

# Two Knights Defense



## Modern Variation

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 ♘c4 ♗f6 4 d4

4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

... dxe5 0-0 ♗c3 ♗d5 ♘e3 +/- Patzer Variation 1  
 ♗xe4 ♗c5 ♘e7 0-0 ♗e6 Sokolsky - Navrotsky #2

... e5 0-0 exd6 ♘d5 ♘xc6 ♗xd4 +/- ... ♗e4 Variation 2  
 exd4 ♗e4 d5 ♗xd6 ♘e7 bxc6 Skrobek - Wolny #4

... ♗e2 ♘f4 exf6 ♗bd2 ♗b3 ♘xe2 ♘d3 ♖d2 cxd3 +/- ... ♗g4 + ... f6 3  
 ... ♗g4 ♗e7 f6 ♗xf6 d6 ♗xe2 d3 ♗b4 ♗xd3 Albert & Dzindzi in COWE

... exd6 ♘xe2 ♘xd6 ♗a3 ♗b5 cxd3 ♖d2 +/- ... ♗g4 + ... d6 4  
 ... d6 ♗xe2 ♘xd6 cxd6 ♗ge5 d3 ♖e7 Neubauer - Del Rio #6

... ♘b5 ♗xd4 ♘e3 ♘xc6 ♗d2! ♗xd2 0-0 ♗b3 ♖ae1! +/- Macho 7 ... ♘c5 5  
 ... d5 ♗e4 ♘c5 ♘d7 bxc6 ♗xd2 0-0 ♘b6 ♗e7 Neubauer - Kotz #10

... ♗xc6 ♘xc5 ♘xc6 ♗c3! +/- Macho Gambit 6  
 ... 0-0 bxc6 ♗xc5 ♘a6 Gonzalez - Niubo#8

... ♘xc6 0-0 ♗b3 f3 f4 ♗c3 bxc3 +/- Blob Chase 7  
 ... ♘d7 bxc6 c5 c6 ♗g5 ♗e4 ♗xc3 Rogers - Ikeda #13

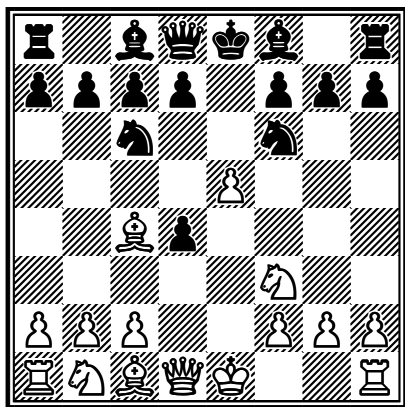
... f3 f4 f5 ♗c3 bxc3 +/- Passive Line 8  
 ... ♘e7 ♗c5 0-0 ♗e4 ♗c3 Edelman-Vucic #11

... f3 f4 ♘e3 ♗d2 ♗d2 +/- Main Line 9  
 ... ♘c5 ♗g5 ♗e4 0-0 ♗d2 Adorjan - Kluger#17

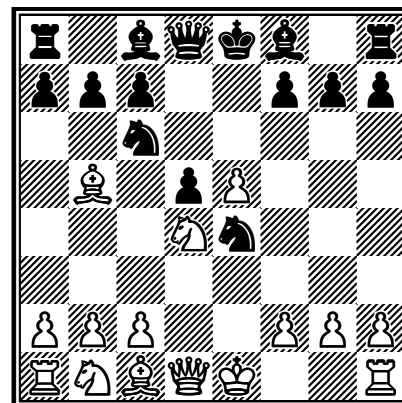


# Two Knights Modern Variation Overview

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 → ♘e4  
 → ♘g4  
 → d5 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4 → ♙c5  
 → ♙d7



1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5  
 Black's first decision.



1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5  
 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4  
 Black's second decision.

Black has two major choices. On move five he must decide what to do about the attacked knight. (See diagram above.) He can move it to e4 or g4, or he can counterattack with d7-d5. This last is most common and probably best. Later, on move seven, black can defend the knight on c6 by 7 ... ♙d7 or offer to sacrifice material with the “macho” 7 ... ♙c5.

Often white forces a “blob” pawn structure on black.

**White strategies:**

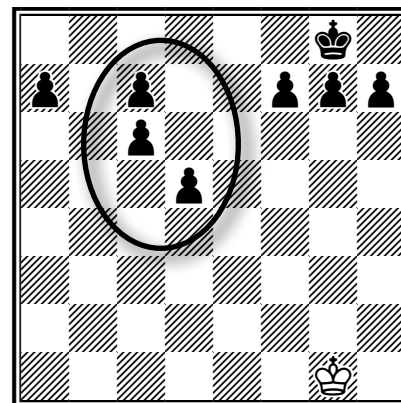
1. blockade the blob
2. attack on the kingside by advancing the e and f pawns
3. attack black's a-pawn

**White tactics:**

1. the e5-e6 shot
2. f5-f6 to destroy black's king position

**Black strategies:**

1. hit white's center e5-pawn with ... f7-f6
2. mobilize the blob, to trade off potential weaknesses and/or gain space
3. attack with pieces on the kingside



The Blob: Pawn island triplet on c+d files.

1

Sokolsky,Alexei - Navrotsky  
Novosibirsk (1) 1944

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 ♘xe4  
5 dxe5 ♘c5 6 O-O ♙e7 7 ♘c3 O-O 8 ♘d5 ♘e6  
9 ♙e3 f6 10 ♘xe7+ ♙xe7 11 exf6 ♙xf6 12 ♘g5  
♘h8 13 f4 ♙e7 14 ♘xh7 ♘xh7 15 ♙h5+ ♘g8  
16 f5 ♘e5 17 fxe6 ♙xf1+ 18 ♙xf1 ♘xc4  
19 ♙f7+ ♙xf7 20 exf7+ ♘f8 21 ♙d4 1-0

2

Skrobek - Wolny  
corr: Dr J. Bannet Memorial 1990

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5  
♘e4 6 O-O d5 7 exd6 ♘xd6 8 ♙d5 ♙e7  
9 ♙xc6+ bxc6 10 ♘d4 ♙d7 11 ♘c3 11 ♙f3!?  
Mikhalchishin 11 ... O-O 12 ♙f4 ♙f6 13 ♘a4  
♘b5 14 ♘e2 ♙d5 15 c3 15 ♙c1? ♙c4 -/+  
15 ... ♙f5 15 ... ♙c4 16 b3 16 ♙xd5 cxd5  
17 ♘c5 d4 17 ... c6? 18 a4 +- 18 ♘g3 ♙g6  
18 ... ♙c8 19 ♘ge4 ♙e7 20 a4 ♘d6 21 cxd4  
+/- 19 c4 ♘d6 20 ♙xd6 cxd6 21 ♘d7 ♙fc8  
22 ♘xf6+ gxf6 23 b3 d5 24 cxd5 ♙d8 25 f4 ♙c2  
' '' 26 ♙ac1 ♙ac8 27 ♙f2 d3 28 ♘f5!28 ♘e4?  
f5 28 ... ♙c5 28 ... ♘f8 29 ♘e3 +/- 29 ♙d2  
♙a5 29 ... ♘f8 30 ♘e3 30 ♘e7+ ♘g7 31 ♘c6  
♙dxd5 32 ♘xa5 ♙xa5 33 ♙cxc2 dxc2 34 ♙xc2  
+/- ♘g6 34 ... f5 35 a4 ♙a6 36 ♙c5 ♘f6  
37 ♘f2 ♙e6 38 a5 +- 35 ♘f2 ♘f5 36 ♘e3 h5  
37 a4 ♙a6 38 ♙c5+ ♘g4 39 h3+ ♘g3 40 ♙xh5  
♘xg2 41 ♘d4 ♘g3 42 f5 ♘f4 43 ♘c5 ♙a5+  
44 ♘b4 '!' '!' 44 ♘c6? ♙xf5 45 ♙xf5+ ♘xf5  
46 b4 ♘e4 47 b5 f5 48 a5 f4 49 b6 axb6 50 axb6  
f3 = 44 ... ♙xf5 45 ♙xf5+ ♘xf5 46 ♘c3!  
46 ... ♘f4 46 ... ♘e4 47 ♘d2 ♘f3 48 b4 ♘e4  
49 b5 ♘d5 50 h4 +- 47 b4 1-0

(47. b4 Kg3 (47... Ke3 48. h4 f5 49. h5 f4 50. h6 f3 51. h7  
f2 52. h8=Q f1=Q 53. Qe5+ Kf2 54. Qf4+ Ke2 55. Qxf1+  
Kxf1 56. Kd4 \$18) 48. b5 f5 49. a5 f4 50. b6 axb6 51. axb6  
f3 52. b7 f2 53. b8=Q+ Kxh3 54. Qf4 Kg2 55. Qg4+ Kh2  
56. Qf3 Kg1 57. Qg3+ Kf1 58. Kd2 f5 59. Qh2 f4 60. Qh1#  
Popescu )

Line 3 is a suggestion by Albert & Dzindzi from  
Chess Openings for White Explained.

4

Neubauer - Del Rio Angelis  
Santa Clara, 2002

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5  
♘g4 6 ♙e2 ♙e7 7 ♙f4 d6 8 exd6 ♙xe2+  
9 ♙xe2 ♙xd6 10 ♙xd6 cxd6 11 ♘a3 ♘ge5  
12 ♘b5 d3 13 cxd3 ♘e7 14 ♘d2 ♙e6 15 ♙he1  
♘d7 16 ♘fd4 a6 17 ♘xc6 ♘xc6 18 ♘c3 ♘d4  
19 ♙d1 b5 20 ♘e2 ♘xe2 21 ♙xe2 ♙d5 22 g3  
f5 23 d4 ♙he8 24 ♙d3 ♙xe1 25 ♙xe1 g6 26 a3  
♙c8 27 ♙c1 ♙c4 28 ♙xc4 bxc4 29 b3 cxb3  
30 ♙xc8 ♘xc8 31 ♘c3 ♘c7 32 ♘xb3 ♘c6  
33 ♘c4 d5+ 34 ♘b4 ♘b6 35 f4 a5+ 36 ♘a4  
♘a6 37 h3 h5 38 h4 ♘b6 39 ♘b3 ♘b5 40 a4+  
♘c6 1/2

5

Neubauer,Martin - Kotz,Heinz Peter  
Austria, 2002

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5  
d5 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4 ♙c5 8 ♙e3 ♙d7  
9 ♙xc6 bxc6 10 ♘d2 ♘xd2 11 ♙xd2 O-O  
12 O-O ♙e7 13 ♘b3 ♙b6 14 ♙ae1 a5  
15 ♙xb6 cxb6 16 f4 a4 17 ♘d4 c5 18 f5 f6  
19 exf6 ♙xf6 20 ♘e6 ♙xe6 21 ♙xe6 ♙xb2  
22 ♙xd5 ♘h8 23 f6 gxf6 24 ♙exf6 ♙xf6  
25 ♙xa8+ ♘g7 26 ♙a7+ ♘g6 27 ♙xa4 ♙xf1+  
28 ♘xf1 ♙f6+ 29 ♘g1 ♙e6 30 ♘f2 ♙f6+  
31 ♘g3 ♙c3+ 32 ♘h4 ♙f6+ 33 ♘h3 h5  
34 ♙e4+ ♘h6 35 a4 ♙c3+ 36 ♘h4 ♙f6+  
37 ♘g3 ♙c3+ 38 ♘f4 ♙f6+ 39 ♘e3 ♙c3+  
40 ♘e2 1-0

6

Gonzalez Pruneda - Niubo Arenas  
Cala Mencia: ESP 2001

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♙c4 ♘f6 5 e5  
d5 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4 ♙c5 8 ♙e3 O-O  
9 ♘xc6 bxc6 10 ♙xc5 ♘xc5 11 ♙xc6 ♙a6  
12 ♘c3 d4 13 ♙xa8 dxc3 14 ♙xd8 ♙xd8 15 b4  
♘e6 16 ♙c6 ♙d2 17 b5 ♘d4 18 O-O ♙xc2  
19 bxa6 ♘xc6 20 ♙fc1 ♙xc1+ 21 ♙xc1 ♘d4  
22 ♘f1 c2 23 ♘e1 ♘f8 24 ♘d2 ♘e7 25 ♘d3  
♘c6 26 ♘xc2 ♘xe5 27 ♙d1 ♘g4 28 ♙b1 1-0

7

Rogers,Ian - Ikeda,Junta

Canberra: ANU sim blind (1) 2003

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♙c4 ♘f6 5 e5  
 d5 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6  
 9 O-O c5 10 ♘b3 c6 11 f3 ♘g5 12 f4 ♘e4  
 13 ♘c3 ♘xc3 14 bxc3 ♙e7 15 f5 c4 16 ♘d4 c5  
 17 ♘e2 ♙c6 18 ♘g3 d4 19 f6 ♙d5 20 ♙e2 d3  
 21 ♙f2 gxf6 22 exf6 ♙xf6 23 ♖e1+ ♘d7  
 24 ♘e4 ♙e7 25 cxd3 cxd3 26 ♙a3 ♖hg8  
 27 ♙xc5 f5 28 c4 ♙xc4 29 ♙xf5+ ♘c7  
 30 ♙xe7 ♙d4+ 31 ♙f2 ♙xf2+ 32 ♘xf2 ♖ae8  
 33 ♘g3 ♖g7 34 ♙b4 ♖f7+ 35 ♘g1 ♖b8 36 a3  
 ♙a4 37 ♘e4 ♖g8 38 ♙d6+ ♘c6 39 ♙b4 ♙c2  
 40 ♘d2 ♖g5 41 ♖e6+ ♘d7 42 ♖a6 ♘d8  
 43 ♖e1 ♖fg7 44 g3 ♖7g6 45 ♖xg6 ♖xg6  
 46 ♘g2 ♘d7 47 ♖e7+ ♘c6 48 ♖xa7 1-0

43 ♖xe4 ♘h5 44 ♘f2 c6 45 ♖e5+ ♘h4 46 ♘f3  
 ♖e7 47 f5 1-0

8

Edelman,Daniel - Vucic,Mladen

New York: Manhattan 1989

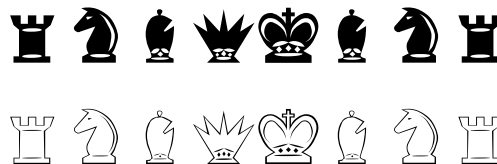
1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 exd4 4 ♙c4 ♘f6 5 e5  
 d5 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6  
 9 O-O ♙e7 10 f3 ♘c5 11 f4 O-O 12 f5 ♘e4  
 13 ♘c3 ♘xc3 14 bxc3 c5 15 ♘b3 c4 16 ♘d4 f6  
 17 e6 ♙e8 18 ♙g4 h5 19 ♙g3 ♙d6 20 ♙f4  
 ♙xf4 21 ♙xf4 c5 22 ♘e2 ♙b8 23 ♖ab1 ♙e5  
 24 ♙d2 ♙c6 25 ♖be1 ♙d6 26 ♘f4 d4 27 ♘h5  
 ♖fe8 28 ♖f4 ♖e7 29 ♖g4 ♘h7 30 ♘xf6+ gxf6  
 31 ♖h4+ ♘g8 32 ♙h6 1-0

9

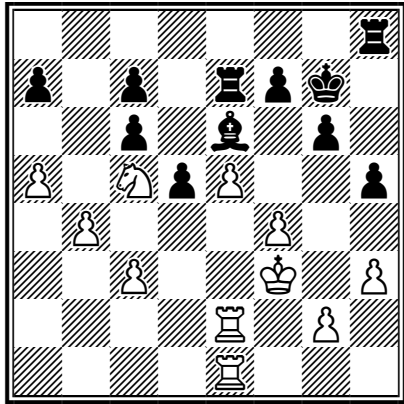
Adorjan,Andras - Kluger,Gyula

Hungary: HUN-ch 1966

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♙c4 ♘f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5  
 d5 6 ♙b5 ♘e4 7 ♘xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6  
 9 O-O ♙c5 10 ♙e3 O-O 11 f3 ♘g5 12 f4 ♘e4  
 13 ♘d2 ♘xd2 14 ♙xd2 ♙e7 15 ♘b3 ♙b6  
 16 ♖ae1 ♙f5 17 ♙c3 ♙d7 18 ♙c5 ♖ab8  
 19 ♖f2 ♖fd8 20 ♖d2 ♙e7 21 ♙xb6 ♖xb6  
 22 ♖e3 ♖db8 23 a3 h6 24 ♖g3 ♙e4 25 ♖f2  
 ♖e8 26 ♘c5 ♙f5 27 b4 ♘h7 28 ♙d4 a5 29 c3  
 g6 30 h3 ♖a8 31 ♖e3 h5 32 e6 fxe6 33 g4 ♙e4  
 34 ♙e5 ♖e8 35 gxh5 ♙g7 36 ♙xg7+ ♘xg7  
 37 ♘xe4 dxe4 38 ♖g2 ♘h6 39 ♖xg6+ ♘h5  
 40 ♖g5+ ♘h6 41 ♖xa5 ♖b5 42 ♖xb5 cxb5

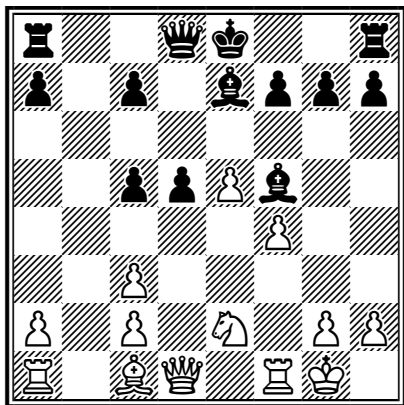


# Blockading the Blob

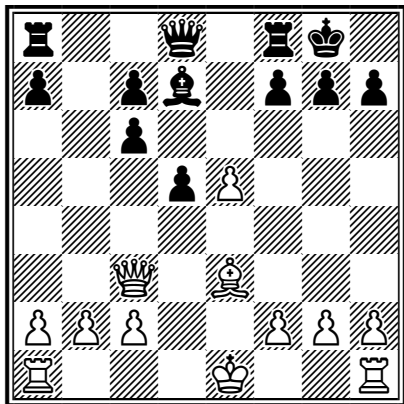


34 ♖e3 ♜f8 35 ♜d4 ♜e8 36 ♖b3 ♜d8 37 ♜c5 ♙d7 38 ♖d4 1-0 Orton - Atkins, 2006.

# Kingside Attack



15 ♖g3 ♙c8 16 f5 g6 17 ♞f3 g5 18 ♞h5 ♜d7 19 f6 ♙f8 20 ♞xf7+ ♜c6 21 ♙xg5 Orton - Cummings, 2006.



13 O-O f6 14 f4 ♞e8 15 ♙d4 f5 16 e6 ♞xe6 17 ♙xg7 ♞f7 18 ♙d4 ♞g6 19 ♞f3 ♞h5 20 ♞g3+ ♜f8 21 ♙c5+ 1-0 Orton - Thoma 2006.

Orton,Bill - Berry,Jim  
North American Open (1) 2001-08-31

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙c4 ♖f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5 6 ♙b5 ♖e4 7 ♖xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6 9 O-O ♙c5 10 f3 ♖g5 11 ♙e3 O-O 12 f4 ♖e4 13 ♖d2 f5 14 ♖xe4 fxe4 15 ♞d2 ♞e7 16 ♖b3 ♙b6 17 ♞c3 ♞h4 18 ♖c5 ♞e7 19 a4 a5 20 ♞ae1 ♞f7 21 ♙d4 ♞af8 22 ♞e3 ♙c8 23 c3 ♞e8 24 b4 axb4 25 cxb4 ♙xc5 26 ♙xc5 ♞d7 27 ♞f2 ♙a6 28 ♞c3 ♞d8 29 ♙d4 ♙c4 30 a5 ♞g4 31 h3 ♞e6 32 g4 g6 33 ♜h2 ♞df8 34 ♞g3 ♜h8 35 ♞g1 ♞g7 36 ♞h4 g5 37 fxg5 ♞xf2+ 38 ♞xf2 ♞f7 39 ♞xf7 ♞xf7 40 e6+ ♞g7 41 ♙xg7+ ♜xg7 42 ♜g3 e3 43 ♜f3 d4 44 ♜e4 1-0

Orton,Bill - Atkins,Chris  
Arkansas Ch (4) 2006-08-26

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙c4 ♖f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5 6 ♙b5 ♖e4 7 ♖xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6 9 O-O ♙c5 10 f3 ♖g5 11 ♙e3 ♖e6 12 f4 ♖xd4 13 ♙xd4 ♙xd4+ 14 ♞xd4 O-O 15 ♖d2 ♙f5 16 c3 ♞e7 17 ♖b3 ♞fe8 18 ♖c5 ♞ab8 19 b4 ♞b6 20 a4 ♞h4 21 a5 ♞bb8 22 ♞ae1 h5 23 ♞e3 g6 24 ♞fe1 ♞e7 25 ♞le2 ♞a8 26 ♖b3 ♙g4 27 ♞e1 ♙f5 28 ♞c5 ♞xc5 29 ♖xc5 ♞e7 30 h3 ♞ae8 31 ♜f2 ♜g7 32 ♜f3 ♙e6 33 ♞3e2 ♞h8 34 ♜e3 ♜f8 35 ♜d4 ♜e8 36 ♖b3 ♜d8 37 ♜c5 ♙d7 38 ♖d4 1-0

Orton,Bill - Cummings,Dennis  
Arkansas Ch (5) 2006-08-28

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙c4 ♖f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5 6 ♙b5 ♖e4 7 ♖xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6 9 O-O ♙e7 10 f3 ♖c5 11 f4 ♖e4 12 ♖c3 ♖xc3 13 bxc3 c5 14 ♖e2 ♙f5 15 ♖g3 ♙c8 16 f5 g6 17 ♞f3 g5 18 ♞h5 ♜d7 19 f6 ♙f8 20 ♞xf7+ ♜c6 21 ♙xg5 ♞d7 22 ♞xd7+ ♙xd7 23 f7 c4 24 ♞f6+ ♜b5 25 ♞b1+ ♜a5 26 e6 ♙c8 27 ♖f5 h6 28 ♙xh6 ♙c5+ 29 ♜h1 a6 30 ♙g7 ♙xe6 31 ♞xc6 ♙f8 32 ♙xh8 1-0

Orton,Bill (2206) - Thoma,Phil (2027)  
Okie Chess Fest (4) 2006-09-03

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙c4 ♖f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5 6 ♙b5 ♖e4 7 ♖xd4 ♙c5 8 ♙e3 ♙xd4 9 ♞xd4 O-O 10 ♙xc6 bxc6 11 ♖c3 ♖xc3 12 ♞xc3 ♙d7 13 O-O f6 14 f4 ♞e8 15 ♙d4 f5 16 e6 ♞xe6 17 ♙xg7 ♞f7 18 ♙d4 ♞g6 19 ♞f3 ♞h5 20 ♞g3+ ♜f8 21 ♙c5+ 1-0

Orton,Bill - Berry,Jim  
Jerry Hankin Memorial (3) 2011-02-11

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♖c6 3 ♙c4 ♖f6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 d5 6 ♙b5 ♖e4 7 ♖xd4 ♙d7 8 ♙xc6 bxc6 9 O-O ♙c5 10 f3 ♖g5 11 f4 ♖e4 12 ♙e3 O-O 13 ♖d2 ♖xd2 14 ♞xd2 ♙b6 15 ♖b3 ♙f5 16 a4 ♞e7 17 a5 ♙xe3+ 18 ♞xe3 ♙e4 (18 ... ♙xc2 19 ♖d4 ♙e4 20 ♖xc6 ♞d7 21 ♞ac1 +/-; 18 ... ♞fb8 19 ♞c3) 19 ♞c3 ♞ab8 20 ♖c5 ♙f5 21 b4 d4 22 ♞xd4 ♙xc2 23 f5 ♞g5 24 ♞f2 ♞fd8 25 h4 ♞d2 26 ♞ac1 ♞xf2+ 27 ♞xf2 ♞d1+ 28 ♞xd1 ♙xd1 29 e6 ♙g4 30 ♞f4 (30 ♞d2!) 30 ... h5 31 ♞d4 ♞e8 32 ♞d7 fxe6 33 fxe6 ♙xe6 34 ♞xc7 ♙d5 35 ♞xa7 ♞e1+ 36 ♜h2 ♞e2 37 a6 ♙xg2+ 38 ♜h3 ♞g4 (38 ... ♞a2 39 ♞d7+ ♜h7 40 ♜g3 with b5 coming) 39 ♞b7 ♙g2+ 40 ♜h2 ♙f1 41 a7 1-0