

Judit Polgar - Carlsen 2022

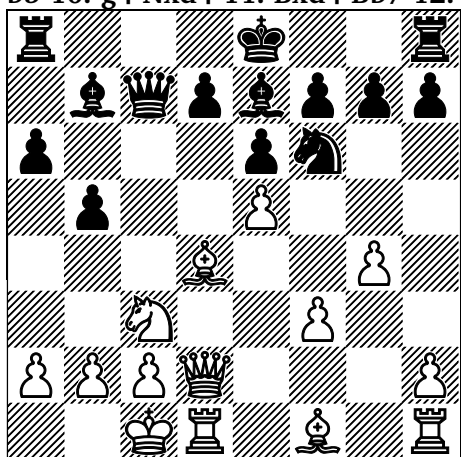
On July 2nd, 2022 during the candidate's chess tournament in Spain, Judit Polgar (White) and Magnus Carlsen (Black) play a casual blitz (3 + 0) skittles game in the park.

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6

It's unusual for Carlsen to play the *Sicilian Taimanov* chess opening.

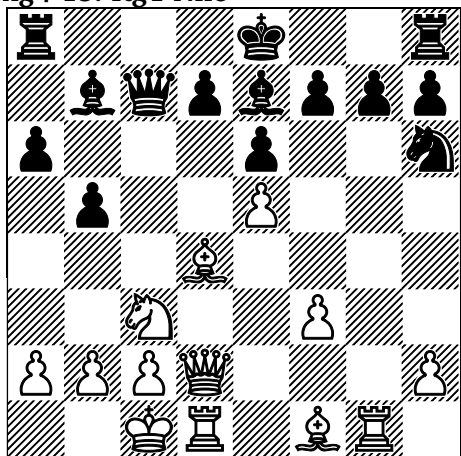
Polgar is no stranger to the Sicilian Taimanov, having played it with the Black pieces in a famous 1994 game against Shirov in Argentina.

5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Be3 a6 7. Qd2 Nf6 8. f3 Be7 9. O-O-O b5 10. g4 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 Bb7 12. e5



The usual moves to make here are *Kb1* or *g5*, but Polgar played the novelty move *e5*.

12... Nxc3 13. Rg1 Nh6



White could not play *fxg3* because then Black's bishop would have taken the rook on *h1*.

While *13... Bxf3* is technically Black's best move

here, there were a number of tactical complications Black would have been exposed to, such as *14. Bg2 Bxg2?* *15. Qxg2* and now both Black's *a8* rook and *g4* knight are under attack, causing him to lose a piece.

14. Bd3 Bf8

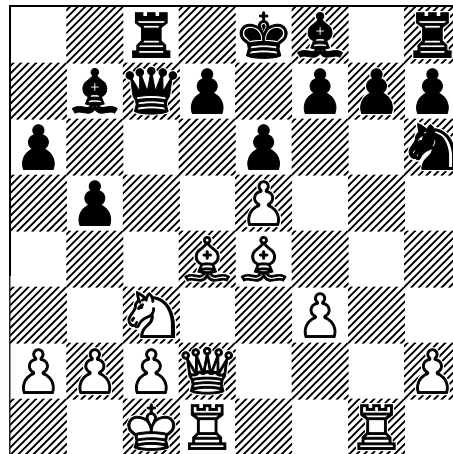
Black is now forced to put his dark-squared bishop back on its home square. Other moves are worse. For example, if Black instead played *14... O-O?*, Black would have been exposed to a mating attack, such as *14... O-O? 15. Rxg7+ Kxg7 16. Rg1+ Ng4 17. Rxg4+ Kh8 18. Qh6 Bg5+ 19. Rxg5 Qxc3 20. Qg7#*

Black can make other moves after *14... O-O?*, but they all lead to checkmate.

Back to the game that was on the board, it continued as follows.

14... Bf8 15. Be4 Rc8?

Rc8 was a blunder; White can now move and win:



16. Bb6!

Black cannot save both his queen and king. For example, if Black now plays *16... Qxb6??*, White can mate with *Qxd7#*. The audience, after realizing Polgar was winning, cheered. Magnus played the lost position for a few more moves:

16... Bxe4 17. Bxc7 Bc6 18. Bd6 Nf5 19. Ne4 1-0

And this is how Judit Polgar beat Magnus in only 19 moves.