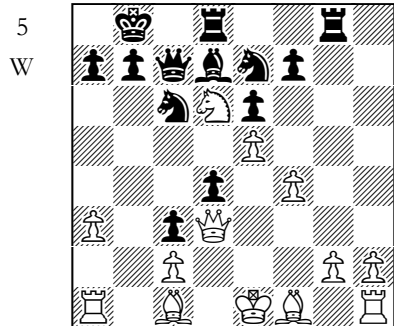


C: (13 ♘g3) 13 ... d4 14 ♗e4

But is 13 ... d4 any better? The key line 14 ♗e4 0-0-0 15 ♗d6+ ♖b8(5) seemed unpromising enough that theory avoided even mentioning it until Korchnoi *C18-19 p. 64* gave a bare '16 ♖b1 b6!'.
 This was so thoroughly evaluated by Goh *ChessPublishing.com, May 2009*, who in particular anticipated the key sacrifice 17 ♗xf7?! ♖df8 18 ♗d6 ♗f5 19 ♗xf5 ♖xf5 20 g3 ♗xe5! (21 fxe5 ♗c6!) from **A. Kovačević-Bukal Jr., 17th Zadar Open A 2010**, that there's little to add to his verdict that Black stands no worse. Spare a thought, though, for the unfortunate innovator in an earlier game, **Cooke-Abramson, New York 1991**, from (5) (and omitting ♖b1 b6): 16 ♗xf7 ♖df8 17 ♗d6 ♗f5 18 ♗xf5 ♖xf5 19 g3



♗xe5! 20 fxe5 ♖xe5+! (best here; ♣♣) 21 ♖f2 ♖f5+?? 22 ♗xf5! 1-0. Ouch!

Conclusion: After 13 ♗g3 or 13 ♗xc3, 13 ... 0-0-0?! is indeed an inaccuracy. Black should prefer 13 ... d4! and 13 ... ♗f5! respectively. ▶

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 ♖b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♗xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♗e7 7 ♗g4 ♗c7 8 ♗xg7 ♖g8 9 ♗xh7 cxd4 10 ♗e2 ♗bc6 11 f4 ♗d7 12 ♗d3 dxc3(1) 13 ♗g3

13 ...	14	15	16	17				
0-0-0?! ♗e2?! ♗f5 ♗xf5 exf5 0-0	0-0-0(2) ♗f3? ♗b6! ♖/♖							
... ♗xc3! ♗f5 ♗xf5 exf5(4) g3	d4 ♗d3 ♗e6 ±							
... ♗xc3! ♗f5 ♗xf5 exf5(4) g3	d4 ♗d3 ♗e6 ±							
... ♗xc3! ♗f5 ♗xf5 exf5(4) g3	d4 ♗d3 ♗e6 ±							
d4! ♗e4 0-0-0 ♗d6+ ♖b8(5) ♖b1	b6 ♗xf7?! ♖df8 =/♖							

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 MLW MOLES, John L., *The French Defence Main Line Winawer*. London: Batsford 1975. ISBN-10: 0-7134-2921-6.
 AWW MOSKALENKO, Viktor, *The Wonderful Winawer*. Alkmaar, The Netherlands: New in Chess 2010. ISBN-13: 978-90-5691-327-4.
 P65 PACHMAN, Luděk, *Semi-Open Games*. Spring Books 1965.
 P68 —, *Semi-Open Games*. Tr. of 1966 German ed., revised 1968. Sutton Coldfield: CHESS Ltd. 1970. No ISBN. French defence portion published separately as *The French Defence*, CHESS Ltd., Sutton Coldfield.
 PfF-2 WATSON, John L., *Play the French* (New [2nd] edition). London: Cadogan Books 1996. ISBN-10: 1-85744-101-X.
 PfF-4 —, *Play the French* (4th edition)—see issue 1.

THE NEW WINAWER REPORT

Editor: Seán Coffey

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Out of Order?

The celebrated *tabiya* of the main line Poisoned Pawn variation has been the launching point for many thousands of games. From (1), White has a plethora of different approaches, starting with an unusually wide immediate choice: of the 19 moves that do not lose material immediately, a remarkable 11 are 'theory'. The complexity is further increased by the myriad possible transpositions, many of which require treading a narrow path of acceptable move orders.

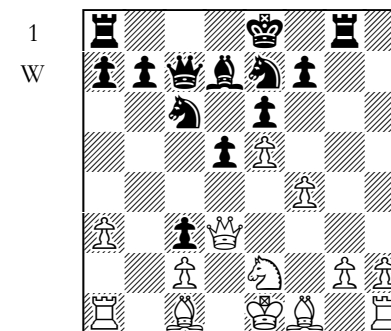
Moskalkenko features one such move order issue in his recent book *The Wonderful Winawer*. The immensely complicated variations after 13 ♗xc3 generally have little in common with the older 13 ♗g3, which is usually given as the 'solid' choice. But what if they are combined?

* * *

Poisoned Pawn: 13 ♗g3 as a prelude to 14 ♗xc3 and vice versa

In the Poisoned Pawn main line (1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 ♗c3 ♖b4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 ♗xc3+ 6 bxc3 ♗e7 7 ♗g4 ♗c7 8 ♗xg7 ♖g8 9 ♗xh7 cxd4 10 ♗e2 ♗bc6 11 f4 ♗d7 12 ♗d3 dxc3), the most critical continuation at present is 13 ♗xc3. This is often, even usually, met by 13 ... 0-0-0, typically continuing 14 ♖b1 ♗f5 15 ♖g1 d4 16 ♗d3, e.g. **Shirov-Ganguly, Canadian Open, Edmonton 2009**.

Moskalkenko *AWW p. 213* finds Black's move order is inaccurate since it allows 14 ♗g3!: he recommends that 13 ♗xc3 should be met by 13 ... ♗f5!. Similarly after the older 13 ♗g3, he argues *p. 223* that 13 ... 0-0-0?! is a mistake that allows

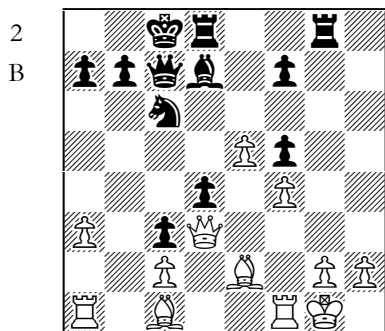


14 ♗xc3!, and that 13 ... d4! is correct.

Is he right? This issue examines this idea and the 13 ♗g3 variation.

A: White defers capturing the c3 pawn

Once upon a time theory's main line from (1) ran 13 ♖g3 0-0-0 14 ♙e2 ♗f5 15 ♗xf5 exf5 16 0-0 d4(2), and then followed Pachman: '17 ♙f3 secures White a small advantage, as Black must beware of moving 17 ... f6 (17 ... f6? 18 ♙d5; 17 ... ♗g6 18 ♖e1)' *P65 p. 58*; similarly *P68 p. 50*.



In retrospect it's odd to see the broad acceptance of this verdict, e.g. Keres *SbF-1 p. 298* 'after 17 ♖b1 f6 18 exf6 ♗g8 Black has sufficient counterplay'; after 17 ♙f3 'White's position is slightly preferable' (similarly *SbF-2 p. 296*), and Euwe '13 ♗g3!' ... '17 ♙f3!' ... 'White stands somewhat better' *Archives XXI/11-12/64, 12f/36, Jun. 1972* (similarly *XXIV/10/74-2, 12f/39, Oct. 1975*).

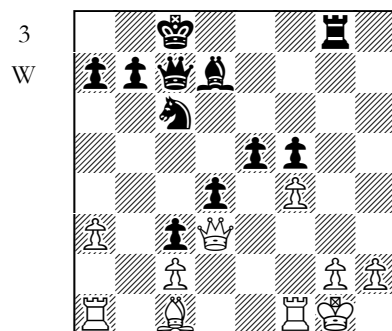
A11: 17 ♙f3 ♙e6

The most famous example is **Sveshnikov-S. Webb, Hastings 1977-78** *Informator 25/268 (Cvetković)*, where 18 ♖b1 was met by 18 ... ♙a2!?. The justification is 19 ♗xf5+? ♗b8 20 ♖a1 ♗e7!, with plenty of activity for Black,' Short *The Sunday Telegraph, 27 Mar. 2005* (obituary tribute to Simon Webb).

Though this gives Black some advantage, as does 20 ... d3, the right way is 20 ... ♙c4! 21 ♖d1 d3!?? (21 ... ♗b6? 22 ♗/2 d3+ 23 ♙e3 ♗b2, as in **Wyker-Veenhuijsen, Netherlands M-class corr 1985**, may be no better than equal—though White resigned). Sveshnikov spurned the repetition with 19 ♖a1 ♙e6 20 ♖e1? and after 20 ... ♗b6 lost resoundingly.

A12: 17 ♙f3 f6!?

And is 17 ... f6!? even prevented?. In three correspondence games 18 ♙d5 was met with 18 ... fxe5! 19 ♙xg8 ♖xg8(3).



After 20 fxe5 ♗xe5!?, the stem game **Himstedt-Crane, World Cup III corr 1974-75** *Gambit (California Chess Review) no. 11, Nov. 1975, p. 26 (Crane)* (in no database) went astray via 21 ♙f4?? ♗xd3?? (1/2-1/2, 34). Instead 21 ♗xd4 ♙c6 22 g3 ♖d8! gives Black full compensation. Also good is 20 ... ♗xe5!?. 21 ♙f4 ♗e4 22 ♖f3 as in **Elwert-Weise, corr 1983**, roughly equal. If instead 20 ♗c4, best is 20 ... ♗e7! (20 ... ♖g6? 21 fxe5 ♗xe5 22 ♙f4±), e.g. 21 ♗xc7+ ♗xc7 22 fxe5 ♙c6 23 ♖f2 ♙e4=.

A13: 17 ♙f3 ♗b6!

In fact Black has several viable approaches, amply illustrated by nearly a hundred correspondence games. The best of all has been rare: 17 ... ♗b6! cuts out ♖b1, leaves White struggling to find any plan (18 ♙d5? ♗e7??; 18 ♖e1 ♙e6—Sveshnikov-S. Webb), and gives Black an appreciable advantage. The practical results have been spectacular: 5½/6.

A2: 17 ♖b1

So Pachman's 17 ♙f3 is a mirage and from (2) White should choose 17 ♖b1 after all. Then 17 ... f6 is usually given as equal; simpler 17 ... ♙e6 18 ♙f3 ♗a5=.

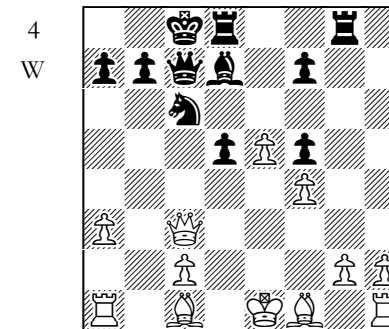
B: White captures on c3 immediately

After 13 ♗g3 0-0-0, Moskalkenko's suggestion echoes Short (see above): 'the direct materialistic 14 ♗xc3 leaves Black a pawn down for insufficient compensation ... believe me—Black does not have enough'.

Earlier Moles *MLW p. 21* had noticed that 14 ♗xc3 had never been played or suggested, though he took this to indicate it wasn't good: a dangerous assumption.

B1: (13 ♗g3 0-0-0 14 ♗xc3) 14 ... ♗f5

Moles' recommended 14 ... ♗f5 ?! 15 ♗xf5 exf5(4) 'and White has problems' was natural, given variation A. It had further support from the closest parallel, **Ree-Darga, Amsterdam 1969** *Informator 8/185 (Ivkov)*, which continued, in effect, (via 14 ♙e2 ♗f5 15 ♗xf5 exf5 16 ♙f3 ♗b6 17 ♗xc3) 16 ♙e2 ♗b6 17 ♙f3 ♗b8 18 ♗b3 ♗xb3 19 axb3 ♗d4 followed by ... ♗xb3 and ... d4-d3, and



Black won in style. But White's plan—♙e2-f3, ♗f2 and h4-h5—could hardly have been more accommodating and with more care the extra pawn must be worth a plus.

From (4), after 16 g3:

- 1) 16 ... d4 17 ♗d3 ♙e6 18 ♙g2 ♗a5 (Watson *PtF-2 p. 171*) 19 0-0± ♙c4? 20 ♗xf5+ ♗b8 21 ♖f2±± ♗c5 22 a4 ♙d5 23 ♙a3 1-0 **Möbke-Zöller, corr 1998**;
- 2) 16 ... ♗b6 17 ♗b3 ♗c5 18 ♖b1 b6 (Watson) 19 ♙e3 d4 20 ♙d2±;
- 3) 16 ... f6 17 exf6 ♖ge8+ 18 ♙e2 ♖e6 peters out after 19 ♙d2 ♖de8 20 f7±.

B2: 14 ... d4, 14 ... ♖h8

The relatively better 14 ... d4 also falls short, e.g. **Ciucurel-Novák, ICCF corr (WS/MN/030) 2008**: 15 ♗c5 b6 16 ♗c4 ♗b8 (16 ... f6?! 17 exf6 ♗d5 18 ♗e4± **Carlier-Carton, GLC Masters, London 1986**) 17 ♙d2 ♙c8 18 ♙d3 ♗d5 (18 ... ♙b7± Moskalkenko) 19 0-0 ♙b7 20 ♗e4± and 1-0, 42. Neven *ChessBase Magazine 129* prefers 14 ... ♖h8, intending ... ♖dg8, but here too Moskalkenko seems right: 15 ♖b1 and White stands better.