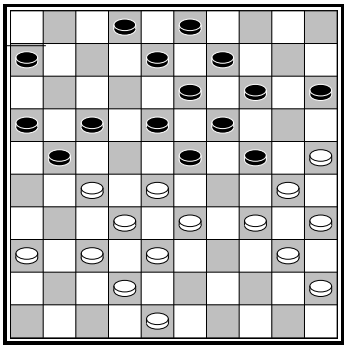
Section 2:

Centre play



Many games show a struggle for the centre.
Centre play consists of building a strong centre, putting pressure on the strategic squares of the opponent. Often this pressure is aimed at <24>.
In the diagram the attack at <24> is possible with help of the so called *power block*.
In several games of pupils of mine the power block was used with success to blow up the opponent's position! Sometimes position were reached in games that were exactly the same positions as the practiced positions at the training. This means you can profit a lot from studying key positions.
In this section we discuss:

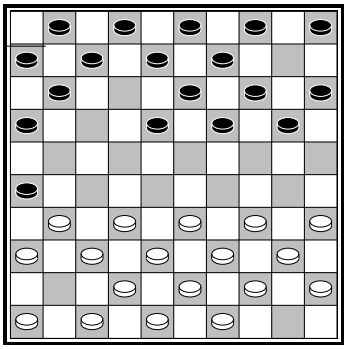
1. Centre play (general)
2. The power block
3. The strong piece at <21>
4. The left wing attack
5. The piece at <17>
6. Cannon play

Usually laying 27 – 21 is a weak move, but we'll learn that sometimes the piece at <21> - especially if put in between black pieces at 26 and 17 - can be very strong.
Attacking at the left wing is another strategy when having a strong centre.
The attack sometimes is continued via <17> which can get quite exciting.
Cannon play is very popular at modern times and is the start of several strategies. Therefore we discuss the canon play in detail.
After having studied this section you will have insight in the strategies connected with centre play. Games of grandmasters will give you a hint at how to perform these plans in your own games.

1.Centre play

Centre play is aimed at taking strategic squares under control.

K. Thijssen - H. Borgman
Dutch club competition 2008
1.33 – 29 19 – 24 2.39 – 33 14 – 19
3.44 – 39 20 – 25 4.29 x 20 25 x 14
5.50 – 44 15 – 20 6.32 – 28 10 – 15
7.37 – 32 17 – 22 8.28 x 17 12 x 21
9.41 – 37 21 – 26



The DiroD is 0. Black changed back (losing 2 temps) and changed forwards 17 – 22 x 21 (gaining 2 temps).

10.35 – 30!

In the game of a grandmaster against a weaker player the former wants to complicate matters, but black refuses to play the most principal move, 20 – 25. Black likes to keep things simple, but white gets rid of a inactive piece at <35> now.

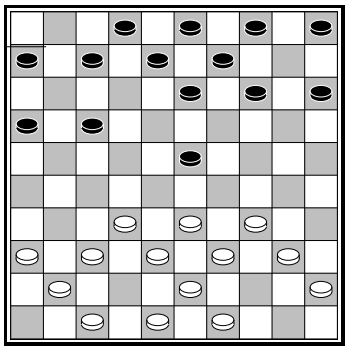
10… 7 – 12 11.30 – 25 11 – 17
12.34 – 29!

Without a piece at <35> the chance of a successful attack at piece 24 after 20 – 24 x 24 will grow.

12… 17 – 21 13.39 – 34 21 – 27
14.31 x 22 18 x 27 15.32 x 21 26 x 17

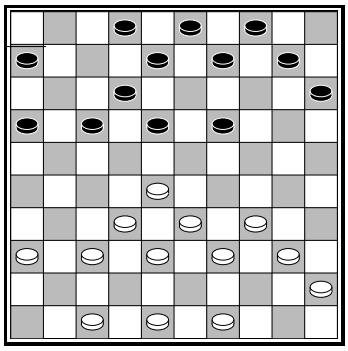
Black wants to change a lot of pieces. It costs him 4 temps. White is taking 31 x 22 18 x 27 because exchanging piece 18 weakens black's centre a bit.

16.37 – 32 1 – 7 17.44 – 39 19 – 23
18.29 x 18 12 x 23 19.46 – 41 14 – 19
20.25 x 14 19 x 10 21.42 – 37 10 – 14



White takes centre square 28 and builds a central pyramid. Dirod goes to + 4.

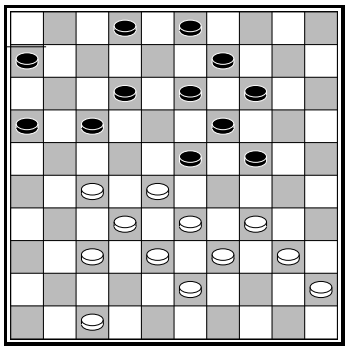
22.32 – 28! 23 x 32 23.37 x 28 7 – 12
24.41 – 37 5 – 10 25.38 – 32 13 – 18
26.43 – 38 14 – 19



27.34 – 29!

White takes the other centre square 29. Although black takes square 24 under control white has the opportunity to build strong formations to chase black away from 24 again.

27… 19 – 24 28.29 x 20 15 x 24
29.40 – 34 9 – 13 30.49 – 44 13 – 19
31.36 – 31 8 – 13 32.31 – 27 18 – 23
33.48 – 43 10 – 14 34.44 – 40 4 – 9



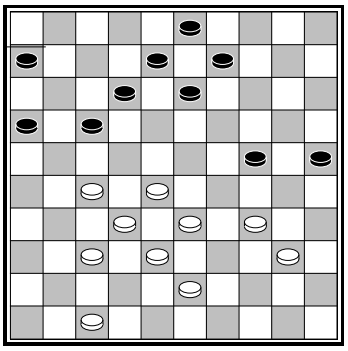
White took square 27 and built strong formations in the centre and at his right wing. The 34 / 40 / 45 tail is ready to remove the opponent's piece 24.

35.34 – 29! 23 x 34 36.40 x 20 14 x 25
37.39 – 34

Tactics refrain white from playing 33 – 29? as it is punished by a coup Philippe.

37… 2 – 8 38.45 – 40 19 – 24

History repeats itself. Black takes 24 again and is chased away by white once more.



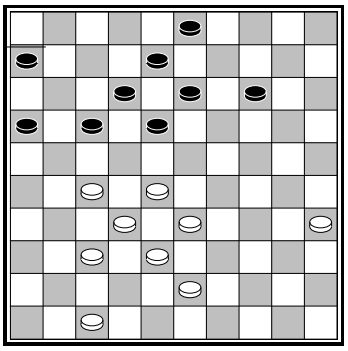
39.40 – 35!

White prepares the 34 – 29 move. An immediate 39.34 – 29 could have been answered by 24 – 30 and white can't attack piece 30 by 40 – 35 because 12 – 18 17 – 22 18 – 23 13 x 42 follows.

39… 13 – 18 40.34 – 29 9 – 13?

A severe mistake. Black should have changed 40… 17 – 22 preventing white from taking control over square 24.

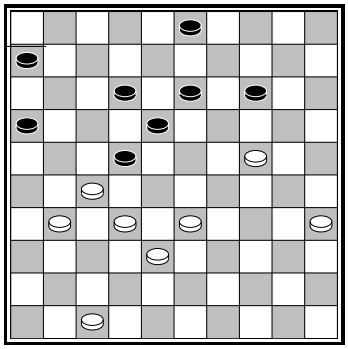
41.29 x 20 25 x 14



42.28 – 23! 18 x 29 43.33 x 24

White reaches his goal. He now controls <24>. His lead in development is + 5, which is fine in an attacking position.

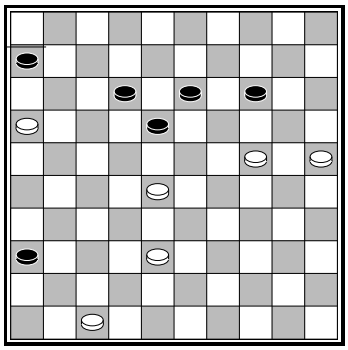
43… 13 – 18 44.38 – 33 17 – 22
45.37 – 31 8 – 13 46.43 – 38



46… 22 – 28 47.33 x 22 16 – 21
48.27 x 16 18 x 36 49.32 – 28

White has much more space to play now. He is only three temps ahead but piece 36 rated 7 temps is isolated from the rest of black's pieces.

49… 12 – 18 50.35 – 30 3 – 8
51.30 – 25 8 – 12



52.24 – 20

White could also have tried 52.38 – 32 and black has to defend very precisely.

52... 6 – 11 53.20 x 9 13 x 4
54.16 x 7 12 x 1 55.25 – 20 4 – 9?

Badly defended. After 55… 4 – 10! black keeps control over square 15 which is essential here: 55… 4 – 10! 56.38 – 33 1 – 7 57.33 – 29 7 – 11! and attacking 28 – 23 can be answered by 10 – 15 23 x 12 15 x 33 now.
After 55 … 4 – 10 56.38 – 32 1 – 7 57.32 – 27 7 – 11 58.27 – 21 11 – 16 there are two variations:

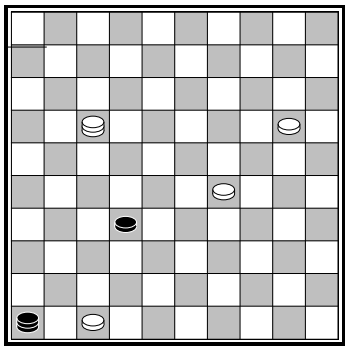
1) 59.20 – 15 16 x 27 60.15 x 4 and both 27 – 31 and 36 – 41 lead to a draw.

2) 59.21 – 17 18 – 22 60.28 – 23 22 x 11 61.23 – 19 21 – 27 62.20 – 15 and again a split:

2.1) 62… 27 – 32? 63.4 – 15 32 – 37 64.19 – 14 37 – 42 65.47 x 38 36 – 41 66.14 – 10 etc. W+

2.2) 62… 11 – 17! 63.4 x 31 36 x 27 64.19 – 14 27 – 32 65.47 – 42 17 – 22 66.14 – 10 22 – 28 67.10 – 5 28 – 33 68.5 x 41 33 – 39 and black escapes.

56.38 – 33 1 – 7 57.33 – 29 7 – 11
58.28 – 23 18 – 22 59.23 – 19 22 – 27
60.19 – 14 9 – 13 61.14 – 10 27 – 32
62.10 – 4 36 – 41 63. 4 x 6 41 – 46
64. 6 – 17!



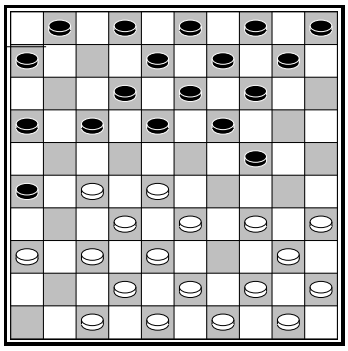
Putting pressure on <24> is the beginning of a successful centre play.

Black surrendered because white will become dominant after 64… 32 – 38 65.17 – 21 or 64… 32 – 37 65.17 – 26. After 64… 46 – 37 65.17 – 26! black's king will be captured at the next move.

I. Kuperman – E. Aman
World championship 1994
1.32 – 28 18 – 23 2.33 – 29 23 x 32
3.37 x 28 20 – 24 4.29 x 20 15 x 24
5.41 – 37 12 – 18 6.39 – 33 7 – 12
7.37 – 32 17 – 21 8.46 – 41 21 – 26
9.31 – 27

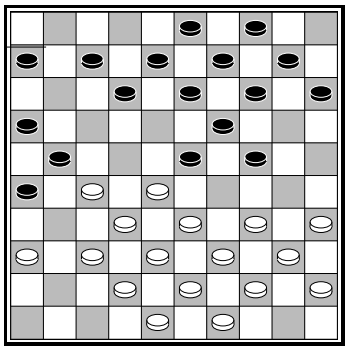
A well known opening trick is 9… 26 – 31? 10.27 – 22! 18 x 27 11.32 x 21 16 x 27 12.33 – 29 24 x 22 13.38 – 32 27 x 38 14.36 x 16 W+1.

9… 11 – 17 10.41 – 37



White has developed his left wing perfectly already. Pieces 46 en 41 have been centralized.

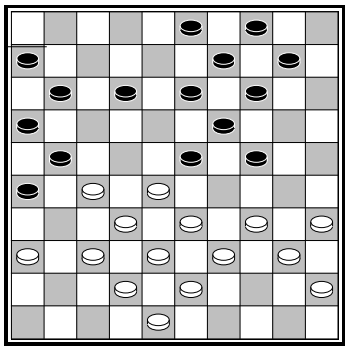
10… 17 – 22 11.28 x 17 12 x 21
12.44 – 39 2 – 7 13.50 – 44 7 – 12
14.33 – 28 18 – 23 15.38 – 33 10 – 15
16.42 – 38 5 – 10 17.47 – 42 1 – 7



White built a compact position with a lot of formations. White's position doesn't contain any weaknesses. Black also tries to keep controlling squares 23 and 24. The next phase of the game shows a fight for control over square 23 and especially square 24.

18.34 – 29! 23 x 34 19.40 x 20 15 x 24
20.39 – 34 12 – 18 21.43 – 39 7 – 11
22.49 – 43 8 – 12 23.44 – 40 18 – 23

At 23… 10 – 15 white could play the interesting Ghestem-lock 24.28 – 22!
After 23… 12 – 17 24.37 – 31 26 x 37 25.42 x 31 black can't play 21 – 26 (27 – 21!) and therefore is locked by 31 – 26. Such a lock is usually hard to play, although in this case black could have allowed it.



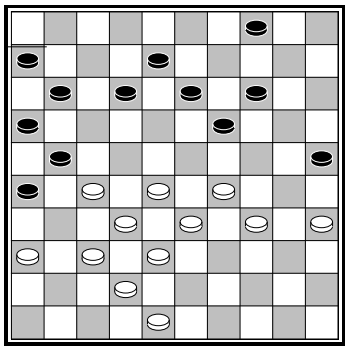
24.34 – 29 23 x 34 25.40 x 20 14 x 25
26.45 – 40 10 – 14 27.40 – 34 14 – 20

Still all white's pieces are working together. White takes square 29 pushing back black.

28.34 – 29 20 – 24 29.29 x 20 25 x 14
30.39 – 34 14 – 20 31.43 – 39 3 – 8
32.34 – 29 9 – 14

Black could have chosen 20 – 24 29 x 20 19 – 23 28 x 19 13 x 15 39 – 34 and the position is still defendable.

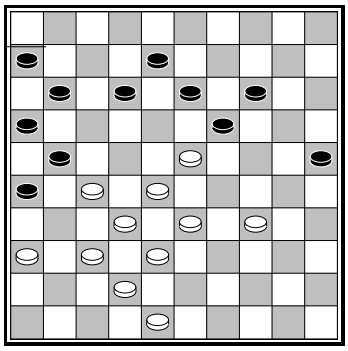
33.39 – 34 20 – 25



Black didn't lose control over 24 entirely. White can't go there. Instead, he chooses to attack through the centre.

34.29 – 23! 4 – 10 35.35 – 30 10 – 15
36.34 – 29 25 x 34 37.29 x 40 15 – 20
38.40 – 34 20 – 25

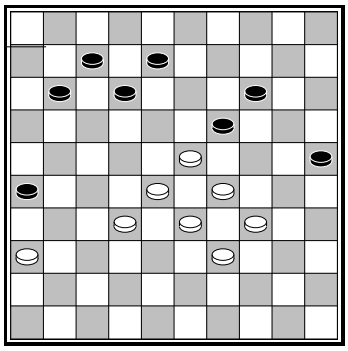
38… 20 – 24 is answered by 39.34 – 29! 24 – 30 40.29 – 24 30 – 35 41.23 – 18! 13 x 31 42.24 x 2 W+.



39.33 – 29!!

Very well played! White uses tactics to perform his plan. Black can't play either 39… 26 – 31? 40.37 x 17 11 x 24 41.34 – 29! 19 x 37 42.29 x 7 W+ nor 39… 25 – 30 40.34 x 25 26 – 31 41.37 x 17 11 x 24 42.25 – 20! 19 x 37 43.20 x 7 W+.
If black changes back 14 – 19 x 9 white takes square 24 by playing 29 – 24.

39… 13 – 18 40.27 – 22! 18 x 27
41.37 – 31 26 x 37 42.42 x 22 11 – 17
43.22 x 11 16 x 7 44.38 – 33 21 – 26
45.48 – 43 6 – 11 46.43 – 39

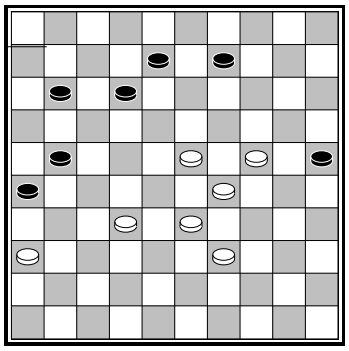


White transported his golden piece to square 39, threatening 29 – 24 19 x 30 23 – 18 12 x 23 28 x 10 +. Black is driven back again.

46… 14 – 20 47.23 x 14 20 x 9
48.28 – 23 11 – 16 49.29 – 24

It took a while, but after a hard struggle white finally has occupied square 24…

49… 16 – 21 50.34 – 29



50… 7 – 11?

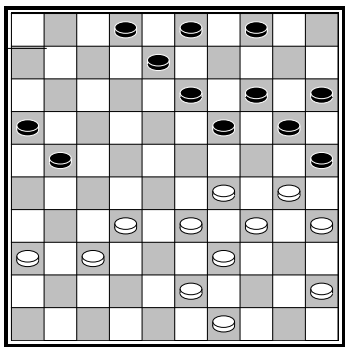
Black should have activated his 8 / 12 / 17 tail By playing 50… 21 – 27! 51.32 x 21 26 x 17 being able to change a piece at <19>.

51.23 – 19!

Black can't stop a breakthrough now…

51… 25 – 30 52.24 x 35 11 – 16
53.29 – 24 21 – 27 54.32 x 21 16 x 27
55.24 – 20 27 – 32 56.19 – 14 32 – 37
57.14 x 3 37 – 42 58.20 – 14 8 – 13
59. 3 x 17 13 – 18 60.17 – 3 18 – 22
61.14 – 10 42 – 47 62.10 – 4 47 x 29
63. 4 x 27 26 – 31 64.27 – 32

Black surrendered.



I. Koeperman – P. Chmiel

White has a good centre position with a lead in development of +4. His goal is to conquer square 24, launching a right wing attack. White can't change to 24 immediately because the outpost is attacked and gets lost. So white prepares the 30 – 24 x 24 exchange.

32.45 – 40! 4 – 10?

If black plays 4 – 9 white shouldn't go to 24 yet: 32… 4 – 9 33.30 – 24? 19 x 30 34.35 x 24 14 – 19! 35.40 – 35 19 x 30 36.35 x 24 9 – 14 and back conquers the outpost.

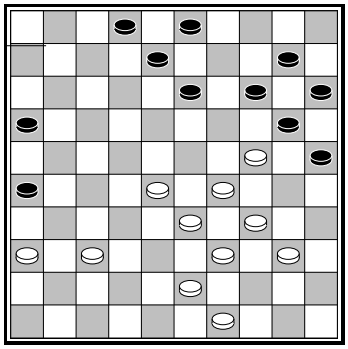
At 32… 4 – 9 white strengthens his centre: 33.33 – 28! 8 – 12 34.30 – 24 19 x 30 35.35 x 24 2 – 8!
Black wants to be able to change a piece at 23.
36.28 – 23 12 – 18! 37.23 x 12 8 x 17 38.32 – 28 14 – 19 39.40 – 35 19 x 30 40.35 x 24 9 – 14 41.28 – 23!
White is just in time to guard his outpost.
41… 13 – 18 42.23 x 12 17 x 8 43.24 – 19 14 x 23 44.29 x 18 with a big advantage for white.

If black plays 32… 3 – 9 white should prepare going to 24 by playing 33.32 – 28! because 33.33 – 28? is punished by 19 – 24 30 x 10 9 – 14 10 x 19 13 x 44 B+.

33.30 – 24! 19 x 30
34.35 x 24 21 – 26

34…. 14 – 19? wasn't possible because of 35.29 – 23! 20 x 27 36.23 x 5 W+.

35.32 – 28!



Black can't still attack the outpost: 35… 14 – 19? 36.29 – 23! 20 x 18 37.28 – 22 18 x 27 38.37 – 32 27 x 29 39.34 x 5 and white has a good endgame.

35… 13 – 19
36.24 x 13 8 x 19

Black's dangling piece at 10 looks terrible. Black doesn't have any active formation. White's advantage is enormous.

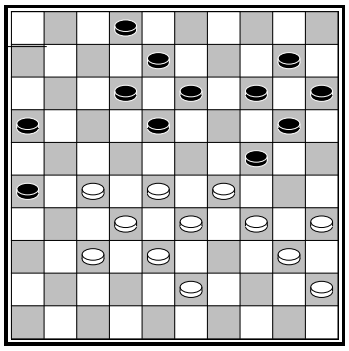
37.43 – 38 3 – 9
38.29 – 23!

White doesn't allow black to play 20 – 24 x 24 and attacks. Now his goal is to get a new outpost at 22.

38… 2 – 8
39.36 – 31 20 – 24
40.31 – 27 9 – 13
41.27 – 22 16 – 21

42.23 – 18 15 – 20
43.18 x 9 14 x 3
44.22 – 18!

White surrendered already. The end of the game could have been: 44.. 8 – 13 45.18 x 9 3 x 14 46.40 – 35 10 – 15
At 21 – 27 white doesn't play 28 – 23 but takes a coup Weiss to 4.
47.34 – 29 21 – 27 48.39 – 34 27 – 31 49.29 – 23 31 x 42 50.38 x 47 26 – 31 51.34 – 29 31 – 37 52.49 – 44 25 – 30 53.44 – 39 +.



K. Thijssen – R. Zodroviak

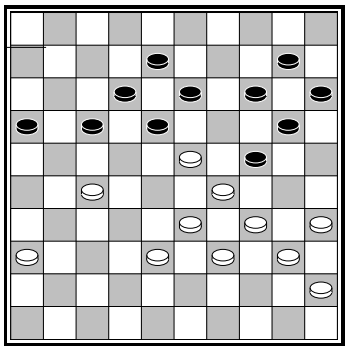
White has a centre position with active formations. He occupies both central squares 28 and 29 and also strategic square 27. Black's position is clearly much weaker. He holds a semi-fork but with pieces 10 / 14 this is rarely good. Black also misses a piece at <9>, making the position more vulnerable. Black has little space. He can only play piece 2, if we eliminate the awful 13 – 19 move.
White has a difficult choice to make. Not possible is 28 – 23 because of 13 – 19! (32 – 28 16 – 21 27 x 16 18 – 22 etc.) B+.
Changing 37 – 31 x 41 gives black extra space, so white should play 34 – 30 or 43 – 39.

37.34 – 30?

In his calculation the Dutch grandmaster must have missed the 37… 14 – 19! 38.30 – 25? 26 – 31!! kingshot for black. Strong defender 38 is removed in this combination!

Because 37… 14 – 19 38.37 – 31* gives white nothing, he should have considered (in the diagram!) 37.43 – 39!
The answer 37… 13 – 19 gives black a weak position with a lack of formations at his right wing. White takes advantage by playing 38.28 – 22 8 – 13 39.34 – 30 for example 12 – 17 40.22 x 11 16 x 7 41.27 – 22! 18 x 27 42.32 x 21 26 x 17 43.29 – 23 19 x 28 44.30 x 8 2 x 13 45.29 – 23 19 x 28 46.33 x 2 W+.

We will scrutinize the most logical move after 37.43 – 39: 2 – 7.
Since base piece 2 has been played white can change back preparing the 28 – 23! move. With no piece at 2 anymore black can't attack piece 23 by 13 – 19.
38.37 – 31! 26 x 37 39.32 x 41 12 – 17
39… 7 – 11 40.28 – 23 results in the same position.
39… 13 – 19 40.28 – 23 19 x 28 41.33 x 11 24 x 42 42.41 – 37! 42 x 22 43.11 – 6 leads to a bad endgame for black.
40.28 – 23! 7 – 12 41.41 – 36



Black is lost:
1) 41… 17 – 21 42.27 – 22 18 x 27 43.23 – 19 14 x 23 44.29 x 7 W+

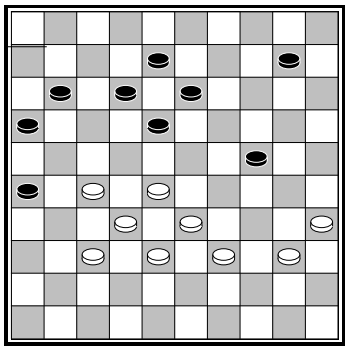
2) 41 … 17 – 22 42.34 – 30 22 x 31 43.30 x 19 13 x 24 44.36 x 27 8 – 13 45.38 – 32 13 – 19 46.32 – 28 W+

3) 41 … 13 – 19 42.34 – 30! 19 x 28 43.33 x 2 24 x 42 44.30 – 25
Black can't go to king now.
12 – 18 45. 2 – 8! And white will win quickly.
In the game black didn't take profit from white's tactical mistake.

37… 2 – 7?
38.30 x 19 14 x 34
39.40 x 29 20 – 24
40.29 x 20 15 x 24
41.43 – 39

Black can't play 13 – 19 now because of 35 – 30 24 x 35 28 – 23 W+.
Black's best defence is 41… 10 – 14! 42.39 – 34 14 – 19 43.34 – 29 7 – 11 44.29 x 20 19 – 23 45.28 x 19 13 x 15.

41… 7 – 11? 42.45 – 40



This time 42… 13 – 19 is punished by 43.28 – 22! 18 – 23 (8 – 13 27 – 21! +) 44.22 – 18! W+. Defending 10 – 14 43.40 – 34 14 – 19 doesn't work now. 44.34 – 29 11 – 17 45.29 x 20 19 – 23 46.28 x 19 13 x 15 gives white the 37 – 31 kingshot.
After 42… 11 – 17 43.40 – 34 black has two possibilities:

1) 43… 17 – 22 44.28 x 17 12 x 21 45.34 – 29! 10 – 15 46.29 x 20 15 x 24 47.39 – 34 18 – 23* 48.27 – 22! 13 – 19 (8 – 12 22 – 17! +) 49.22 – 18! 23 x 12 50.34 – 29 with a winning breakthrough for white.

2) 43… 17 – 21`44.34 – 30 and black has similar problems to the game.

As what black plays loses too 41… 7 – 11 turns out to be the decisive mistake.

42… 10 – 15
43.40 – 34 11 – 17
44.34 – 30!

White is aiming his arrows at strong defender piece 13! 44… 17 – 22 45.28 x 17 12 x 21 46.30 x 19 13 x 24 is followed by 47.37 – 31! 26 x 28 48.33 x 2 21 x 34 49.2 x 43 +.

44… 17 – 21
45.30 x 19 13 x 24
46.27 – 22 18 x 27
47.28 – 22 27 x 18
48.37 – 31 26 x 28
49.33 x 2

White performed a coup Weiss and won the game.

M. van Gelderen – A. Gantwarg
1.32 – 28 19 – 23 2.28 x 19 14 x 23
3.37 – 32 10 – 14 4.41 – 37 14 – 19
5.33 – 28

This is a frequently played opening. White has more active options like:

1) 4.34 – 29 23 x 34 5.39 x 30 The Chizhov exchange
2) 5.35 – 30 The Roozenburg variation
3) 5.32 – 28 23 x 32 6.37 x 28 Groninger variation (see section 2 of the third course)

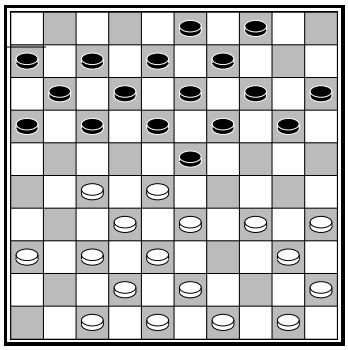
5… 17 – 22! 6.28 x 17 11 x 22

Black played the most active move.
5 … 17 – 21 6.31 – 27 would have given white an easy classical game (7… 5 – 10 fails due to the arch shot as we learned in part I of this course).

7.31 – 27 22 x 31 8.36 x 27 5 – 10

White takes square 27. Black is building a compact position with formations aimed at square 27.

9.39 – 33 10 – 14 10.33 – 28 6 – 11
11.44 – 39 11 – 17 12.39 – 33 1 – 6
13.46 – 41 7 – 11 14.41 – 36 2 – 7



White can't play 15.50 – 44? due to 17 – 22 28 x 17 11 x 31 36 x 27 23 – 29! B+.
White's most natural move is 15.49 – 44.

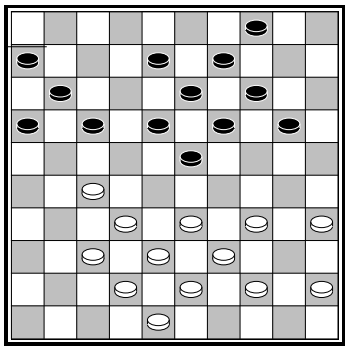
15.34 – 30 17 – 22 16.28 x 17 11 x 31
17.36 x 27 20 – 25! 18.40 – 34 7 – 11
19.34 – 29 25 x 34 20.29 x 40 12 – 17

While white changes back to break the right wing lock black continues to build a formation against 27.

21.47 – 41 17 – 22 22.41 – 36 22 x 31
23.36 x 27

It is better to take 37 x 26, keeping a piece at 36 which gives control over 27.

23… 8 – 12 24.49 – 44 12 – 17
25.44 – 39 15 – 20 26.50 – 44 3 – 8
27.40 – 34



Piece 27 is attacked again.

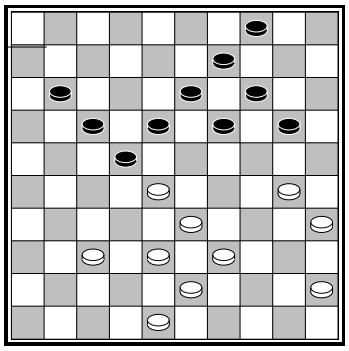
27… 17 – 22! 28.34 – 29

It's better to play 37 – 31 first and then 34 – 29 x 30.

28… 23 x 34 29.39 x 30 22 x 31
30.37 x 26 16 – 21! 31.26 x 17 11 x 22

Taking centre square 22. Playing 32.32 – 28 22 – 27 33.30 – 24 20 x 29 34.33 x 24 19 x 30 35.35 x 24 is dangerous because of white's weakened left wing.

32.44 – 39 8 – 12
33.42 – 37 6 – 11 34.32 – 28 12 – 17



White played 32 – 28 taking centre square 28 at last. Black provoked this scenario. White's centre is not so strong and black can surround it.

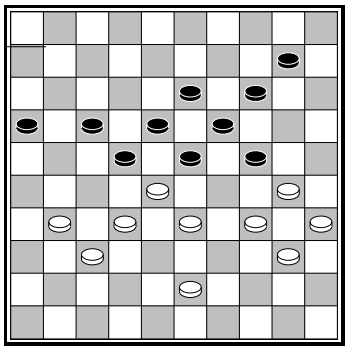
35.48 – 42 20 – 24 36.45 – 40 4 – 10
37.37 – 31 11 – 16 38.42 – 37?

Weakening square 42 40 – 34 gave a better defence.

38… 18 – 23! 39.38 – 32 13 – 18

White is chain-locked.

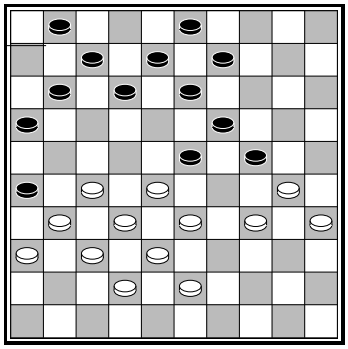
40.39 – 34 9 – 13



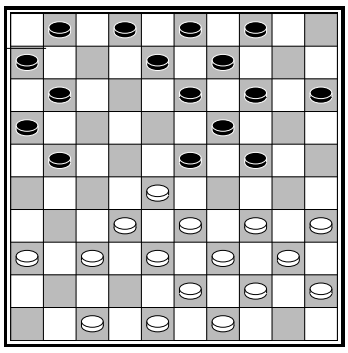
White's position is a mess. 41.31 – 26 is punished by 22 – 27 42.32 x 12 23 x 41 43.12 x 23 19 x 48 30 x 8 44.48 x 2 +.
41.33 – 29 24 x 33 42.28 x 39 can be met by 23 – 29 +.

41.43 – 39 10 – 15 42.31 – 26 24 – 29!
43.33 x 24 22 x 44 44.40 x 49 14 – 20
45.49 – 43 20 x 40 46.35 x 44 15 – 20
47.30 – 25 23 – 28! 48.25 x 21 16 x 40
49.26 – 21 40 – 44 50.21 – 17 28 – 32
51.37 x 28 44 – 50

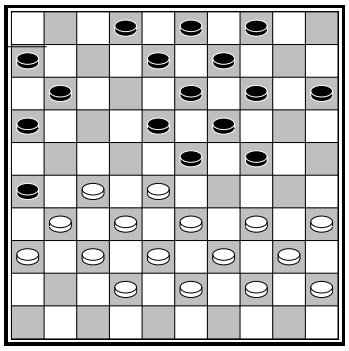
Exercise 1.1 – 1.4 What would you play in the next four positions? White is to play.



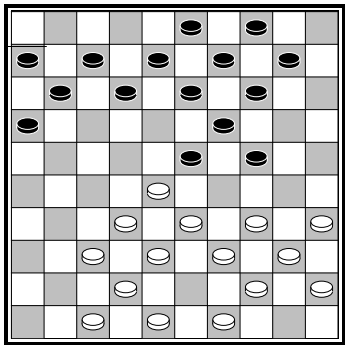
1.1



1.2



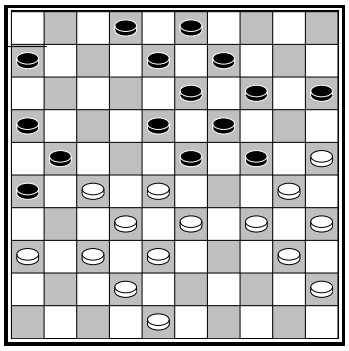
1.3



1.4

2.The power block

The power block consists of pieces 25 / 30 / 34 / 35 / 40 / 45. With the power block you can put pressure on <24>.



A. Chizhov – A. Berçot
Black to move

White has built the power block putting pressure on piece 24.

27… 6 – 11

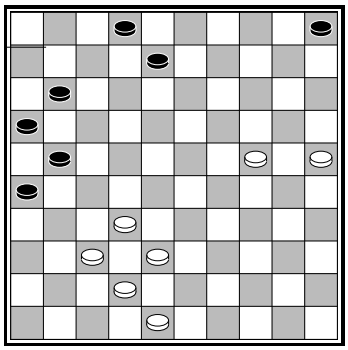
11111

The same position emerged in the game Tj. Goedemoed – H. Dijkstra 1997 in which 27… 8 – 12 was played. 28.34 – 29 23 x 34 29.40 x 20 15 x 24 30.27 – 22 18 x 27 31.37 – 31! 26 x 37 32.42 x 22 then gave white a huge advantage (12 – 18 is met by 28 – 23 W+).

28.34 – 29 23 x 34
29.40 x 20 15 x 24
30.27 – 22 18 x 27
31.45 – 40

An important idea to remember when playing with the power block. White sacrifices 27 – 22 in order to be able to attack piece 24 again. Of course black can't play 13 – 18.

31… 27 – 31
32.36 x 27 13 – 18
33.28 – 23! 19 x 39
34.30 x 10 18 – 22
35.27 x 18 9 – 13
36.18 x 9 3 x 5
37.40 – 34 39 x 30
38.35 x 24



A strong attack for white at the right wing remains. Black can't stop a future breakthrough.

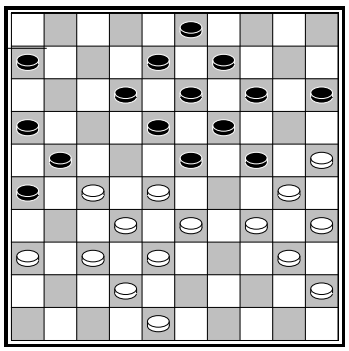
38… 8 – 13
39.25 – 20 21 – 27
40.32 x 21 16 x 27
41.38 – 33

Neutralizing the 27 – 31 attempt to break through.

41… 11 – 17
42.20 – 14 2 – 8
43.42 – 38 17 – 21
44.48 – 43 27 – 31
45.24 – 19 31 x 42
46.38 x 47 13 x 24
47.14 - 9 8 – 13
48. 9 x 18 26 – 31
49.18 – 12 31 – 37

50.12 – 7 24 – 30
51.43 – 39 5 – 10
52. 7 – 2

White won after 52… 30 – 35 53.39 – 34 10 – 14 54.34 – 30 35 x 24 55. 2 x 30 21 – 26 56.30 – 48 W+.



T. Goedemoed – W. Winsemius

This position (2003) was also reached in Goedemoed – Klein 1997. The opened <2> gives white the possibility to blow up the position. Huisman had already shown this winning plan against Navarro during the world championships in 1956.

29.34 – 29 23 x 34
30.40 x 20 15 x 24
31.28 – 23 19 x 39
32.30 x 10

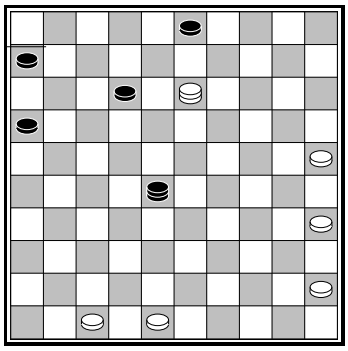
Black can't play 39 – 44 because of 37 – 31! 26 x 28 10 – 5 21 x 43 5 x 40 W+.

32… 9 – 14
33.10 x 19 13 x 24
34.37 – 31 26 x 28
35.38 – 33 21 x 32
36.33 x 2 39 – 44
37. 2 x 30 44 – 50

White can't play 30 – 19? 27 – 32 B+. Black gets the main diagonal in possession, but white can build a catching construction, chasing black's king away.

38.42 – 37 32 x 41
39.36 x 47 50 – 28
40.30 – 13!

Black's pieces can't get active since white possesses the 4 / 36 diagonal.

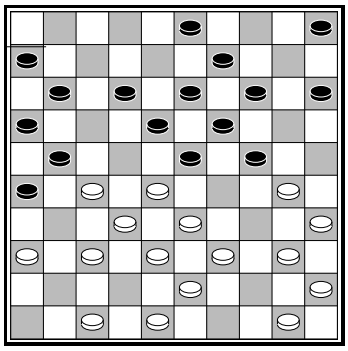


40… 12 – 17
41.35 – 30 16 – 21
42.45 – 40 6 – 11
43.40 – 35 21 – 26
44.30 – 24 17 – 21
45.13 – 36 28 – 37

White is building a catching construction for the black king.

46.25 – 20 11 – 16
47.20 – 15 3 – 8
48.48 – 43 8 – 12
49.43 – 38

Black resigned.

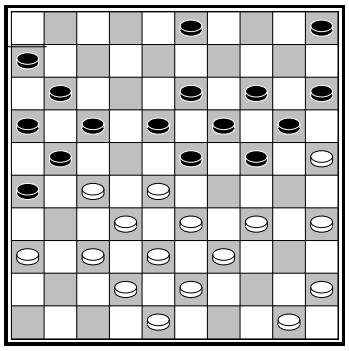


B. Zwart – G. Jansen

22.47 – 42? 14 – 20!

Before building the power block black activates the 15 / 20 / 24 tail aimed at <29>.

23.30 – 25 9 – 14
24.40 – 34 12 – 17



In spite of the inactive piece at 5 black has a great position because of the overwhelming pressure at <27>. 25.34 – 29 23 x 34 26.39 x 30 is answered by 17 – 22 28 x 17 11 x 31 36 x 27 24 – 29 33 x 24 20 x 29 45 – 40 6 – 11 43 – 39 11 – 17 and only the poor 27 – 22 18 x 27 39 – 33 remains for white.

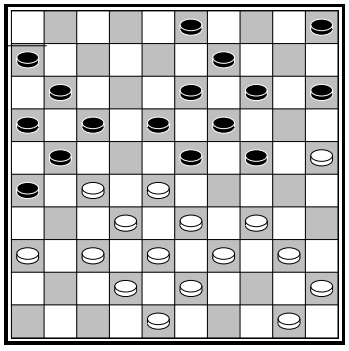
25.34 – 30 17 – 22
26.28 x 17 11 x 31
27.36 x 27 24 – 29
28.33 x 24 20 x 29

After 29.39 – 33 black sacrifices the piece attacking <27> by 6 – 11 – 17.

29.39 – 34 29 x 40
30.45 x 34 6 – 11

31.38 – 33 is met by 23 – 28 32 x 12 21 x 41, so piece 27 is lost. White resigned.

Knowing black's plan it isn't hard to understand why white had to play 22.48 – 42! His left wing is protected against an attack. Black has to play 12 – 17 and 17 – 22 at some moment after which white's left wing is developed and he reaches a good classical position.

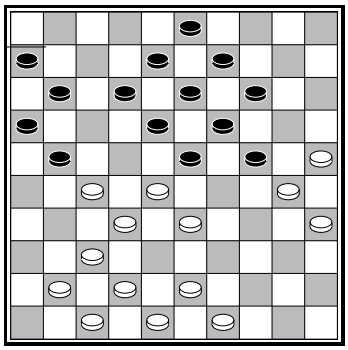


T. van Adrichem – T. Goedemoed

The black-player studied the plan of G. Jansen with the power block the day before this game was played. 17 – 22 28 x 17 11 x 31 36 x 26 6 – 11 33 – 28 will not yield any positive result. So black has to eliminate piece 33 first.

23… 17 – 22
24.28 x 17 11 x 31
25.36 x 27 24 – 29
26.33 x 24 19 x 30

The problem for white is that 27.38 – 33 23 – 28 28.32 x 12 21 x 41 results in a bad endgame for white. Piece 5 is suddenly active in constructions catching the king!
The best move for white is 29.42 – 37 41 x 32 30.12 – 7 30 – 35! and white can't go to king and white can't go to king.
In the game white played 27.34 – 29? 23 x 34 28.40 x 29 30 – 35 29.38 – 33 and after 18 – 23 30.29 x 18 13 x 31 black won a piece and the game.



G. Salomé – M. Coenegracht

28.42 – 38

With this move white weakens his left flank. White could also have played 43 – 38.
In the game black will put pressure on white's left wing by building the power block. But white still has enough defence left.

28… 12 – 17
29.47 – 42 8 – 12
30.41 – 36 21 – 26
31.49 – 44 17 – 21

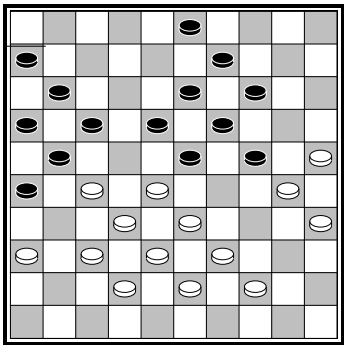
White should have played 32.44 – 39 12 – 17

1) 33.28 – 22? 17 x 28 34.33 x 22 23 – 29! 35.39 – 33 18 – 23 36.33 – 28 3 – 8 and the necessary 37.43 – 39 is met by a coup Philippe 11 – 17 22 x 11 16 x 7 27 x 16 7 – 11 16 x 7 8 – 12 7 x 18 13 x 44 B+.

2) 33.39 – 34? 17 – 22 34.28 x 17 11 x 31 35.36 x 27 23 – 28! 36.32 x 12 21 x 41 37.42 – 37 41 x 32 38.38 x 27 14 – 20 39.25 x 23 13 – 18 40.30 x 19 18 x 49 with a bad endgame for white.

3) 33.27 – 22! 18 x 27 34.37 – 31 26 x 37 35.42 x 22 and now 21 – 26 can be strongly met by 36.22 – 18! 13 x 22
36… 23 x 12 37.28 – 23 19 x 37 38.30 x 10 gives white a better endgame.
37.36 – 31 26 x 37 38.32 x 41 23 x 32 39.38 x 18 with serious advantage for white.

32.43 – 39? 12 – 17
33.48 – 43



33… 17 – 22
34.28 x 17 11 x 31
35.36 x 27 23 – 29!

Threatening to go to <34>, so white's reply is forced.

36.44 – 40 18 – 22

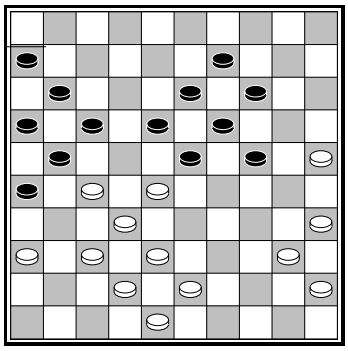
36… 6 – 11 37.33 – 28 18 – 23 had also been a very strong reaction.

37.27 x 18 13 x 22
38.32 – 28

Only playing 38.25 – 20 14 x 45 39.35 – 30 24 x 35 40.33 x 4 45 – 50 41.4 x 36 50 x 11 42.38 – 33 11 x 48 43.42 – 38 48 x 31 44.36 x 18 white could keep on fighting.

38… 21 – 27
39.28 x 17 26 – 31
40.37 x 26 27 – 32
41.38 x 27 29 x 47

And black won.



V. Kolesnik – A. Gantwarg

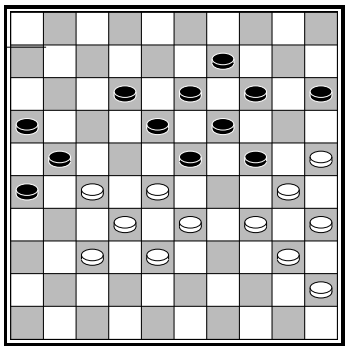
Black has a huge weakness: the dangling piece at 9. White proved that the power block isn't dangerous at all in this situation.

36.27 – 22 18 x 27
37.37 – 31 26 x 37
38.42 x 22 21 – 26
39.48 – 42!

Black has no good response at the 22 – 18 threat. 39… 24 – 29 40.42 – 37 17 – 21 41.40 – 34 29 x 40 42.45 x 34 and black has no good move left (check this yourself!).

39… 17 – 21
40.22 – 18 13 x 33
41.38 x 20

Black can't play 21 – 27 x 27 now because of 36 – 31! +.
White won after 41… 23 – 28 42.32 x 23 19 x 28 43.20 – 15 21 – 27 44.25 – 20 14 x 25 45.15 – 10 11 – 17 46.35 – 30 25 x 34 47.40 x 29 17 – 22 48.29 – 24 28 – 33 49.24 – 19 6 – 11 50.10 – 5 22 – 28 51.42 – 38 33 x 42 52.19 – 14 9 x 20 53.5 x 48 and black resigned.

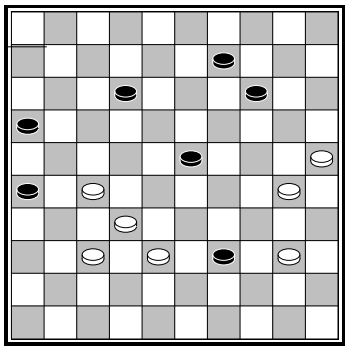


W. Wesselink – B. Derkx

It looks like white can force a win.

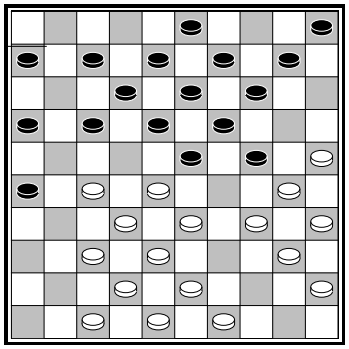
37.34 – 29 23 x 34
38.40 x 20 15 x 24

39.28 – 23 19 x 39
40.30 x 17 21 x 12
41.45 – 40 18 – 23
42.35 – 30!

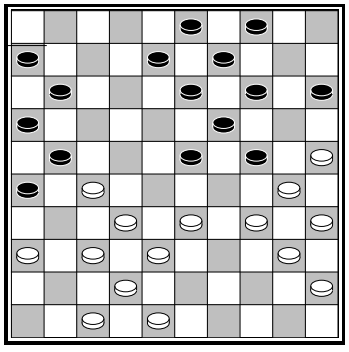


Threatening 40 – 34 39 – 44 34 – 29 23 x 34 30 x 50 +. Black didn't find the possible defence and lost.

Ex 2.1 What should black have played?

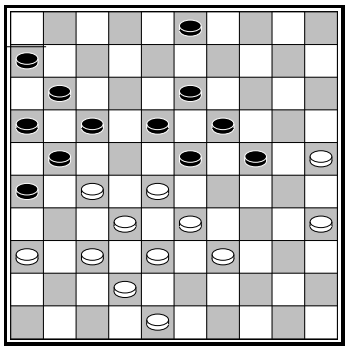


Ex 2.2 White forces a nice shot!



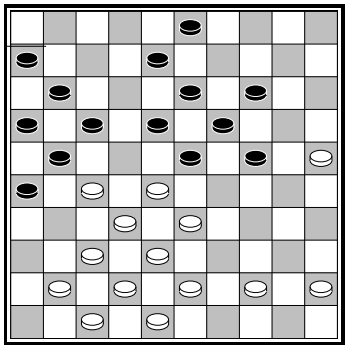
A. Chizhov – E. Skliarow

Ex 2.3 White can perform a very strong plan putting pressure on black's left wing. Can you find the plan?

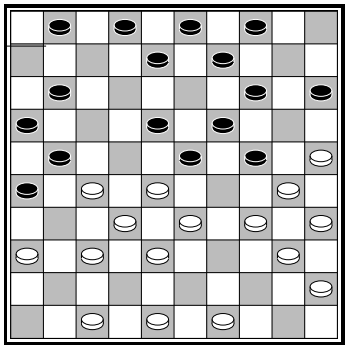


A. van Berkel – W. Wesselink

Ex 2.4 How did white play to neutralize the power block?



Ex 2.5 Can black take a winning king shot after 41 – 36?

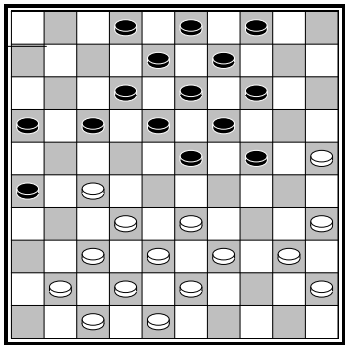


R. van der Pal – H. Vermeulen

Ex 2.6 White performed a king shot!

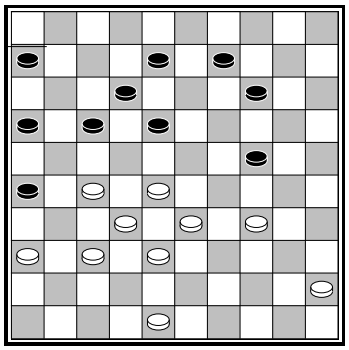
3.The strong piece at <21>

Usually it is not advisable to go to 21 if you have a piece at 27.



27 – 21? 16 x 27 32 x 21 has two disadvantages:

- White loses control over <27>
- Black gains more control over the centre.



S. Huitema – H. Clasquin

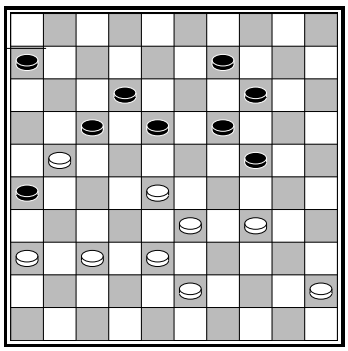
White has a strong centre, but also a weakness at 36. Allowing black to play 17 – 22 28 x 17 12 x 21 leaves piece 36 inactive. White's next move, putting a piece on <21>, gives piece 36 space to play again. Moreover, piece 21 is annoying for black, both for positional and tactical reasons.

37.27 – 21 16 x 27
38.32 x 21 8 – 13

The best defence is 38… 14 – 19 39.34 – 29 9 – 13 40.29 x 20 19 – 23 41.28 x 19 13 x 15.

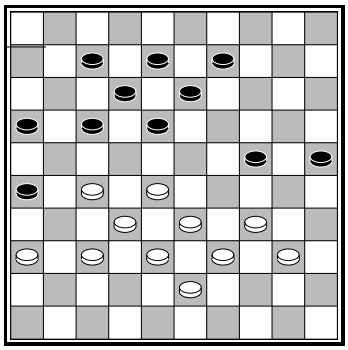
39.48 – 43 13 – 19

39… 18 – 22 fails due to 37 – 31 26 x 37 43 – 39 17 x 26 28 x 10 W+.
39… 6 – 11 40.36 – 31 11 – 16? 41.31 – 27 is also losing: 41… 14 – 20 42.34 – 30 24 x 35 43.28 – 23 18 x 29 44.33 x 15 9 – 14 45.38 – 33 13 – 18 46.33 – 28 and black is frozen out. You can see that the pieces at <21> & <27> keep three black pieces busy.



Black has a huge weakness at <13>.

Ex 3.1 How can white exploit the weakness forcing a win? Give the first three moves.



J. v.d. Borst – P. Tuik

35.27 – 21 16 x 27
36.32 x 21 18 – 22

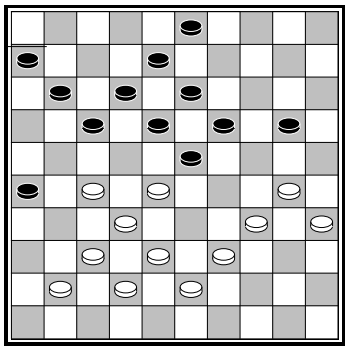
36…9 – 14 37.40 – 35
White can't take the 28 – 22 37 – 31 33 x 2 kingshot because the king is caught by 13 – 19 losing a piece.
37… 14 – 19 is met by the shot 28 – 22 18 x 16 37 – 31 38 – 32 33 x 2 W+.
Now white points his arrows at <12>.

37.28 – 23 13 – 18
38.36 – 31 18 x 29
39.34 x 23 7 – 11

Black comes up with the best defence. 39… 9 – 14 loses after 40.40 – 34! 7 – 11
At 14 – 20 34 – 29! is played with the lethal threat of 23 – 18 W+.
41.23 – 18!! 22 x 13 42.21 – 26 13 – 18 43.16 x 7 12 x 1 44.37 – 32 26 x 28 45.33 x 2 W+.

40.21 – 16 22 – 27
41.16 x 18 27 x 36

42.18 – 12 8 – 13 43.12 x 21 26 x 17 44.33 – 28 17 – 21 45.38 – 33 21 – 26 46.23 – 18 13 x 22 47.28 x 17 26 – 31 48.37 x 26 36 – 41 49.17 – 11 41 – 46 50.11 – 7 46 – 32 51.40 – 35 32 x 49 52.7 – 1 49 – 32?
Black could have forced a draw playing 52… 24 – 30 53.35 x 24 49 – 35 etc.
White could have won playing 53.33 – 29! 24 x 44 54.35 – 30 25 x 34 55.1 x 4 W+.



N. Mitsjanski – A. Chizhov

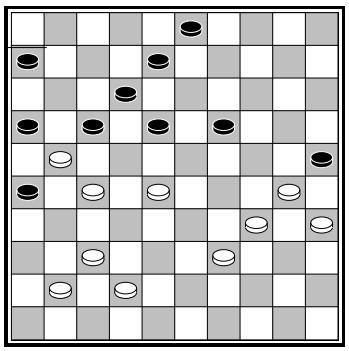
34.27 – 22 18 x 27
35.32 x 21 23 x 32
36.38 x 27 11 – 16

The lock isn't economic at all. Five pieces are locking only pieces 21 & 27…

37.39 – 33 20 – 25
38.43 – 39 13 – 18?

Black should have taken the centre playing 38… 19 – 23 39.33 – 29 13 – 18 40.39 – 33 8 – 13 41.33 – 28 23 x 32 42.37 x 28 26 – 31 43.27 x 36 16 x 27 =.

39.33 – 28!

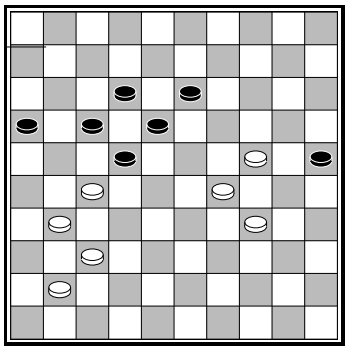


Black's space to play is reduced seriously, while white has taken control over <24>.
After 39… 8 – 13 40.30 – 24 19 x 30 41.35 x 24 3 – 9 42.39 – 33 9 – 14 43.24 – 20! 6 – 11 44.20 x 9 13 x 4 45.33 – 29 black is frozen out completely.

39… 17 – 22
40.28 x 17 8 – 13
41.17 x 8 3 x 12
42.30 – 24 19 x 30
43.35 x 24 26 x 17
44.34 – 29

White takes control over <24> and <27>. 44… 17 – 22 is met by 45.29 – 23! W+.

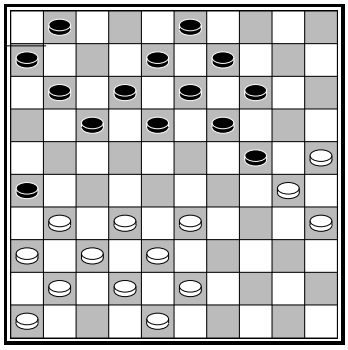
44…. 6 – 11
45.39 – 34 17 – 22
46.37 – 31 11 – 17
47.42 – 37!



Black has forced moves and will be frozen out.

47… 22 – 28
48.31 – 26 17 – 22
49.37 – 31 12 – 17
50.41 – 36

White won after 50… 13 – 19 51.24 x 13 18 x 9 52.27 x 18 16 – 21 53.29 – 24 28 – 33 54.24 – 19 33 – 38 55.19 – 13 9 – 14 56.13 – 8 38 – 42 57.34 – 30! 25 x 34 58.8 – 3 W+.



A. Chizhov – A. Shwarzman

In this position, we again see some pressure on <24>. However, it is not entirely clear how white should profit. Chizhov however shows us

what he is made of, and calculates that conquering <21> gives him the best prospects.

24.31 – 27! 11 – 16*

A forced move: at 24... 1 – 7? white manages to make a quick win: 25.27 – 21!! 18 – 23 (what else?) 26.32 – 28! 23 x 32 27.37 x 28 and the threat 28 – 23 can't be met.

25.27 – 21!!

Chizhov causes big trouble for the current World Champion with this move, which is considered as passive in millions of other situations. However, here the circumstances are perfect: black has little space left due to all kinds of tactics.

25... 16 x 27
26.32 x 21 1 – 7?

This already is the losing move. Black could still have fled via 26... 6 – 11 27.33 – 28! 24 – 29 (clearly the best move, as the following three variations show:

1) 27... 11 – 16? 28.43 – 39 16 x 27 29.37 – 31 26x37 30.42 x 11 18 – 23 31.38 – 33 23 x 32 32.41 – 37 32 x 41 33.46 x 37 and white is obviously better.

2) 27... 18 – 23?? 28.21 – 16! 23 x 32 29.16 x 18 13 x 22 30.38 x 18 W+.

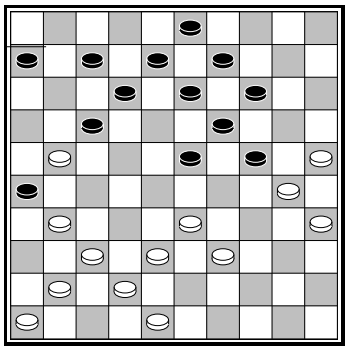
3) 27... 1 – 6?? 28.21 – 16! and black has *zugzwang*: he must make a move, but each one would worsen his position.)

28.28 – 23 19 x 28 29.37 – 31 26 x 37 30.41 x 34 17 x 26 and black awaits a long defence of his severely weakened left wing.
26... 18 – 23 would not really improve the situation, since after 27.33 – 28! 23 x 32 28.37 x 28 black is forced to play to the graveyard, since 28... 13 – 18 fails due to 36 – 31!, 41 x 32 and 28 – 23 with a breakthrough.

27.43 – 39 18 – 23

The alternation 27... 6 – 11? is met by a nice kingshot: 28.39 – 34! 18 – 23 (what else?) 29.33 – 29! 24 x 33 30.38 x 18 13 x 22 31.30 – 24 19 x 39 32.48 – 43 39 x 48 33.42 – 38 48 x 31 34.36 x 18 12 x 23 35.21 x 1 W+

28.36 – 31!!



While Schwarzman seems to have managed to get hold of a strong position when we analyze it at surface level, big trouble is lurking underneath. Again, his next move is forced due to the 37 – 32 threat. The reply 28... 7 – 11 would be answered by 29.21 – 16 and 29... 13 – 18 then of course is no relief.

28... 6 – 11
29.41 – 36 23 – 29!

The best defence, because after 29... 14 – 20? 30.25 x 14 9 x 20 31.30 – 25!! black is again in zugzwang, check this for yourself!

30.33 – 28! 29 – 34
31.39 – 33! 13 – 18

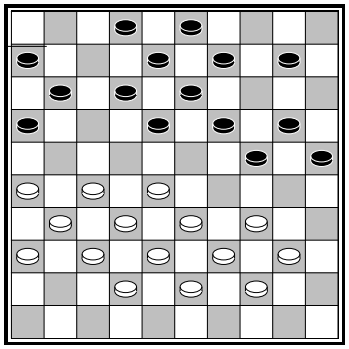
It looks like black can save his piece by playing 31... 34 – 40 32.35 x 44 24 x 35, but then he is frozen out magnificently: 33.33 – 29! 13 – 18 34.38 – 33 8 – 13 (at 18 – 22 always 29 – 23!) 35.42 – 38 3 – 8 36.48 – 43 and black has no sensible moves left!

32.30 x 39 18 – 23
33.38 – 32

And Chizhov was able to win this brilliant game, albeit with some complications later on, because black does have some compensation for his lost piece.

(The Chizhov – Schwarzman game was covered by Martijn van der Klis.)

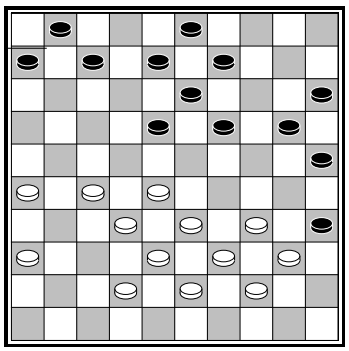
4.The left wing attack



A. Chizhov – V. Swizinski

White built a strong centre position containing lots of formations. He built his right wing playing the central 45 – 40 instead of 44 – 40. This means he can't use the Olympic formation anymore to push 24 away. White wants to get more space at the left wing. That's why he changes to <21>.

26.27 – 21 16 x 27
27.32 x 21 10 – 15
28.21 – 16 24 – 30
29.16 x 7 12 x 1
30.37 – 32 2 – 7
31.31 – 27 30 – 35

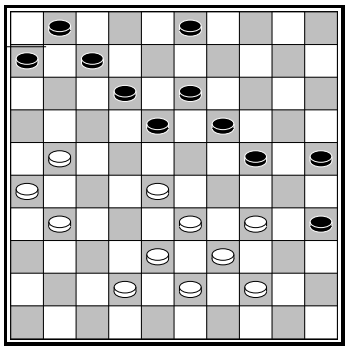


White will attack again at black's right wing.

32.27 – 22 18 x 27
33.32 x 21 20 – 24
34.36 – 31 8 – 12

One would expect black to play 24 – 30 with an arrow-lock. White has great compensation having control over the centre. Piece 15 is not active in the lock. With his next move white eliminates the possibility to be locked.

35.34 – 29 13 – 18
36.29 x 20 15 x 24
37.40 – 34 9 – 13



Black, a gifted and well-known composer, was hoping for 38.31 – 27? 18 – 23! Now:

1) 39.38 – 32? 23 – 29 40.34 x 14 13 – 19 41.14 x 23 12 – 17 42.21 x 12 7 x 40 B+

2) 39.27 – 22? 23 x 32 40.38 x 27 24 – 29 41.34 x 14 13 – 18 42.22 x 13 35 – 40 43.44 x 35 25 – 30 44.35 x 24 12 – 17 45.21 x 12 7 x 47 B+

3) 39.28 – 22 24 – 29 40.33 x 24 19 x 30 with advantage for black.

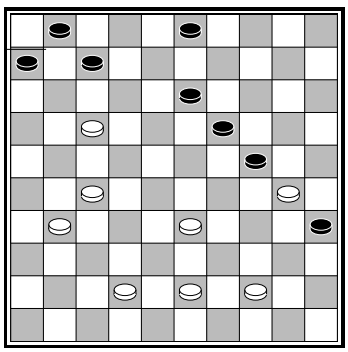
White however launches an attack at <17>.

38.21 – 17 12 x 21
39.26 x 17 18 – 23?

A more modest reply like 7 – 12 17 x 8 3 x 12 was needed.

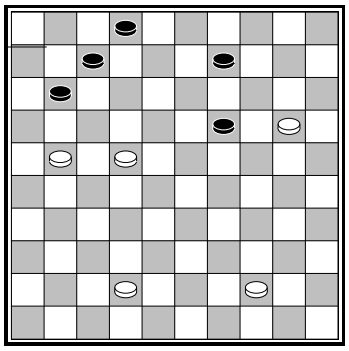
40.34 – 30! 23 x 32
41.38 x 27 25 x 34
42.39 x 30

The trapped piece 30 (in between 24 and 35) implies tactical merits like 42… 13 – 18? 43.33 – 29 24 x 33 44.17 – 12 35 x 24 45.12 x 14 W+ or 42… 3 – 9 43.31 – 26 9 – 14? 44.33 – 29 24 x 33 45.43 – 38 35 x 24 46.38 x 18 W+.



After black eliminates piece <17> white again attacks at the left wing.

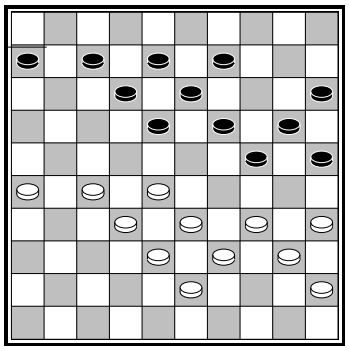
42… 7 – 12
43.17 x 8 13 x 2
44.27 – 22 1 – 7
45.31 – 27 6 – 11
46.33 – 29 24 x 33
47.43 – 38 35 x 24
48.38 x 20 3 – 9
49.27 – 21



White is attacking at both wings. Black can't escape anymore.

49… 7 – 12
50.21 – 16 12 – 17
51.16 x 7 2 x 11
52.20 – 15 11 x 22
53.15 – 10

White won after 53… 9 – 14 54.10 – 4 19 – 24 55.4 – 13 14 – 19 56.13 – 2 11 – 17 57.44 – 39 17 – 22 58.39 – 34 19 – 23 59.2 x 30 28 – 33 60.30 – 25 and black resigned.



M. Coenegracht – L. Koops

White is starting a strong attack at the left wing.

38.27 – 21 18 – 23

38… 6 – 11 39.21 – 16 leaves black with no good move:

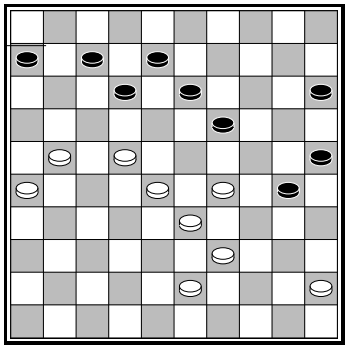
1) 39… 11 – 17 is followed by a kingshot (look yourself!)

2) 39… 18 – 23 is followed by a breakthrough (check that yourself!)

3) 39… 12 – 17 40.32 – 27 8 – 12 is punished by 41.28 – 23! 19 x 28* 42.33 x 22 17 x 28 43.34 – 30 25 x 34 44.39 x 6 W+.

4) After 39… 9 – 14 40.34 – 30! 25 x 34 41.40 x 29 black is frozen out.

39.28 – 22 24 – 30
40.35 x 24 20 x 29
41.33 x 24 19 x 30
42.34 – 29 23 x 34
43.40 x 29 9 – 14
44.38 – 33 14 – 19
45.32 – 28



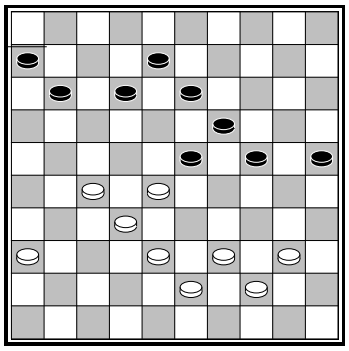
White has gained space. Black can't play 12 – 18 because of the kingshot 21 – 17 26 – 21 17 – 11 28 – 23 33 x 2 W+.

45… 19 – 24
46.29 x 20 15 x 24

46… 25 x 14 gives a longer defence, but will also lose. White immediately goes on to take <23> in his possession. The 21 / 22 / 23 front is very strong.

47.28 – 23 30 – 35
48.45 – 40 35 x 44
49.39 x 50 25 – 30
50.43 – 39 30 – 35
51.50 – 44

Black resigned at the right moment.



Baba Sy – T. Sijbrands

Black shows that an attack at white's right wing can be very dangerous. The aim of this minority attack is not breaking through but freezing out the opponent by limiting his space.

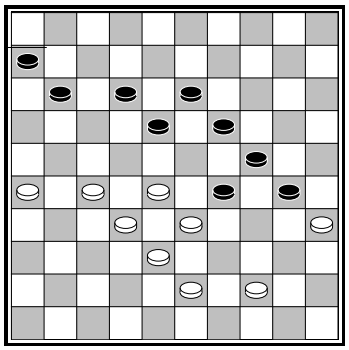
42… 23 – 29!

From a psychological point of view it is hard to play 43.39 – 34 19 – 23 44.28 x 30 13 – 18 45.34 x 23 25 x 45 46.23 – 19 although it's a draw after 46… 45 – 50 47.19 – 13 =.

43.39 – 33 25 – 30
44.40 – 35?

Giving black too much space is a lethal mistake. White should have fixed pieces 29 and 30 by playing 43 – 39.

44… 12 – 18
45.36 – 31 8 – 12
46.31 – 26



Better would have been 46.28 – 22. Now black forces a win.

46… 29 – 34!

After 47.43 – 39 34 x 43 48.38 x 49 30 – 34 49.44 – 39 34 x 43 50.49 x 38 11 – 17 51.27 – 22
51.27 – 21 is met by 18 – 22 with the decisive 24 – 29 threat.

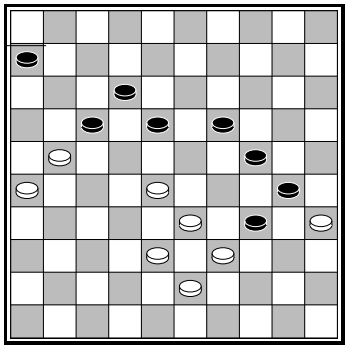
51… 18 x 27 52.32 x 21 6 – 11 53.38 – 32
53.21 – 16 13 – 18 54.16 x 7 12 x 1 55.38 – 32 18 – 23 B+
53… 11 – 16 54.32 – 27 13 – 18 55.27 – 22 18 x 27 56.21 x 32 12 – 18 57.32 – 27 18 – 23 is winning for black.

47.44 – 39 11 – 17 48.27 – 22 etc. will lead to the game. At 48.27 – 21 18 – 22 follows threatening 24 – 29 B+.

47.27 – 22 18 x 27
48.32 x 21 11 – 17

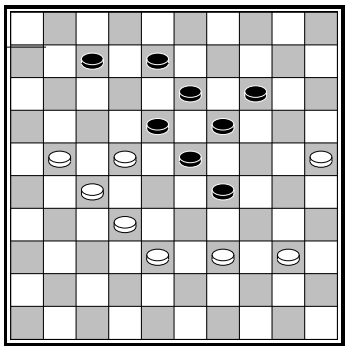
48… 34 – 40 is wrong because of 43 – 39! 40 x 49 21 – 16 49 x 23 16 x 20 W+.

49.44 – 39 13 – 18



White is lost. 50.21 – 16 6 – 11 51.16 x 7 12 x 1 52.38 – 32 18 – 23 53.43 – 38 34 x 43 44.38 x 49 30 – 34 leads to a quick freeze out for white.

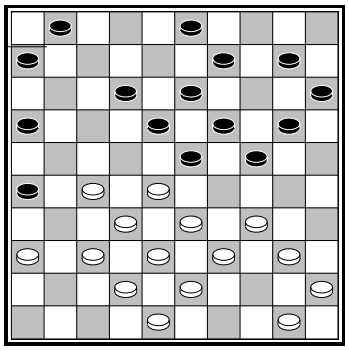
Exercise 4.1 How did black win after **50.38 – 32** ?



Baba Sy – M. Verleene

An interesting variation in this position is: 1.21 – 17 19 – 24 2.39 – 33 14 – 19 ….

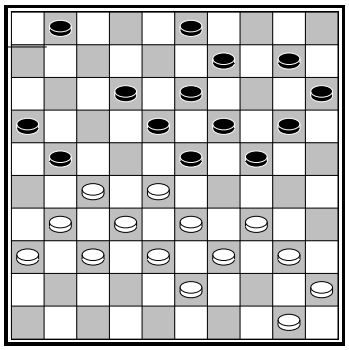
Exercise 4.2 How can white surprisingly secure a win?



A. Dibman – R. Letsjinski

White has a strong central and compact position with good formations and no edge piece at <35>. White begins taking control over the left wing.

23.37 – 31 26 x 37
24.42 x 31 6 – 11
25.48 – 42 11 – 17
26.42 – 37 17 – 21



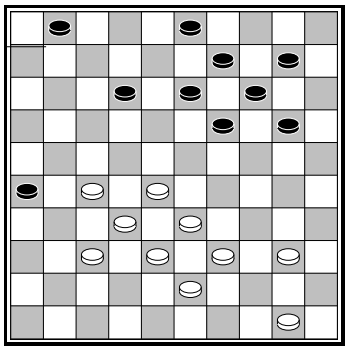
27.27 – 22 18 x 27
28.31 x 22

White can take more space helped by the tactical variation 28… 12 – 18? 29.34 – 29! 23 x 34 30.40 x 29 18 x 27 31.29 – 23 10 – 14 32.23 – 18 13 x 22 33.28 x 26 and white wins piece 27.
After 28… 21 – 26 29.22 – 18 13 x 22 30.28 x 8 3 x 12 31.36 – 31 black's position is weakened, having many gaps.

28… 12 – 17
29.22 x 11 16 x 7
30.36 – 31 21 – 26
31.31 – 27 7 – 12

It's time to use the 34 / 40 / 45 tail now putting pressure on the centre.

32.34 – 29 23 x 34
33.40 x 29 20 – 25
34.29 x 20 25 x 14
35.45 – 40 15 – 20

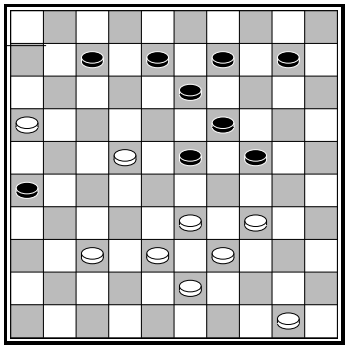


White still has the compact centre, while his opponent is chased away from <23> and <24>. White has space to launch an attack at the left wing.

36.28 – 22 3 – 8
37.22 – 17 12 x 21
38.27 x 16 1 – 7

Black doesn't allow white to go to <11>. At 1 – 6 white breaks through with 16 – 11 6 x 17 37 – 31 26 x 28 33 x 11.

39.40 – 34 19 – 23
40.32 – 27 14 – 19
41.27 – 22 20 – 24

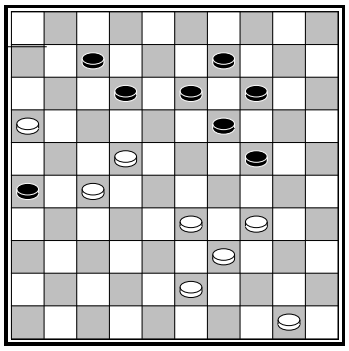


42.37 – 32!

An excellent move! White can leave the piece at <26> alone for one move time and transports the piece to a much better location at <27>. In the meanwhile centre piece <23> is eliminated.

42… 10 – 14
43.32 – 28 23 x 32
44.38 x 27 8 – 12

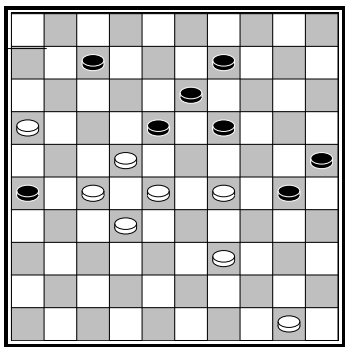
White can play 45.33 – 28 threatening 27 – 21 W+, but after 45… 12 – 18 46.43 – 38 but he forces a breakthrough in an even smarter way.



45.43 – 38! 14 – 20

43… 19 – 23 44.38 – 32 14 – 19 45.33 – 28 *Threatening 27 – 21 W+.*
45… 12 – 18 46.22 – 17! leads to a winning breakthrough for white.

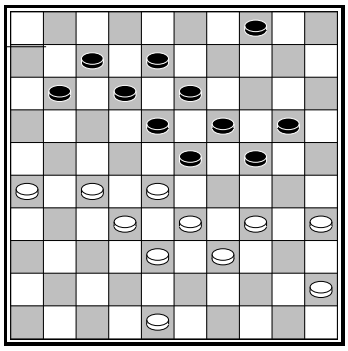
46.38 – 32 20 – 25
47.34 – 29 24 – 30
48.33 – 28 12 – 18



White has forced a breakthrough. White's king will be caught but white breaks through again.

49.29 – 23 18 x 29
50.27 – 21 26 x 17
51.22 x 2 19 – 24
42.2 x 19 24 x 13
53.16 – 11

After 53… 13 – 18 54.11 – 7 9 – 14 55.32 – 27 14 – 20 56.27 – 21 30 – 34 57.39 x 30 25 x 34 58.21 – 16 18 – 22 59.28 x 17 34 – 39 60.7 – 1 34 – 39 61.1 – 40 39 – 43 62.40 – 44 33 – 38 63.44 – 49 20 – 25 64.17 – 11 25 – 30 65.11 – 6 30 – 34 66.6 – 1 43 – 48 67.49 x 32 black resigned at last.



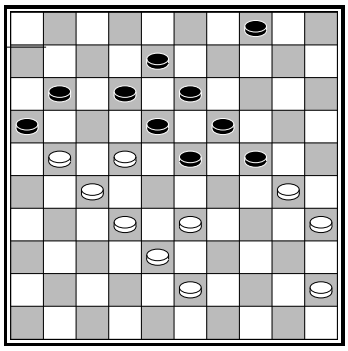
Baba Sy – H. Laros

White uses the little space available at the left wing to launch an attack.

38.26 – 21!

Exercise 4.3 Black replied **38… 11 – 17**. Which kingshot did white take?

It is interesting to analyse the position when black plays the normal move 43…. 11 – 16. White then plays 44.28 – 22! 7 – 11 45.34 – 30 20 – 25 46.48 – 43 25 x 34 47.39 x 30



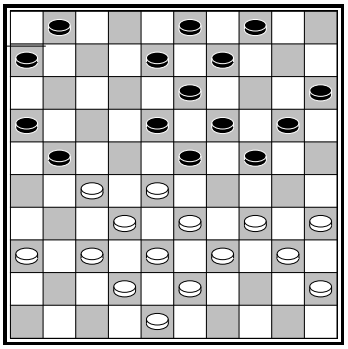
1) 47… 11 – 17 48.22 x 11 16 x 7 49.33 – 28 7 – 11 50.28 – 22 11 – 16 52.38 – 33 4 – 9 53.33 – 28 23 – 29 54.43 – 38 18 – 23 55.45 – 40 9 – 14 56.30 – 25 12 – 18 57.21 – 17 with a wonderful winning position: W+.

2) 47… 23 – 29 48.45 – 40 18 – 23 49.43 – 39 4 – 10 50.39 – 34! 10 – 14 51.33 – 28 11 – 17 52.22 x 11 16 x 7 53.28 – 22! 23 – 28 54.32 x 23! 19 x 26 55.30 x 10 W+.

We didn't review all possibilities, but we wanted to show some important variations for this kind of play.

5.The piece at <17>

We saw Sijbrands going to <34> while attacking with black. A piece at <17> or <34> can be very strong. If you attack the left wing you sometimes can get control over <17> which often helps to freeze the opponent out.



M. Korchov – W. Giljarov

You wouldn't expect white to get control over <17> from such a quiet closed classical position…

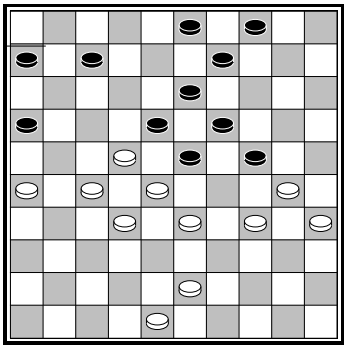
24.34 – 29 23 x 34
25.39 x 30 18 – 23
26.36 – 31 21 – 26

Playing 26… 1 – 7 27.31 – 26 7 – 11 28.26 x 17 11 x 31 29.37 x 26 13 – 18 would have prevented white's future attack.

27.27 – 22 1 – 7
28.31 – 27 8 – 12

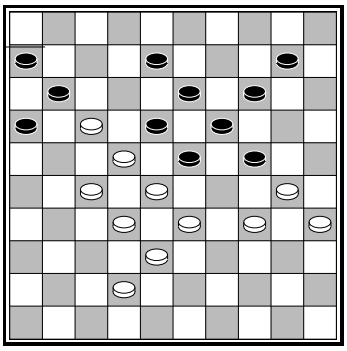
White is going to take the left wing under control now.

29.37 – 31 26 x 37
30.42 x 31 24 – 29
31.33 x 24 20 x 29
32.40 – 34 29 x 40
33.45 x 34 15 – 20
34.38 – 33 12 – 18
35.31 – 26 20 – 24



Black has taken <24> but white builds the 33 / 38 / 42 tail to conquer control over <24>.

36.43 – 38 9 – 14
37.48 – 42 7 – 11
38.26 – 21 3 – 8
39.21 – 17 4 – 10



White has conquered <17>. With the next exchange white gains more space. 33 – 29 x 29 would allow 16 – 21 =.

40.33 – 29 24 x 33
41.28 x 39 10 – 15

41… 14 – 20 could have been met by 32 – 28! 23 x 12 34 – 29 18 x 27 30 – 24 19 x 30 35 x 4 +.

White can choose how to win now. He can play, for example: 42.39 – 33:

1) 42… 15 – 20 43.33 – 29 20 – 25 44.29 – 24 and it's over (8 – 12 17 x 8 13 x 2 22 x 13 19 x 8 24 – 20 etc. W+).

2) 42… 14 – 20 43.27 – 21! (43.30 – 25 is also good enough, but we show the most special way to win) 18 x 27
43… 16 x 27 44.32 x 21 18 x 16 45.33 – 29 11 x 22 29 x 9 W+
44.33 – 28 11 x 33 45.38 x 9 27 x 47 46.34 – 29! 16 x 27 47.9 – 3 47 x 24 48.3 x 25 and black's king is caught at the next move.

42.30 – 24 19 x 30
43.35 x 24 14 – 19

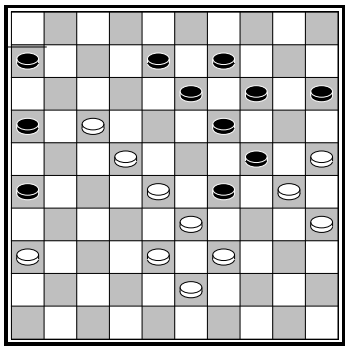
43… 14 – 20 44.34 – 30 20 x 29 45.39 – 33 29 – 34 46.30 x 39 15 – 20 47.39 – 34 20 – 24 48.42 – 37 is winning for white.

44.34 – 30 8 – 12
45.17 x 8 13 x 2
46.22 x 13 19 x 8
47.39 – 33 8 – 13
48.30 – 25 23 – 29

Otherwise 33 – 28 would follow.

49.42 – 37 29 x 20
50.25 x 14 11 – 17
51.37 – 31

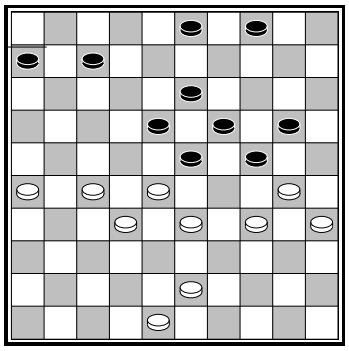
And white won the endgame.



G. Kolk – P. Meurs

Black played 41… 15 – 20 in this complex situation.

Exercise 5.1 How could white have won now?



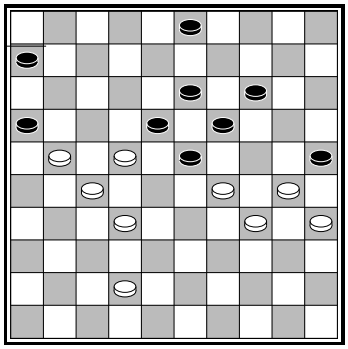
T. Goedemoed – S. Doller

White's pieces surround the black centre. He is going to gain more space.

36.28 – 22 20 – 25
37.43 – 38 7 – 11
38.26 – 21 11 – 16

38… 11 – 17 39.21 x 12 18 x 7 40.48 – 42 4 – 9 41.33 – 29 24 x 33 42.38 x 18 3 – 8 43.42 – 38 8 – 12 44.38 – 33 12 x 23 45.27 – 21! 7 – 12 46.33 – 29 12 – 18 47.22 – 17 is winning for white.

39.48 – 42 4 – 10
40.33 – 29 24 x 33
41.38 x 29 10 – 14



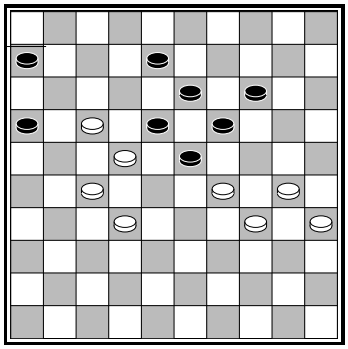
42.42 – 38?

The correct way to play had been 42.29 – 24 6 – 11 43.24 – 20 3 – 9 44.20 – 15 11 – 17 45.22 x 11 16 x 7 46.42 – 37 7 – 11 47.21 – 16 11 – 17 48.37 – 31 etc. W+.

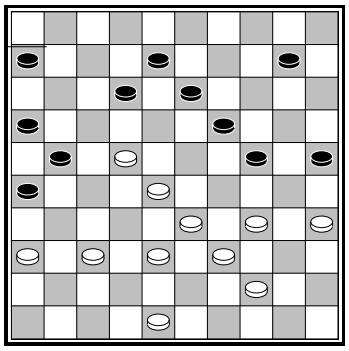
42… 14 – 20
43.38 – 33 3 – 8?

After 43… 3 – 9! 44.21 – 17 20 – 24 45.29 x 20 25 x 14 46.30 – 25 19 – 24 47.35 – 30 24 x 35 48.33 – 28 14 – 19 49.25 – 20 6 – 11 50.17 x 6 16 – 21 51.27 x 16 18 x 38 black escapes.

44.21 – 17 20 – 24
45.29 x 20 25 x 14
46.33 – 29



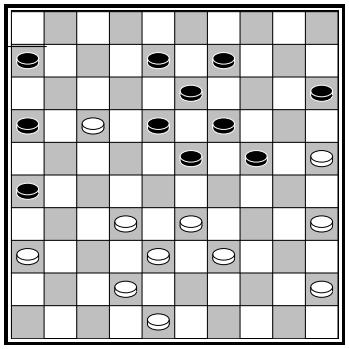
Black is lost. He eventually did after 14 – 20 47.30 – 25 20 – 24 48.29 x 20 6 – 11 49.17 x 6 16 – 21 50.27 x 16 18 x 38 51. 6 – 1 38 – 43 52. 1 x 29 19 - 24 53.29 - 33 24 x 15 54.33 - 44 15 – 20 55.25 x 14 43 – 48 56.44 – 39 48 – 37 57.39 – 22 37 x 5 58.22 x 9 5 – 28 59. 9 – 18 28 – 14 60.34 – 30 14 – 28 61.30 – 25 28 – 33 62.18 – 23 8 – 13 63.23 – 5 W+.



M. Dolfing – A. Scholma

White could have played 22 – 17! After which black can't play 12 – 18 because of 44 – 40 21 x 12 28 – 22 18 x 27 38 – 32 27 x 29 34 x 5.

Exercise 5.2 How does white win after 1.22 – 17! 25 – 30 34 x 25 12 – 18 ?

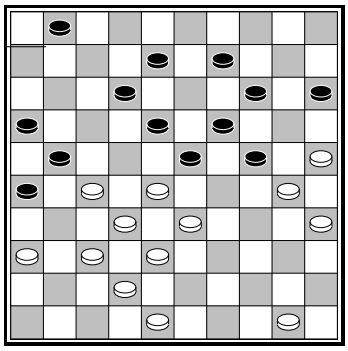


T. Goedemoed – P. Tuik

White has to take care about 16 – 21. Usually he can go 17 – 11 6 x 17 36 – 31 26 x 28 33 x 11 then. But if you look closer black can prevent a breakthrough and thereby getting an advantage.

Exercise 5.3 What is the best move for white, eliminating the 16 – 21 possibility?





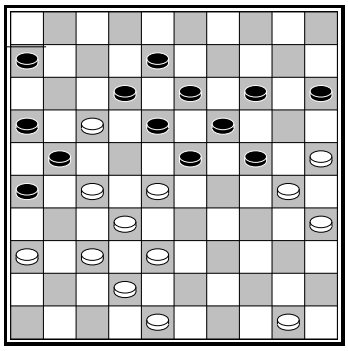
A. Baliakin – N. Samb

Black just played 13 – 18 giving his opponent the opportunity to make the Ghestem-lock (see the section about classics).

36.28 – 22 9 – 13?

Because white has a winning plan now, black should have played 8 – 13 in order to be able to remove a piece at <17>.

37.33 – 28 1 – 6
38.22 – 17!



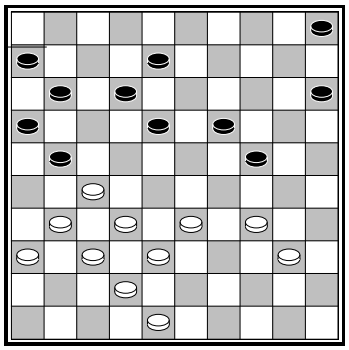
Black has no defence left against the threatening 37 – 31.

38… 23 – 29
39.37 – 31 26 x 37
40.17 x 26

Black resigned.

6.Cannon play

To be successful playing in the centre you need strong formations. A strong construction that is often used is the so called Chizhov *cannon*.



A. Chzihov – G. van Aalten
Wch 1990

The cannon consists of pieces 27 / 31 / 32 / 36 / 37 / 38 / 42. Sometimes the cannon is played without 42, but this pieces gives more opportunities like playing 33 – 29 x 29. White can also change 27 – 22 x 22 if he wishes, but white rather plays towards the centre first.

34.33 – 28 18 – 23
35.38 – 33 21 – 26

More logical is playing 12 – 18 preventing white from taking the 33 – 29 x 27 exchange.

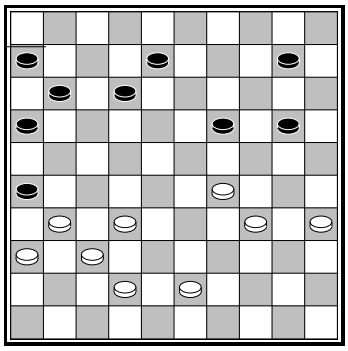
35.40 – 35

White waits for better conditions to make the 33 – 29 exchange, breaking the classical structure. Actually 33 – 29 would have been the most correct move leading to an advantage for white.

35… 15 – 20?
36.48 – 43

Now 36… 12 – 18 isn't good anymore. White responds 37.34 – 30! 5 – 10 38.42 – 38 10 – 14 39.30 – 25 8 – 13 40.43 – 39 11 – 17 41.39 – 34 17 – 21
41… 6 – 11 is punished by 34 – 29 23 x 34 27 – 21 16 x 27 32 x 23 W+
42.27 – 22! 18 x 27 43.31 x 22 and because the only sensible move left 6 – 11 is met by 34 – 29 23 x 34 22 – 18 13 x 22 28 x 6 black is lost.

36… 5 – 10
37.33 – 29! 24 x 22
38.27 x 29

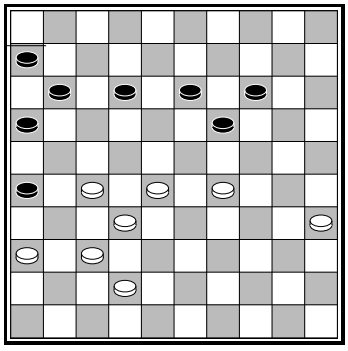


White has gained space. He controls <27> and <28> while black has inactive pieces at the edge of the board. Pieces 6 / 11 / 16 / 16 will not become active in the game. Black probably didn't play 10 – 15 because he was afraid of the attack 29 – 23 x 23 and piece 15 stays inactive.

38… 8 – 13
39.31 – 27 10 – 14
40.43 – 38 20 – 25?

Black should have played 13 – 18! 32 – 28 12 – 17! = White could have prevented this drawing variation by 41.35 – 30! Black's defence, changing back, is very poor. White is going to control all strategic squares.

41.32 – 28 14 – 20
42.38 – 32 20 – 24
43.29 x 20 25 x 14
44.34 – 29!



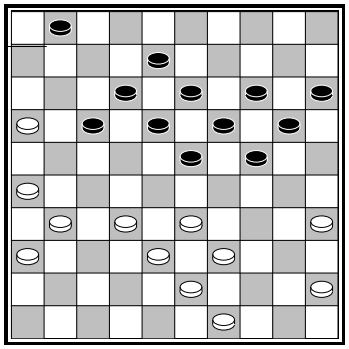
45…. 14 – 20 will result in a winning attack: 46.28 – 23 19 x 28 47.32 x 23 11 – 17 48.35 – 30 20 – 25 49.30 – 24 17 – 21 50.37 – 32! 6 – 11 51.23 – 19! 11 – 17 52.19 x 8 12 x 3 53.42 – 37 3 – 9 54.29 – 23 9 – 13 55.23 – 19 13 – 18 56.36 – 31! 17 – 22 57.19 – 13 18 x 9 58.27 x 18 9 – 14 59.31 – 27 14 – 20 60.24 x 15 25 – 30 and going to <5> will give the 37 – 31 shot, winning the game.

44… 12 – 17
45.36 – 31!

Black's only formation is worthless now.

45… 17 – 21 46.35 – 30

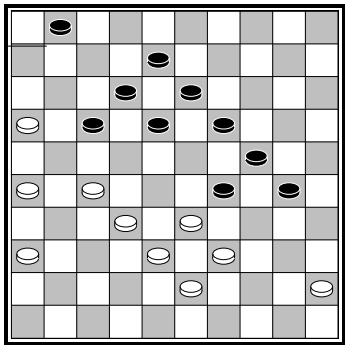
Black surrendered. 46… 11 – 17 47.29 – 24 6 – 11 48.42 – 38 is a horror scenario.



M. Sivtsev – A. Chizhov

White has many pieces at the edge of the board. His centre is weak. He doesn't control any of the strategic squares and has a weakness at <42>. Black has nice formations in the centre and a cannon a his left wing. Black will attack at white's right wing.

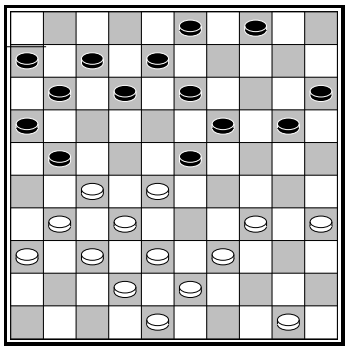
31… 24 – 30!
32.35 x 24 20 x 29
37.33 x 24 19 x 30
38.39 – 33 14 – 19
39.31 – 27 15 – 20
40.43 – 39 20 – 24
41.49 – 43 23 – 29!



41.49 – 43? created a weak piece at 43, it isn't active. Black has a beautiful construction. White's space is limited severely.

42.27 – 21 1 – 7
43.36 – 31 18 – 22!

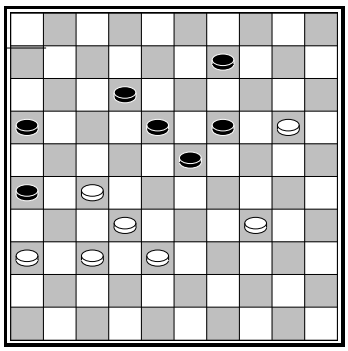
White's position is entirely blocked. 32 – 27 13 – 18 is a dead track. 32 – 28 isn't possible because of 30 – 34 etc. W+. Therefore white gave a piece playing 44.31 – 27 and lost.



H. Wiersma – A. Der

24.39 – 33 20 – 25

24… 20 – 24 is answered by 25.33 – 29! 24 x 22 26.27 x 29 with white taking more control over the centre. If black changes to 24 after this by 19 – 24 27.29 x 20 15 x 24 white builds the 33 / 38 / 42 tail to put pressure on 24. We will give an example, so you learn what you have to do with white: 28.38 – 33 4 – 10 29.43 – 38 13 – 19 30.34 – 29 10 – 15 31.29 x 20 15 x 24 32.33 – 29 24 x 33 33.38 x 29 19 – 23 34.29 x 18 12 x 23 35.35 – 30
Piece 23 stands alone, so white can surround it.
7 – 12 36.30 – 24 8 – 13 37.50 – 44 3 – 9 38.24 – 20 13 – 19 39.44 – 40 12 – 18 40.40 – 34 21 – 26 41.42 – 38 11 – 17 42.31 – 27 17 – 21 43.38 – 33 6 – 11 44.33 – 28 11 – 17 45.48 – 42 17 – 22 46.28 x 17 21 x 12 47.42 – 38



It is a long way to get the position wanted. Black to move is lost. At 12 – 17 white takes the 34 – 29 27 – 21 kingshot.
47.. 9 – 13 is answered by 34 – 30 (preventing the 23 – 28 13 – 19 shot) followed by a breakthrough of piece 20.

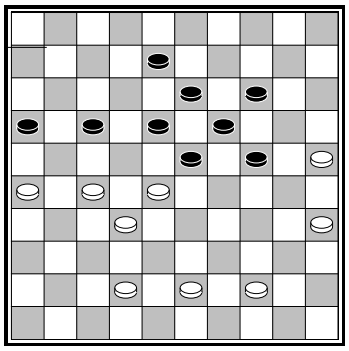
25.43 – 39 15 – 20
26.50 – 44 3 – 9

White was ready to meet 20 – 24 by 33 – 29 24 x 22 27 x 29 again. Black plays with his golden piece, which is weakening his defensive position. In order to force a decision

on his opponent white himself waits, playing his golden piece himself.

27.48 – 43

We will show you another long term strategy for white after black plays 27… 4 – 10 28.28 – 22! 12 – 18 29.31 – 26 7 – 12 30.26 x 17 12 x 21 31.22 – 17 11 x 31 32.37 x 17 8 – 12 33.17 x 8 13 x 2 34.32 – 27 9 – 13 35.38 – 32 6 – 11 36.36 – 31 11 – 17 37.33 – 28 20 – 24 38.31 – 26 10 – 14 39.34 – 30 25 x 34 40.39 x 30 2 – 8 41.30 – 25



White has a classical position controlling both wings. We will show three variations:

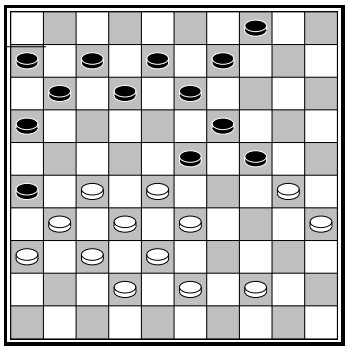
1) If black tries to break the classical structure, playing 41… 24 – 29, hoping for 14 – 20 x 10 x 24, white plays 42.43 – 38! and 29 – 34 27 – 22 leads to a bad endgame for black.

2) 41… 8 – 12 42.44 – 40 24 – 29 43.35 – 30 is lost: 16 – 21 27 x 16 18 – 22 is punished by 32 – 27! W+

3) 41… 23 – 29 42.44 – 40 8 – 12 43.42 – 38 18 – 23 (the Dussaut sacrifice 16 – 21 27 x 16 18 – 22 fails to the 25 – 20! stick move.)
44.43 – 39 12 – 18 45.40 – 34! 29 x 40 46.35 x 44 24 – 29 47.39 – 33 29 – 34 48.44 – 39 34 x 43 49.38 x 49 W+

27… 21 – 26
28.34 – 30 25 x 34
29.39 x 30 20 – 24

White forces a win now. Black should have defended his position with 29… 4 – 10.



30.28 – 22! 23 – 29

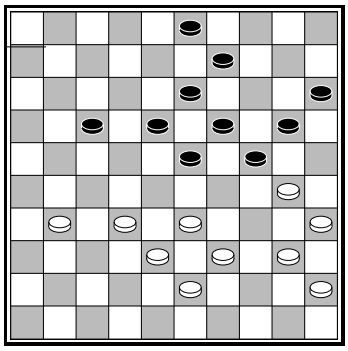
White was threatening 22 – 18, while 12 – 18 would have been punished by the 33 – 29 27 – 21 32 x 1 kingshot.

31.33 – 28! 4 – 10

31… 12 – 18 32.28 – 23 19 x 17 33.30 x 19 13 x 24 34.27 – 21 16 x 27 35.32 x 14 W+.
After 31… 12 – 17 there are multiple ways to win.

32.44 – 40 10 – 14
33.30 – 25

Black doesn't have any good move left. He played 33… 12 – 17 34.35 – 30 24 x 44 and surrendered without waiting for his execution: 25 – 20 14 x 25 43 – 39 44 x 33 28 x 39 17 x 28 32 x 1 W+.



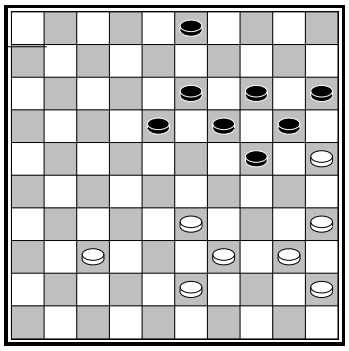
W. van der Kooij – G. Jansen

39.30 – 25 9 – 14!

Building the cannon.

40.31 – 26 17 – 22
41.32 – 28 23 x 32
42.38 x 27 22 x 31
43.26 x 37

40.40 – 34 would have been a better defence. White's change back is very passive. Black gains a lot of space.



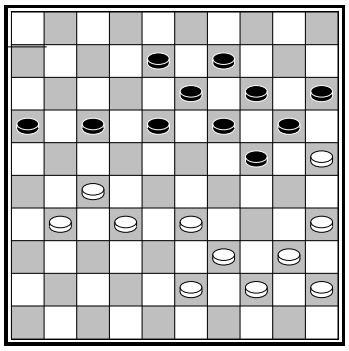
Black could have forced a positional win by 43… 18 – 22!

1) 44.37 – 31 24 – 30! 45.25 x 34 22 – 27 46.31 x 22 13 – 18 47.22 x 24 20 x 49 B+.

2) 44.37 – 32 19 – 23 45.43 – 38 13 – 19 B+.

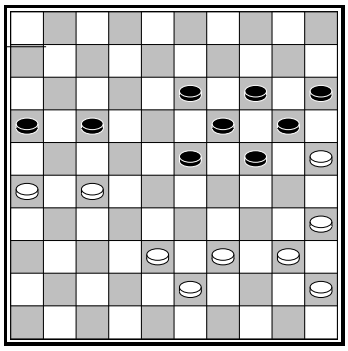
3) 44.43 – 38 22 – 27! 45.33 – 28 13 – 18! 46.28 – 22 27 – 31! 47.37 x 26 18 x 27 48.39 – 33 19 – 23 49.40 – 34 24 – 29! 50.33 x 24 20 x 40 51.45 x 34 23 – 28 breaking through.

In the game black played 43… 19 – 23? 44.43 – 38 18 – 22 45.40 – 34
White should have played 37 – 31 preventing 22 – 27.
45… 22 – 27! 46.34 – 30 13 – 19 47.39 – 34 23 – 29 48.34 x 23 19 x 39 49.30 x 10 15 x 4 50.25 x 14 39 – 44 B+.



A. Domchev – W. Milshin

Exercise 6.1 Black to move built a cannon. What is the strongest move for black? Can you think of a variation that is winning for black?



P. Oudshoorn – H. Wiersma

Exercise 6.2 Answer the questions!

A) How is 46.38 – 32 13 – 18 47.43 – 38 punished?

46.38 – 33 13 – 18!

B) How is 47.40 – 34 punished?

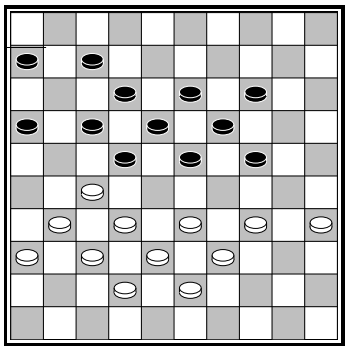
47.43 – 38 17 – 22
48.40 – 34 22 x 31
49.26 x 37

C) How does black win after 48.38 – 32 22 x31 49.26 x 37 ?

49… 18 – 22
50.34 – 30?

The best defence would have been 50.37 – 31.

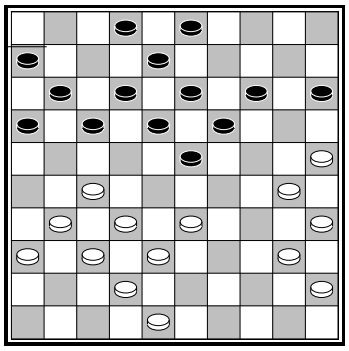
D) Which strong move does black play now?



Cosmos – Protein 04

Position from a blitz game at Kurnik, a Polish online draughts server.

Exercise 6.3 How does white force a win? Use tactical weapons!



T. Harmsma – J.E. de Vries

The conditions for cannon play are good.

1) Black has inactive pieces, a fork, at his right wing.
2) White has developed his position completely.
3) White has enough formations to act at the other wing.

26.48 – 43!

A psychologically very strong move. White wants his opponent to make an important decision. After the immediate 33 – 29 x 29 he is chased back by 19 – 23. However after the change back form black the exchange to 29 becomes much stronger.

26… 14 – 20?

26… 17 – 22 would have been more active.

27.25 x 14 19 x 10
28.30 – 25 10 – 14
29.33 – 29! 23 x 34
30.40 x 29 13 – 19
31.45 – 40 2 – 7?

A big mistake. Black builds a tail he can't use at the next move, and by this weakening his defence at <2>. White could already have played 29 – 24 x 24 strongly now.

32.40 – 34 3 – 9

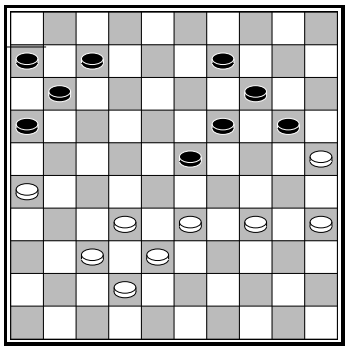
32… 18 – 23 33.29 x 18 12 x 23 is punished by the 27 – 22 38 – 33 shot.

33.43 – 39 8 – 13
34.39 – 33 15 – 20?

Moves that don't look good usually aren't good. 34… 18 – 23 35.29 x 18 12 x 23 can be strongly met by 36.33 – 29! 23 – 28
Obliged, for 13 – 18 is answered by 27 – 22 17 x 28 34 – 30W +

37.32 x 23 19 x 28 38.34 – 30 and black is in trouble. Still he should have chosen this variation, because the game is even worse.

35.31 – 26 18 – 23
36.29 x 18 13 x 31
37.36 x 27 17 – 22
38.27 x 18 12 x 23

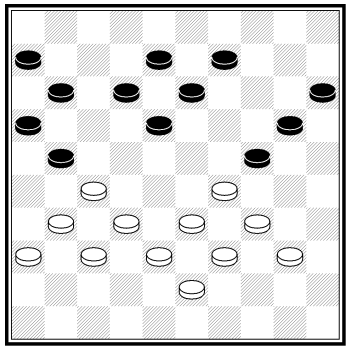


39.33 – 29!

The only temp black has got to make the 2 x 2 exchange is 19 – 24 which leads to a lethal arrow lock: 19 – 24 40.29 x 18 16 – 21 41.26 x 17 11 x 13 42.34 – 30 13 – 19 43.32 – 28 W+.

39… 11 – 17
40.29 x 18 7 – 11
41.26 – 21!

Black surrendered after this last tactical move.



J. Krajenbrink – L. Sekongo

White built two pyramids. A cannon and a right wing pyramid.

36.40 – 35 20 – 25
37.29 x 20 15 x 24
38.34 – 29! 21 – 26
39.29 x 20 25 x 14
40.33 – 29! 11 – 17
41.39 – 34!

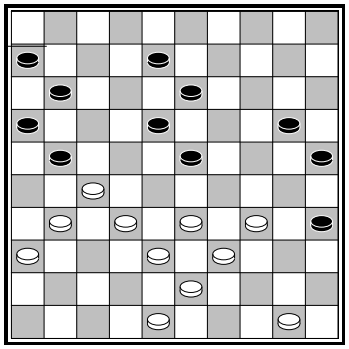
White allows black to lock his left wing. The attack at the right wing continues anyway.

41… 17 – 21
42.29 – 24! 12 – 17
43.38 – 33 6 – 11
44.34 – 30! 18 – 22

44… 17 – 22 would have been punished by 45.32 – 28! W+

45.27 x 18 13 x 22
46.32 – 28 8 – 13
47.30 – 25 13 – 18
48.43 – 38 9 – 13
49.24 – 20 14 – 19
50.20 – 15 22 – 27
51.31 x 22 18 x 27
52.37 – 32 26 – 31
53.33 – 29!

White won.



A. Chizhov– A. Keisels

Black has many pieces at the edge of the board. Centre piece 23 is not supported by a very strong centre due to a lack of formations. We also spot a weakness at <9>.
On the contrary white has strong formations at his right wing and is going to build the cannon at his left wing.

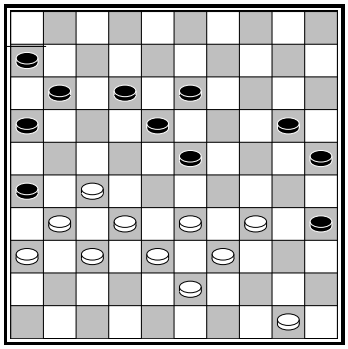
36.48 – 42!

36… 13 – 19 37.33 – 28 leads to a very good classical position for white: 20 – 24 38.39 – 33 8 – 13 40.43 – 39 21 – 26 41.42 – 37 11 – 17 42.50 – 44 6 – 11 43.44 – 40 35 x 44 44.39 x 50 17 – 21 45.27 – 22 18 x 27 46.31 x 22 11 – 17 47.22 x 11 16 x 7 48.36 – 31 7 – 11 49.31 – 27 11 – 16 50.27 – 22 W+.

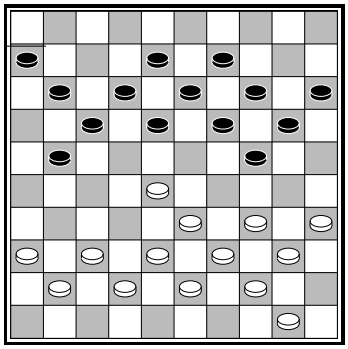
36… 8 – 12
37.42 – 37 12 – 17

Exercise 6.4 How did white force a win now?

We examine the position after black plays the logical 37… 21 – 26



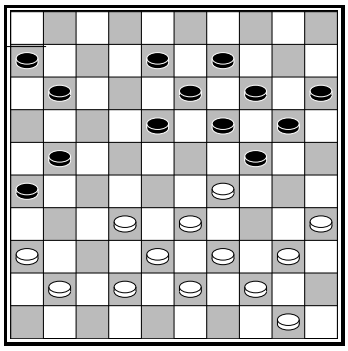
Exercise 6.5 White can win using a silent move. Which move is winning and why?



H. Jansen – H. Wiersma

Black has strong formations. White hasn't any base piece left. Moreover he can't play the natural 37 – 32 move because of the 17 – 22 24 – 29 kingshot.

27.34 – 29 21 – 26
28.37 – 32 17 – 22
29.28 x 17 12 x 21



After 30.32 – 28 black forces a win by 30… 18 – 22 (or 21 – 27 first) 31.28 x 17 11 x 22
Threatening 22 – 28 followed by 21 – 27
32.41 – 37 21 – 27! with a winning position for black.
After 30.42 – 37 black again wins playing 30… 18 – 22 31.40 – 34 21 – 27! 32.32 x 21 26 x 17

33.38 – 32 22 – 28! 34.32 x 23 19 x 28 35.33 x 22 17 x 28 winning a piece.
White's best move is 30.41 – 37

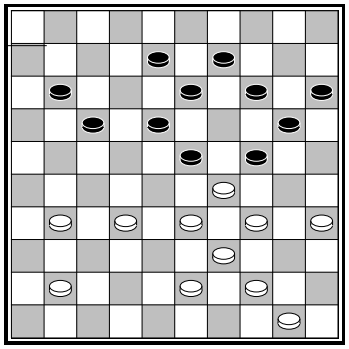
30.40 – 34? 11 – 16
31.42 – 37 21 – 27
32.32 x 21 16 x 27
33.37 – 32 19 – 23
34.32 x 21 26 x 17

White is getting chain-locked.

35.38 – 32 6 – 11

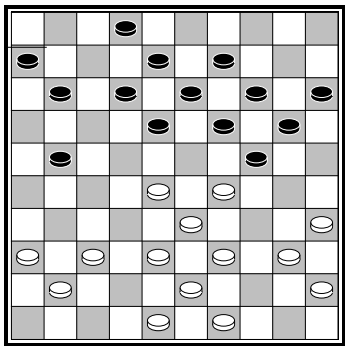
35… 17 – 21 would have been better, but white makes a big mistake.

36.36 – 31?

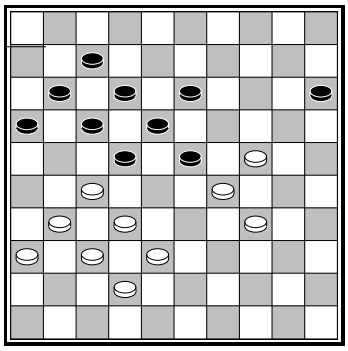


White is chain-locked and has too many gaps.

Exercise 6.6 With which move did black force a win?

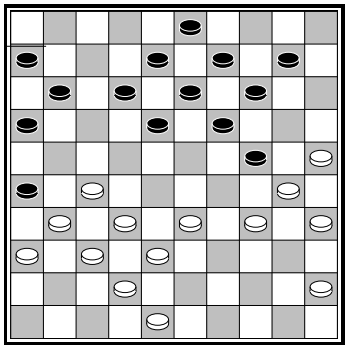


Exercise 6.7 Black has a cannon. In Borkowa – Luteijn white missed the opportunity to perform a nice shot. Try to find it.



J. Krajenbrink – H. Vermin

Exercise 6.8 White has a very nice plan forcing a break through by making a sacrifice. Try to find the winning manoeuvre.



A. Chizhov – A. van Prinsenbeek

Exercise 6.9 What strong move did white play?



10-fold world champion Chizhov from Russia posing near his famous cannon.

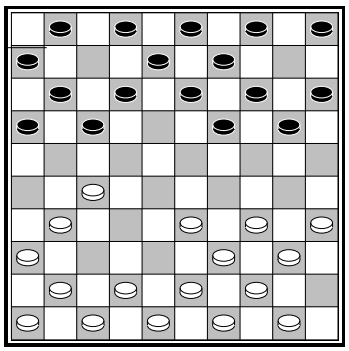
A cannon in the opening

In the opening of a game you often can build a cannon already. We will give some examples of typical openings for cannon play.

1.34 – 29 19 – 23 2.40 – 34 14 – 19
3.45 – 40 10 – 14 4.32 – 28 23 x 32
5.37 x 28

Black can choose from many continuations now.

5… 18 – 23
6.29 x 18 12 x 32
7.38 x 27 7 – 12

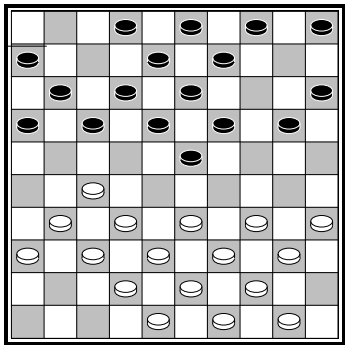


White can begin building Chizhov's cannon now. We show a normal play in which white is going to build the cannon.

8.41 – 37 12 – 18

At 8… 17 – 21 white can choose from 46 – 41 21 x 32 37 x 28 with centre play or developing 37 – 32 21 – 26 33 – 28 2 x 37 42 x 31 with the possibility of building a cannon.

9.42 – 38 1 – 7
10.46 – 41 7 – 12
11.37 – 32 19 – 23
12.41 – 37 14 – 19
13.47 – 42



Black can't develop his left wing immediately by playing 5 – 10? Because of a Harlem shot.

If black plays 9 – 14 white should weaken black's centre a bit and try to get active at the right wing. Usually he plays 50 – 45 4 – 9 34 – 29 x 30. The 34 – 29 x 30 exchange is typical for cannon play. White can make a double exchange in another way here.

13… 9 – 14
14.34 – 30 20 – 25

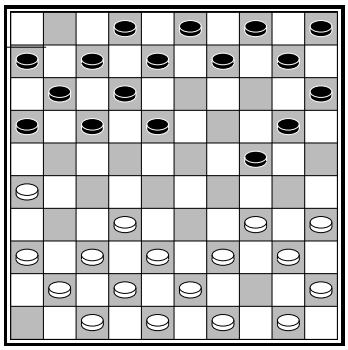
Black wants to develop his wing to activate piece 5. He can also choose 14… 4 – 9 15.30 – 25 20 – 24.

15.50 – 45 25 x 34
16.40 x 29 23 x 34
17.39 x 30 19 – 23

With a more or less equal play.

We give another examples of opening play with the canon:

1.32 – 28 18 – 22 2.37 – 32 12 – 18 3.41 – 37 7 – 12 4.46 – 41 1 – 7 5.31 – 26 19 – 23 6.33 – 28 22 x 33 7.39 x 19 13 x 24 8.44 – 39



Black is going to build the cannon playing 10 – 14 / 5 – 10 / 9 – 13 / 14 – 19 / 10 – 14. If white has occupied 28 in the meantime black will continue playing the typical 17 – 22 x 21 gaining space (4 temps).

Solutions section 2:

Lesson 1: Centre play

1.1 33 – 29 24 x 22 27 x 29 breaking the classical structure and getting control over wings and centre.

1.2 34 – 29 23 x 34 40 x 20 15 x 24 39 – 34 attacking <24>.

1.3 27 – 22 18 x 27 31 x 22 removing piece 18 such that after 11 – 17 22 x 11 16 x 7 23 – 29 23 x 34 40 x 20 15 x 24 39 – 34 the attack at <24> succeeds: the black piece at 18 otherwise could go to 23 preventing the next attack.

1.4 48 – 43 is even better than 49 – 43 having more power at the right wing. The next move will be 34 – 29.

Lesson 2: The powerblock

2.1 12 – 18! 40 – 34 18 – 22! 27 x 29 39 – 44 =.

2.2 34 – 29 23 x 34 40 x 20 19 – 23 28 x 19 13 x 15 25 – 20 14 x 34 33 – 29 34 x 23 37 – 31 26 x 28 27 – 22 18 x 27 38 – 32 27 x 38 42 x 4 W+

2.3 34 – 29 23 x 34 40 x 20 15 x 24 45 – 40 13 – 18 40 – 34 4 – 10 34 – 29 10 – 15 29 x 20 15 x 24 27 – 22! 18 x 27 33 – 28
Black can't play 24 – 29 now because of 28 – 22 27 x 18 38 – 33 29 x 27 37 – 31 26 x 37 42 x 4 W+.
27 – 31 36 x 27 24 – 29 38 – 33 29 x 38 42 x 33 9 – 13 47 – 41 13 – 18 28 – 22 18 – 23 30 – 24 19 x 30 35 x 24 W+

2.4 37 – 31! 26 x 37 42 x 31 and because 21 – 26 is answered by the 27 – 21 bomb shot white locks his opponent at the next move playing 31 – 26.

2.5 41 – 36?! 17 – 22 28 x 17 11 x 31 36 x 27 26 – 3? 37 x 17 23 – 28 32 x 12 13 – 18?
Black can escape by giving one piece more by 24 – 30 =.
12 x 23 19 x 50 17 – 12! 8 x 17 27 – 22 17 x 28 43 – 39 50 x 33 38 x 9 3 x 14 W+1.

2.6 34 – 29 23 x 34 40 x 20 15 x 24 28 – 23 19 x 39 30 x 10 4 x 15 37 – 31 26 x 28 38 – 33 21 x 32 33 x 4 W+

Lesson 3: The strong piece at <21>

3.1 34 – 29 14 – 20 (6 – 11 29 x 20 14 x 25 37 – 31 26 x 37 43 – 39 17 x 26 28 – 23 W+) 43 – 39 9 – 13 39 – 34
18 – 22 can be met by 37 – 31 26 x 37 38 – 32 17 x 26 28 x 8 37 x 30 8 – 3 24 x 33 3 x 14 W+
20 – 25 29 x 20 25 x 14 34 – 29 6 – 11 (after 18 – 22 white can neglect the 29 – 24 37 – 31 breakthrough and play 45 – 40 etc. +) 36 – 31 11 – 16 31 – 27 W+

Lesson 4: The left wing attack

4.1 19 – 23 28 x 19 24 x 13 35 x 24 17 – 22 39 x 30 22 – 28 choice 18 x 49 B+

4.2 3.17 – 11 7 x 16 4.22 – 17 (8 – 12 17 x 8 13 x 2 25 – 20) W+

4.3 34 – 29 23 x 43 48 x 39 17 x 26 27 – 22 18 x 27 32 x 21 26 x 17 35 – 30 (preventing the king to be caught) 24 x 35 28 – 23 19 x 28 33 x 2 W+

Lesson 5: The piece at <17>

5.1 22 – 18 13 x 11 28 – 23 29 x 18* 36 – 31 26 x 37 38 – 32 37 x 28 33 x 4 W+

5.2 22 – 17 25 – 30 34 x 25 12 – 18 44 – 40 21 x 12 28 – 22 18 x 27 38 – 32 27 x 29 37 – 31 26 x 37 48 – 42 37 x 48 39 – 34 48 x 30 25 x 5 W+

5.3 45 – 40! 16 – 21? 17 – 11 6 x 17 36 – 31 26 x 28 33 x 11 15 – 20 25 x 12 18 x 16 35 – 30 24 x 33 38 x 9 W+.

Lesson 6: Canon play

6.1 24 – 29! 33 x 24 20 x 29
1) 31 – 26 18 – 23! 43 – 38 17 – 21 26 x 17 29 – 33 38 x 18 13 x 31 with good chances to win.
2) 43 – 38 17 – 21! 31 – 26 29 – 33! (even better than 18 – 23 & 29 – 33) 38 x 29 19 – 23 26 x 17 23 x 43 35 – 30 18 – 23!! with good winning chances after 40 – 35 23 – 28 32 x 23 43 – 49 etc.
3) 43 – 38 17 – 21 35 – 30 19 – 23 31 – 26 14 – 19! 26 x 17 19 – 24 30 x 28 18 – 22 27 x 18 13 x 42 W+

6.2 A) 18 – 22 27 x 29 24 x 42
B) 18 – 22 27 x 29 19 – 23 29 x 18 24 – 30 35 x 24 20 x 49 (19 – 13 49 – 35 B+)
C) 23 – 29 33 – 28 29 – 33 28 – 23 18 x 29 39 x 28 29 – 34 40 x 29 24 x 22 B+
D) 22 – 27!

6.3 31 – 26! 22 x 31 36 x 27 threatening a coup Philippe with 27 – 22 etc. At 7 – 11 white can neglect the shot and play 33 – 28 with positional win. At 17 – 22 white plays 33 – 28! 22 x 44 27 – 22 18 x 27 32 x 21 16 x 27 43 – 39 44 x 33 38 x 29 W+

6.4 33 – 28 13 – 18 38 – 33 threatening 28 – 22 while 20 – 24 is met by 28 – 22 17 x 28 33 x 13 19 x 8 34 – 30 25 x 34 39 x 28 W+

6.5 38.50 – 45! At 11 – 17 or 12 – 17 white has 33 – 28. If white starts with 1.50 – 44? black would have the stick move 35 – 40. The only other move 38… 13 – 19 is punished by 39.32 – 28!! 23 x 21 (23 x 41 36 x 47 26 x 37 38 – 32 +) 40.37 – 32 26 x 28 41.33 x 15 W+.

6.6 8 – 12! Threatening 23 – 28 32 x 23 20 – 25 + while 32 – 27 is punished by 23 – 28 33 x 22 24 x 33 39 x 28 17 – 21 B+

6.7 29 – 23! 18 x 29 35 – 30 24 x 44 33 x 24 44 x 31 36 x 18 13 x 33 24 x 4 W+

6.8 31 – 26! 22 x 31 36 x 27 17 – 22 38 – 3! 22 x 31 32 – 28!! 23 x 41 26 x 46 followed by the 24 – 20 x 20 breakthrough.

6.9 45 – 40! followed by a double attack at piece 24.



Persian draughts players