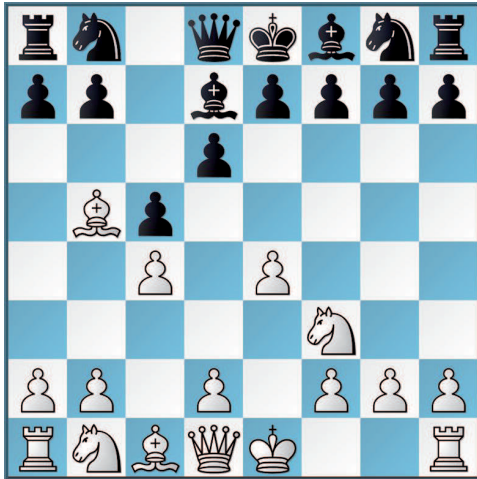


# ROMANISHIN'S PRINCIPLE

Alexey Kuzmin introduces a remarkable variation

Sicilian Defence B52: 1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.♙b5+ ♙d7 4.c4



Protecting a bishop in the b-file with the c-pawn is something that is known from the Bogoyanov and Queen's Indian Defences. Oleg Romanishin applied this principle to the Sicilian Defence back in the 70s and 80s. Fundamentally speaking there are two ideas here. In the event of a capture on b5 White will benefit from more space whilst the black pawns in the centre remain immobile. If, however, instead of that Black at some point plays ...a6, White captures on d7 and in comparison to the variation with 4.♙xd7+ ♚xd7 5.c4, possibly with the exclusion of unpleasant variations. Alternatively White can continue with his waiting strategy, and at some point Black must play ...♘c6 or ...a6.



Oleg Romanishin: creative ideas in many openings

Alexey Kuzmin sees three setups for Black.

### A) Black takes on b5

This makes things easiest for White who can hope for an advantage according to Kuzmin's analyses.

### B) The ♘b8 remains there for the moment

Here White can take on d7 at any time and the result is a transposition to the variation with 4.♙xd7+ ♚xd7 5.c4, possibly with the exclusion of unpleasant variations. Alternatively White can continue with his waiting strategy, and at some point Black must play ...♘c6 or ...a6.

### C) Black plays a quick ...♘c6

It is then advisable for White to play d2-d4 quickly, before Black has established control over d4 with ...g6 and ...♙g7. For example 4...♘c6 5.d4 cxd4 6.♘xd4 g6 7.♘c3 ♘f6



and 8.0-0 ♙g7 does not set Black any problems because the defence of d4 with 9.♙e3 runs into 9...♘g4. So White should delay castling and play 8.♙e3 immediately, when 8...♙g7 should not be followed with the most frequently played 9.f3, but with 9.h3.

**Conclusion:** The way things stand at the present White cannot demonstrate an advantage, but he has much the more pleasant game.