DON'T FEAR THE HEDGEHOG

Krisztian Szabo analyses an important Paulsen variation

Sicilian B44: 1.e4 c5 2.\(\Delta\)f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4
4.\(\Delta\)xd4 \(\Delta\)c6 5.\(\Delta\)b5 d6 6.c4 \(\Delta\)f6 7.\(\Delta\)1c3 a6
8.\(\Delta\)a3 \(\delta\)e7 9.\(\delta\)e2 0-0 10.0-0 b6 11.\(\delta\)e3 \(\delta\)b7
12.\(\Beta\)b3 \(\Delta\)d7 13.\(\Beta\)fd1

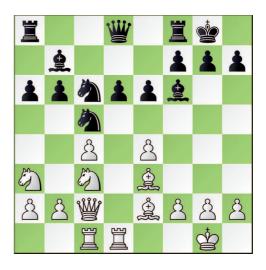


Anyone going into the Paulsen System with ...e6 and ... 2c6 (or vice versa) and only playing ...a6 later on, avoids specific variations, but also "runs the risk" that White will force him into a hedgehog structure with 5. 2b5 and 6.c4. The variation which leads to the diagram is of course not forced then, but in each case the moves are the ones most often played. The justification for the strange looking 12. 2b3 is: Black does not have an ideal position with his 2c6, that knight belongs on d7; he would then on his next move play ... 2e5 and then ... 2ed7.



Parimarjan Negi: successful deviation from the main variation with 15.Rab1

In his article, Krisztian Szabo first turns his attention to sidelines. In 13... 28, 13... 28 or 13... 27 Black is playing typical Hedgehog moves, but ones which do not allow him to equalise. The most popular is a move which is not typical of the Hedgehog 13... 2c5, with which Black takes into account the specific position on the board. After 14. 2c2 less attention is paid to 14... 2c7 in the article on the DVD; 14... 2f6 is more interesting and is usually met with 15. 2ac1.



Black emphasises his ambitions on the kingside if he plays **15...**兔**e5**. After **16.**�a**b1** both 16...幣h4 and 16...f5 are very sharp, though nevertheless better for White after super-accurate play. So far, White has always met the solid (and waiting move) **15...**營**e7** with **16.**�a**b1** and then 16...�b4 17.營d2 當fd8 should be completely okay for Black.

In the most recent game with the variation being discussed, Parimarjan Negi successfully deviated with **15. \(\mathbella\)** although already played back in 1972 in Averbakh-Polugaevsky, there have so far been only a few experiments with this move. After **15... \(\mathbella\)** b4 **16. \(\mathbella\)** d2 all four games continued with 16... **\(\mathbella\)** xc3, but Szabo also analyses the intermediate move 16... \(\mathbelle\) e5 (17.f4 \(\mathbella\) xc3).

Conclusion: 5. 2b5 is not very popular with top players, but that could change since the positions which arise are full of possibilities.