 (24)) 14.♗xc3 ♗g8 15.f6 ♞c7 16.♗h3 ♗c5 17.♗xe5 ♞c6 18.♞xc6+ bxc6 19.♗xc8 ♗xc8 20.♗he1 ♗e6 21.f4 ♗d8 22.f5 ♗xd1+ 23.♗xd1 ♗xg5 24.♗d6+–+) 9...♗xh6 10.♗xh6 ♗xg4 (10...♗xg4 11.♞d2 ♗e6 12.0-0-0

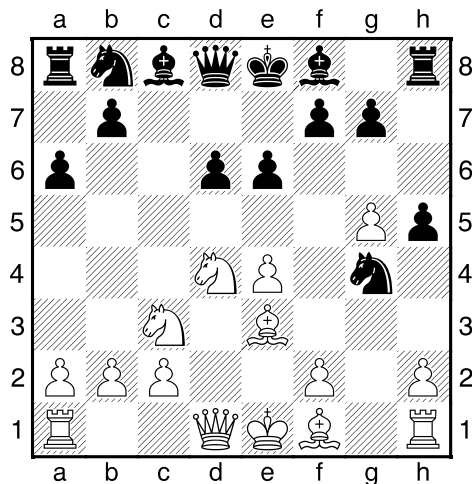
a) 12.♗d1? ♗c6 (**a**) ♠12...♗xh6 13.♞xh6 ♗c6 14.♞e3±) 13.♗g5 ♗d4 14.♞xd4?± Hartl Rainer–Klein Josef/Bayern Regionalliga Southeast 1997/0-1 (26) (**a**) ♠14.♗xd8=) ;

b) 12.♗g5 f6 13.♗h4 g5 14.♗g3 ♗c6 15.0-0-0 ♗h6 16.♞xd6 ♞xd6 17.♗xd6=; 12...♗c6 13.♗g5 f6 14.♗h4 g5 15.♗g3 ♗d4 16.h3 ♗h6 17.f4 gxf4 18.♗xf4 ♗f7 19.♗e3 ♞b6 20.♞f2 0-0-0 21.♞xf6 ♗he8 22.♗b1 ♗b8 23.♗d5 ♞c5 24.♞f2 ♞a5 25.c3 Santiago Arias–David Roiz/1-0 (27)) 11.♞d3 (11.f3 ♗e6=) 11...♗c6=; 7...d5! is possibly the best road to equalization 8.e5 ♗fd7 9.f4 ♗c6 10.♞f3=]

8.g5

[8.gxh5?! ♗xh5 (8...e5 9.♗b3 ♗g4 (9...♗g4 10.♗d5 ♗xe3 11.♗xe3 ♗d7 12.♗g2 (12.♗d5 ♗f6 13.♗xf6+ gxf6 14.♞f3 ♗h6 15.♗d1 ♗e6 16.♗g1 ♗c8 17.c3 ♗f4 18.♗h3 ♞d7 1-0 Sgouritsas,D–Geaman,H/Sicilian – Perenyi Attack 2000 (18)) 12...♗f6 13.♗f3 ♗e6 14.♗g1 ♞c7 15.♞e2 b5 16.0-0-0 ♗c4 17.♞d2 ♗xh5 18.♗f5 g6 19.♗xd6+ ♗xd6 1-0 Perez,G–Geaman,H/Sicilian – Perenyi Attack 2000 (19)) 10.f3 (10.♗e2! ♗e6 11.h6! g6 12.♞d2 ♗bd7 13.h4±) 10...♗xh5 11.♗c4 ♗c6=) 9.♗g2! ♞c7 10.♞e2 (10.f4!? ♗bd7 11.♞f3 with a minimal advantage) 10...♗c6 11.0-0-0 ♗d7 12.f4! ♗c8? (12...e5! 13.♗d5 ♗xd5 14.exd5 ♗xd4 15.♗xd4 g6±) 13.♗f3!± but White lost the game after some mistakes 0-1 Zamostni,J–Tratar,M/Rabac 2003/ (21)]

8...♗g4



9.♙c1! ♖b6

[≤9...b5 10.♙g2 (10.f3 ♗e5 11.a3 ♗bc6 12.♗xc6 ♗xc6 13.♙f4=) 10...♙e7 11.f4 b4 12.♗ce2±; 9...♗c6?! 10.♗xc6 bxc6 11.h3? (11.f4! d5 (11...e5 12.h3 exf4 13.hxg4 ♖xg5 14.♗e2 ♙xg4 15.♙xf4 ♖xf4 16.♗xf4 ♙xd1 17.♖xd1+-) 12.h3 d4 13.hxg4 dxc3 14.♖xd8+ ♗xd8 15.♖xh5+-) 11...♗e5 12.f4 ♗g6 13.♙e2 e5 14.♙xh5 (14.f5 ♗f4 15.♙xf4 exf4 16.♖d2 ♖xg5 17.0-0-0=) 14...♗xf4 15.♙xf4 exf4 16.h4 g6 17.♙f3 ♙g7 18.♖d2 ♙e5 19.♗e2+ Suranyi,P-Onischuk,A/0-1 (32)]

10.h3

[10.f3? ♗c6 11.♗ce2 (11.fxg4 ♖xd4 12.gxh5 ♖xd1+ 13.♗xd1 (13.♗xd1 ♖xh5 14.♙e3) 13...♖xh5 14.h4 b5=) 11...e5 12.h3 ♗xd4 13.♗xd4 exd4 14.hxg4 h4 15.a3 d5 16.e5=]

10...♗e5 11.♙e2

[11.♗b3 is also good 11...g6?! (11...♖c7! 12.f4 (12.♙g2!) 12...♗ed7 (12...♗g6! is a strong option for the defence 13.♙e3 d5 14.exd5 ♗xf4 15.♖d2 ♗xd5 16.♗xd5 exd5 17.0-0-0 ♙e6 18.♙g2 and Black is holding) 13.♙e3 b5 14.♙d3± Anka,E-Sax,G/Bela memorial 1997/0-1 (33)(14.a3!±)) 12.♙e3! ♖c7 13.f4 ♗ed7 (13...♗c4!? is probably best in this difficult position 14.♙d4 ♖h7 15.♗d2 ♗b6 16.♙g2±) 14.♖d2 ♗c6 15.0-0-0 b5 16.♗d5? White throws away his advantage but misguided play from Black handed White the game later. Timman,J-Nisipeanu,L/BL 2000/1-0 (35)(♗16.♙g2±)]

11...g6

[11...h4 12.a3! (12.f4 ♗bc6 13.♗b3 ♗g6 14.♙g4? (14.a3 is better) 14...a5 (14...♖c7 15.♙e3±) 15.a4 ♙e7 16.♖f1 and White retains the initiative) 12...♙d7 13.f4 ♗bc6 14.♗b3 ♗g6 15.♖d3 ♖c7 16.♙e3±]

12.♗b3

[12.f4 ♗ed7 (12...♗ec6 13.♙e3 (13.♗b3) 13...♖a5 (13...♖xb2? 14.♗a4 ♖a3 15.c3 d5 16.exd5 exd5) 14.a4? Pikula Dejan-Illincic Zlatko/Cup Yugoslavia (team) 1999/1-0 (36)(♗14.♗b3! ♖c7 15.♖d2±)) 13.♖b1 (13.f5? ♗e5 14.♖f1±) 13...♙g7 14.♙e3 ♖c7 15.f5!±]

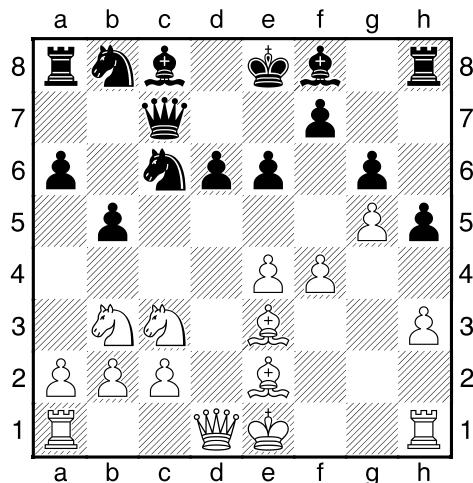
12...♖c7

[12...♙g7! 13.f4 ♗ed7 14.♖d3 ♖c7 15.♙e3±; 12...♗bc6?! 13.f4 (13.♙e3! ♖c7 14.f4±) 13...♗d7 14.♖f1 ♖c7 15.♙e3 b5 16.f5± Schiller,E-Paolozzi,M/Ramsgate op 1981/1-0 (41)]

13.f4 ♗ec6 14.♙e3

[≤14.f5? gxf5? 15.♙f4 (15.♖f1? ♙g7! 16.exf5 ♙xc3+ 17.bxc3 ♗e7 18.♖d4±) 15...♙g7 16.♙xd6 ♖d8 17.♖d2 ♗d4 18.e5±]

14...b5



[14...♗d7 15.♖d2 b5 16.0-0-0 ♙b7 17.♗d4 ♖c8 18.f5 gxf5 19.exf5; 14...♙g7 15.♖d2 0-0? (♗15...♗e7! 16.♗d4 0-0 17.0-0-0±) 16.0-0-0! ♖d8 (16...♖e8 is a better move even if Blacks position still remains difficult to handle 17.♖xd6+- (17.♖hf1+-)) 17.♗a4! b5? (17...♗d7 18.♖xd6 ♖xd6 19.♖xd6 ♙f8 20.♖d2+-) 18.♗b6+- Yudasin,L-Van Wely,L/etch (m) Pula (Croatia) 1997/1-0 (46)]

15.♖d2

[15.f5? is premature here as it gives Black the opportunity to muster up his defences with 15...b4 16.♖a4 ♖d7 17.♞f1 exf5 18.exf5 ♞b8 19.fxg6 fxg6 20.♖d2= and Whites advantage has vanished.; 15.♞d3 is an interesting option here where White keeps a close account on the center and Black on his edge. Black could though continue with 15...b4

- a) 15...♙b7 16.0-0± (a) 16.♙f3±);
b) 15...♖d7 16.♙f3±; 16.♖a4±]

15...♙b7

[even 15...♖d7 seems to be well playable with possibly 16.a3 (or 16.0-0-0 b4 17.♖a4±) 16...♙b7 17.♞f1± as continuation]

16.0-0-0

[16.a4 b4 17.♖a2 ♖e7 (17...♙g7 18.0-0-0 ♖e7 best (18...♖a5? 19.♖xa5 ♞xa5 20.♞xd6 ♙xe4 21.♞xb4 ♞xb4 22.♖xb4 ♙xh1 23.♞xh1; 18...a5? 19.♞xd6! ♞xd6 20.♞xd6+-) 19.♞xb4 d5 20.♞b6±) 18.♙f3 ♙g7 19.0-0-0]

16...♖d7

[16...b4 17.♖a4 ♖d7 18.♙b1 (18.♞he1 ♞c8 19.♙b1 ♖a5 (19...♙e7) 20.♖d4 ♖c4 21.♙xc4 ♞xc4 22.b3 Kharlov,A-Meszaros,A/Budapest BIO Rapid 1992 (22)) 18...♞c8 (18...♙e7 19.♞he1 a5 20.♙c4 ♞c8) 19.♞c1±]

17.♞hf1

[17.f5 is premature and allows Black to equalize by ≤17...gxf5 (17...b4! 18.fxe6 (18.♖a4 ♞c8 19.fxe6) 18...fxe6 19.♖a4 ♞c8 20.♙c4=) 18.exf5 ♖ce5 (18...♖a5 is worse 19.fxe6 fxe6 (or 19...♖xb3+ 20.axb3 fxe6 21.♞hf1±) 20.♖d4±) 19.♞hf1±; 17.♙f3 doesn't seem to give White much after 17...♖b6 18.♙xb6 ♞xb6 19.♖e2 (or 19.♙b1 ♞d8 20.♖e2 with but slight advantage) 19...♞c8 20.♙b1 b4 21.♞he1±] 17...♖c5 [another try here is 17...♞c8 18.♙d3 and here perhaps 18...♖b4 would have been interesting for Black because after (Polgar chose a different approach to her defence against and won the game after some mistakes by Almasi as seen here 18...♙e7 19.♙b1! 0-0 20.♖e2 ♖b6 21.f5 ♖e5 22.♙xb6 ♞xb6 23.♖bd4 ♖xd3 24.cxd3 e5 25.♖f3 b4 26.♞c1? a5 27.♖h4 d5 28.♞xc8? ♞xc8 29.♖g3? ♙a6 30.fxg6 fxg6 31.♖f3 ♞e6 32.♞g1 Almasi,Z-Polgar,J/Fontys Tilburg 1996/0-1 (35)) 19.♙d4 e5 20.fxe5 ♖xe5 21.♙b1 ♖bxd3 22.cxd3 the play is rather unclear even if White has the upper hand.; 17...b4 is a good option here and should give Black a better

continuation then in the game 18.♖a4 ♞c8 (18...a5? 19.♙b5!) 19.♙d3 ♙g7 20.♞f2 0-0 21.♙f1±]

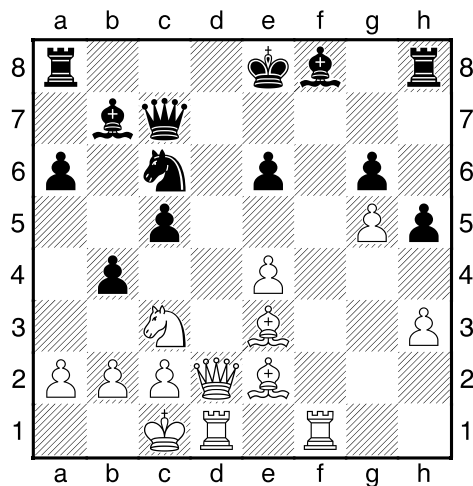
18.f5 White gains space

[18.♖xc5 seems to free Blacks play somewhat and thus making the task of defence easier 18...dxc5 19.f5 ♞d8 (19...b4!? 20.♖b1 ♞d8 21.♞e1 ♞xd1+ 22.♞xd1= (22.♙xd1=)) 20.♞e1 b4 21.fxg6±; 18.♙b1 gives White here a firm base to build up his attack with the K in safety 18...0-0-0 19.♙f3]

18...b4 [18...♖xb3+! is a good counter ratling the Whites position and creating weaknesses for future attacks 19.axb3 ♙e7 20.b4 and after this move Black must be careful in his choices (20.♙b1 ♖e5 21.f6±) 20...♖e5!?

- a) 20...gxf5? 21.exf5 ♖e5 (a) 21...e5?? 22.♖d5!+-) 22.g6!±;
b) 20...♞c8 21.♙b1 ♞d8 22.h4±; 21.♞f2! (21.h4 ♖c4 (21...♞c8 22.♙d4±) 22.♙xc4 ♞xc4 23.♙d4!±) 21...♖c4 (21...h4!? could possibly contain some possibilities for Black) 22.♙xc4 ♞xc4 23.f6 ♙f8 24.♙c5±; 18...0-0-0!? is worth looking at 19.♖d4 ♞g8 20.♖xc6 ♙xc6±]

19.♖xc5± dxc5 20.fxg6 fxg6



21.♞f6!! Shirov decides to "muddy" the waters hoping Black will go astray in his difficult defence. A very strong move.

[21.♖a4 is probably the best move here even if it only leads to continuous struggle 21...♞d8 22.♙d3 ♖e5 23.♞f2 ♖xd3+ 24.cxd3 ♙g7 25.♖xc5±]

21...bxc3

[21...♖e7?? loses at once after 22.♙xc5 ♖d8 23.♜d5 exd5 24.♙xe7 ♙xe7 25.exd5+-; 21...♜d4? 22.♙xd4 0-0-0 23.♙d3 cxd4 24.♜e2 ♖a5 25.♜b1±]

22.♖xe6+- ♜e7

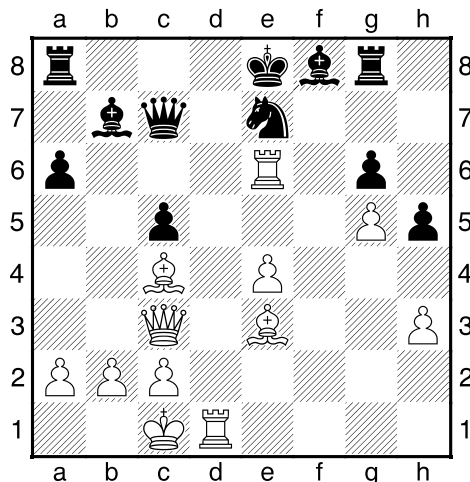
[≤22...♙e7 23.♖xc3 ♖g8 24.♙xc5 ♖d8+-]

23.♖xc3 ♖g8

[23...♙c8 24.♜ed6 is the correct move keeping Whites advantage intact (24.♖xh8? throws it all away 24...♙xe6 25.♖f6 ♖c6

a) 25...♙xa2?? 26.b3 ♙xb3 27.cxb3+-;

b) 25...♙xh3?? 26.♙c4 ♖d7 (b) 26...♜d5 27.♙xd5) 27.♖f7+ ♜d8 28.♖xf8+ ♜c7 29.♙f4+ ♜c6 30.♖xa8+ ♖b7 31.♖d6+ ♜c7 32.♖d8#; 26.♙f3=) 24...♜h7 25.♖xc5+- (or even 25.♙xc5 ♙xh3 26.♙xa6 ♖xa6 27.♖xa6 ♙g4+-)]



24.♙c4 is possibly not the strongest move here but it does the job nicely

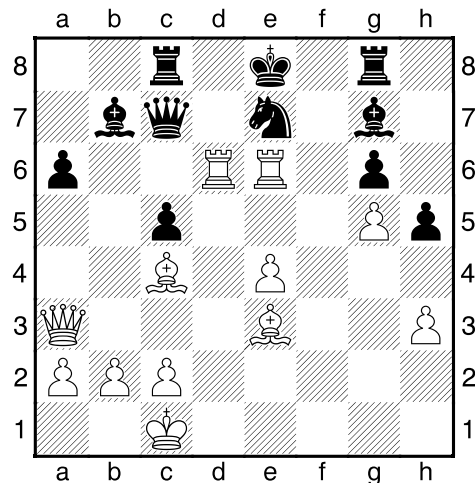
[24.♖f6!! ♙c8 25.♖e5 ♖g7 (25...♖xe5 26.♖xe5 ♖a7+-) 26.♖xc5+- and there isn't really any reason to continue for Black; 24.♖c4 cuts it also. 24...♖d8 25.♖xe7+ (25.♖xd8+) 25...♖xe7 26.♖xd8+ ♜xd8 27.♖xg8 ♙xe4 28.♙d2+-; 24.e5 is not to prefer as it doesn't do enough. With 24...♖d8 25.♖xd8+ and 25...♜xd8 26.♙xa6 ♖xa6 27.♖xa6! and Black surely still has a fighting chance]

24...♙g7 25.♖a3

[Also 25.♖b3 is good enough for the win as after 25...♙d4 26.♖f6! (26.♙xd4 cxd4 27.♖b6 ♖f4+ 28.♜b1 ♖f8 29.♖xb7 ♖xe4+-) 26...0-0-0 27.♖xd4 cxd4 28.♙f4 and curtains]

25...♖c8

[≤25...♙d4 26.♙xd4 cxd4 27.♖a4+ ♙c6 (or 27...♜d8 but slightly worse and after 28.♖xd4+ ♜c8 29.♖xe7 ♖xe7 30.♙xg8 ♖xg5+ 31.♖d2+- Blacks position is poor) 28.♖xc6+ ♖xc6 29.♖xc6 ♜xc6 30.♙xg8 0-0-0+- and White has all in his hand]



26.♖dd6!

[26.♖a4+ ♙c6 27.♖b3 (27.♖xa6 ♖b7 28.e5 ♙f3 29.♖xe7+ ♜xe7 30.♖xb7+ ♙xb7 31.♙xg8 ♖xg8 32.♙xc5+) 27...♖b8 28.♖xe7+ ♜xe7 29.♙xc5+ ♜e8 30.♙f7+ ♖xf7 31.♖xb8#; 26.♖xe7+ ♖xe7 27.♙xg8 ♙xe4 28.♙c4+-; 26.♙xa6 ♖xa6 27.♖a4+ ♜f7 28.♖xa6]

26...♙d4??

[≤26...♙xe4 27.c3 ♙f5 28.♖a4+ ♜f8 29.♖d7 ♙xe6 30.♖xc7 ♖xc7 31.♙xe6+- and it is over; ≤26...h4 27.♖a4+ ♜f8 28.♖f6+!+- and continuing play after this move would be "beginners dream"]

27.♙xd4? Shirov misses the best continuation even if he maintains full control of the position with ♙xd4

[≤27.♖a4+ ♙c6 28.♖xc6 ♖xc6 29.♖xc6 ♙xe3+ 30.♜b1 ♖xc6 31.♙xg8+- and Whites overwhelming forces will soon put an end to Blacks struggle; better but slightly worse than ♖a4+ is 27.♙f4 ♖f8 28.♙g3 h4 29.♖a4+ ♙c6 30.♖xc6+- and after the exchanges White has a won game]

27...cxd4 28.♖xe7+! ♖xe7

[28...♜xe7 29.♖c6+]

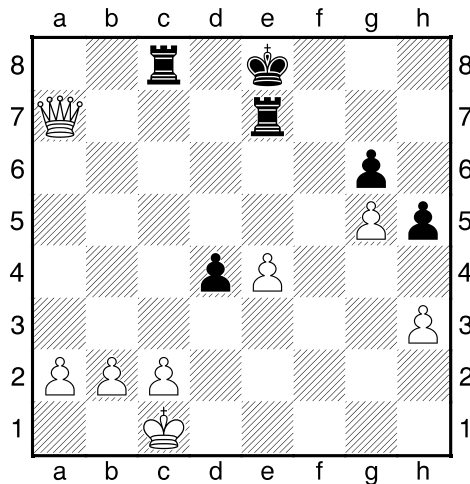
29.♖e6

[29.♙xg8 is impossible because of the following mating combination 29...♖xg5+ 30.♗e3 ♗xe3+ 31.♙d1 ♗g1+ 32.♙d2 ♗g2+ 33.♙e1 ♗xe4+ 34.♙f1 ♗g2+ 35.♙e1 ♗g1+ 36.♙e2 ♖xc2+ 37.♙d3 ♗d1#]

29...♖g7 30.♗a4+ ♙d8

[30...♙c6 31.♖xc6?! (31.♗xa6 ♙d8 32.♗b6+ (32.♖xc6?! ♗xg5+ 33.♙d1 ♗g1+ 34.♙d2 ♗e3+ 35.♙d1 ♖xc6 (35...♗xh3? 36.♖f6 ♗g4+ 37.♙e2 ♗g1+ 38.♖f1 ♗xf1+ 39.♙xf1))) 31...♗xg5+ 32.♙d1 ♗g1+ 33.♙d2 ♗e3+ 34.♙d1 ♗g1+ 35.♙d2 ♗g2+ 36.♙c1 ♗h1+ 37.♙d2 ♗g2+ 38.♙c1 ♗g1+ 39.♙d2=]

31.♖xe7 ♖xe7 32.♙xa6 ♙xa6 33.♗xa6 ♙d7
34.♗a7+ ♙e8



35.♗a6

[35.♗b6 keeps an even firmer grip 35...♙d7 36.♗xd4+ ♙c7 37.♗a7+ ♙d6 38.♗b6+ ♙d7 39.♗xg6 ♖c5+-]

35...♙d7 36.♗xg6 d3

[36...♖c5 doesn't get the cat off the tree 37.♙d2+-]

37.♗f5+ ♙d8

[37...♖e6 doesn't change the outcome of the game 38.c3 d2+ (38...♙e7 39.♙d2 ♖a8 40.♗c5+ ♙e8 41.♗b5+-) 39.♙xd2+-] **38.c3**
The game has come to the final stages. White is in complete control and Ljubomir could easily have given up here without question. Perhaps he just wanted to play some more.

38...♖cc7

[38...d2+ is no salvation 39.♙xd2 ♖c6 (39...♙c7 40.g6 ♖d7+ 41.♙e3+-) 40.g6+-; 38...♖b7 39.g6 ♙c7 40.g7+-]

39.g6

[or 39.♗f8+ ♙d7 40.g6+-]

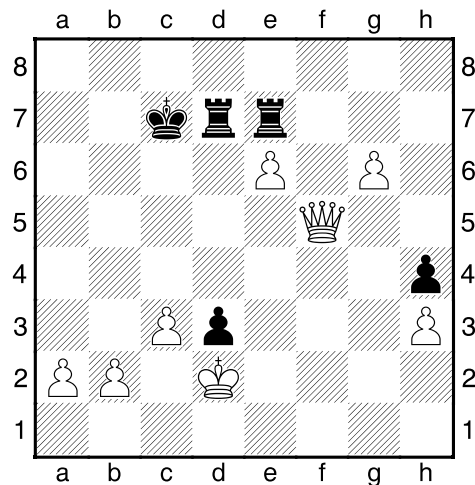
39...♖cd7 40.♙d2 h4

[40...♙c7 41.♗c5+-]

41.e5 ♙c7

[41...♖e8 there is nothing better in the position 42.♗f6+ ♙c7 43.♗xh4+-]

42.e6



[42.e6 ♙d6 43.exd7 ♖xd7 44.♗f6+ ♙c7 45.b4+-] **1-0**

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