

# CHESS MASTER'S STRATEGY



International Master  
Witalis Sapis

# Chess Master's Strategy

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Sawit 2020

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Cover Design: Julia Sapis

Composition and Breaking: Przemysław Jahr

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Contact: [witaliss@wp.pl](mailto:witaliss@wp.pl)

*I'm the one to do you good,  
Out of sleep, out of food  
Only thinking nights and days,  
How to make the best chess aids...\**

*\* in the original version,  
the fox thought about helping animals....*

*Jan Wiktor Lesman (Jan Brzechwa)  
"The Mischiefs of Vitalis the Fox"*



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# Introduction

## The Purpose

Every chess player needs to think strategically, look for different plans and skillfully evaluate their outcomes. The key to success in a game is often the ability to gradually improve one's position. Not surprisingly, such life-important qualities as strategic, critical, logical and analytical thinking, problem solving, anticipation and rational decision-making, concentration, patience and memory, can be naturally improved by playing chess regularly, which we strongly encourage.

In chess, there are a number of strategic principles, the application of which can help to choose correct moves and plans, especially at key moments of the game. All in all, they can help to achieve success. Such principles are often universal and are not necessarily related to a particular position. This means that understanding them can be beneficial for a player during all stages of the game, regardless of the choice of the opening.

Strategy does not replace tactics, but is their perfect companion. One could even say that strategy prepares tactics to appear. A lot of chess players are excellent at spotting tactical solutions, but only in other people's games. This is because in their own games, they are unable to reach positions in which such solutions would be possible. It is often said that there is no point looking for tactical shots in positions that can easily be considered as bad, because they violate the basic principles of strategy. Similarly, in positions based on strong strategic foundations, there is almost always a strong move to be found.

The purpose of this book is to acquaint readers with basic principles of chess strategy and to show them the benefits of their application, based on carefully selected examples.

## Examples

I have used my own games because doing so has two major advantages: first of all, it is easier to recreate one's thinking process, and secondly, the material in the book is undoubtedly original.

I have decided to provide the readers with the complete game scores in order for them not to have to refer to other sources when looking for the continuation of a given game. The analysis of a game starts with the moves printed in bold.

If the same game has been used to present several examples, its complete game score can be found after the last of them. Such game scores also include references to particular concepts presented in the book, indicated by the keyword in parentheses.

Examples taken from the same game are additionally numbered. For example, (1/3) means that this is the first out of three examples from a particular game. The numbering of examples reflects the order in which the positions actually occurred in the game.

Sometimes the same example has been used to illustrate different motifs. In such cases, it was the subjective choice of the author to decide where in the book a particular example should be included.

In all parts of the book (except exercises), the games are presented in chronological order.

## Exercises

A part of the book is written in the form of a test, which can show us how good we are at solving strategic problems.

The exercises should be solved in the order given, because some of them may refer to the same game and we would be at risk of prematurely finding out the answers to previous questions.

# A Practical Guide

A few practical guidelines can facilitate the decision-making process, but without doubt they only present a certain problem in simple terms. Chess, however, is a highly complicated game and each general rule contains a lot of exceptions. It is our task to spot the moment in which one of these exceptions occurs.

## Look for weaknesses!

When driving, drivers use traffic signs as a form of guidance. For chess players, such traffic signs are weaknesses.

Squares in the centre and in one's own camp, which are not defended by pawns, can easily become weak. Avoid exchanging pieces which defend these squares. If your opponent has a weakened complex of squares of a given colour, try to exchange the Bishops that control these squares.

Isolated pawns or especially doubled isolated pawns become a long-term target for enemy pieces. The square in front of an isolated pawn is often weak and can become a perfect outpost for the opponent's piece. Do not weaken the pawn structure unless doing so will bring you tangible benefits. Remember that pawns do not move backwards!

Pawns can also be potential tactical weaknesses, especially when the difference between the number of attackers and defenders of a given target is equal to or greater than zero. In such case, each additional and unexpected attack of the opponent, especially double attack, may result in our material losses.

Pieces can also be tactical as pieces are easier to move around than pawns, they are considered to be more strategic than tactical weaknesses. More often they are considered to be strategic weaknesses when their activity is limited by our own or our opponent's pawns. Do not let that happen!

**You should consider your moves in the following order:**

- a) forcing moves
  - a1) checks
  - a2) captures
  - a3) attacking weaknesses
- b) non-forcing moves

When you have a space disadvantage, try to exchange pieces. This will increase your chances of finding a good spot for each of your chessmen.

When you have a space advantage, try not to exchange pieces.

Play on the side of the board where you have a space advantage.

If you have a lead in development, open up the position. The enemy King can easily find himself in trouble. The opening of a position is also good when you have the Bishops and your opponent has the Knights.

When you are the side with the Bishops, try to establish an asymmetrical pawn structure.

Do not leave your King without any defending pieces. Also, make sure that the King has an escape square, where he could take refuge in case of a check along the back rank.

# Chapter 1

## Weakening the Opponent's Position

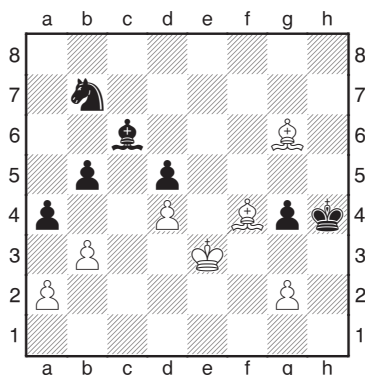
### 1.1. Restricting the Opponent's Pieces

The strength of pieces varies depending on the position. Pieces that cannot spread their wings are naturally weaker than those that can. Hence, we must strive to cut the wings of our opponent's army.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Kozieł Ryszard  
 Częstochowa 1980

□ Rudenko Jerzy  
 ■ Sapis Witalis  
 Częstochowa 1980

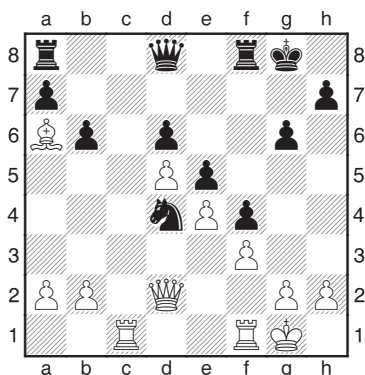
# 1.1



White to move

By playing **1.g3+ Kh3 2.Bc7**, White restrains the Knight on b7 and the play continues as if White were a piece up.

# 1.2

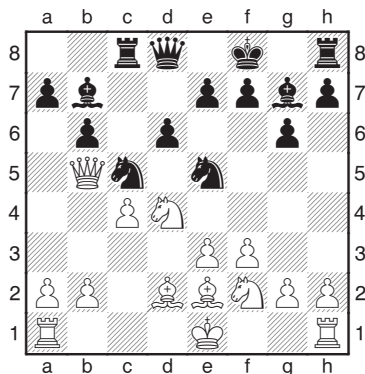


Black to move

With **1...b5**, Black cuts off the f1-a6 diagonal for the Bishop and due to the threat of **2...Qb6**, the Bishop drops.

□ Włodarski  
 ■ Sapis Witalis  
 Częstochowa 1981

# 1.3

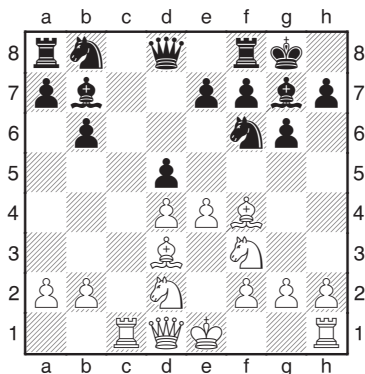


Black to move

By playing **1...a5**, Black restricts the possibility of White's Queen retreat from her too active position. In order not to lose Her Majesty, White has to give up material.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Ostrowski Leszek  
 Cracow 1985

# 1.4

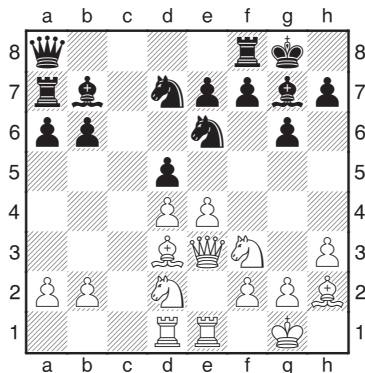


White to move

The move **1.e5** closes both of Black's Bishops and drives the f6-Knight away from the defence of the kingside, which immediately allows White to start the attack on that part of the board.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Sendera Jarosław  
 Szczecin 1986

# 1.5

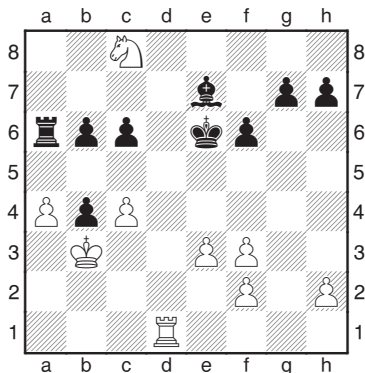


White to move

After **1.e5**, the white pawns on d4 and e5 restrict the activity of the g7-Bishop, while the black pawn on d5 restrains the Bishop on b7. Controlling the c-file will not matter at all, as all important squares on this file are controlled by White's pawns and pieces. In general, Black cannot defend himself against the attack on the kingside, as he has too little space and not enough pieces in this area of the board. The plan of f4-f5 and a possible g2-g4 if Black puts a pawn on e6 is practically indefensible.

□ Ferenc Józef  
 ■ Sapis Witalis  
 Słupsk 1991

# 1.6

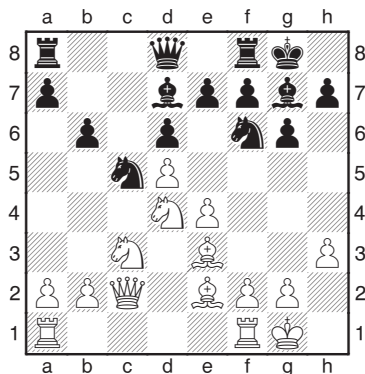


Black to move

With **1...Bc5**, we restrain White's Knight. Although it cannot be won immediately, White will always have to protect it with his Rook, whose other activity will be considerably reduced.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Gozdecki (1/2)  
 Łęborg 1991

# 1.7

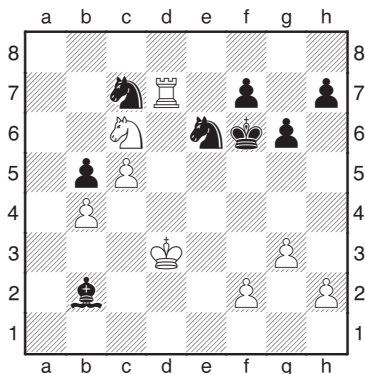


White to move

With **1.b4**, we kick the active Knight back to the horrible b7 square.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Zapolskis Atanas  
 Legnica 1992

# 1.8



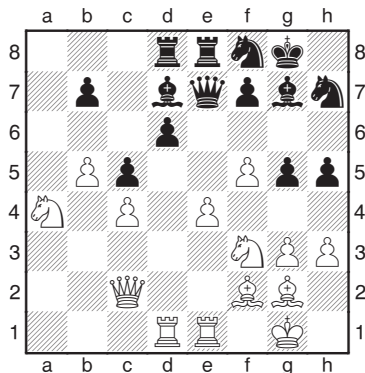
White to move

By playing **1.Kc2 Ba1 2.Rd1 Be5 3.f4**, we win the Bishop, which turns out to have had too little space to manouever. Another possibility was 1 ... Ba3 2.Kb3 Bc1 3.Nd4 Nxd4 4.Rxd4 Ke7 5.f4 Ne6 6.Re4 f5 7.Re1 Bd2 8.Re2 Bc1 9.Kc3 with 10.Re1 to follow.



□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Jaracz Paweł (5/5)  
 Soczewka 1992

# 1.9

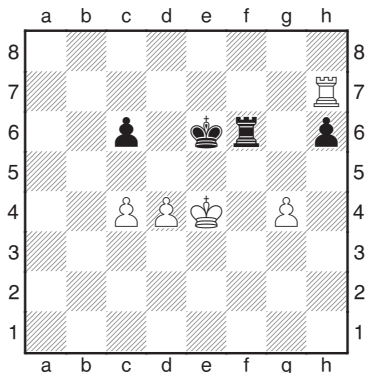


White to move

After **1.Nb6**, the black pieces are so cramped that with a full board of pieces there is a risk of winning the Queen by Nb6-d5.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Daurelle Herve  
 Legnica 1993

# 1.10

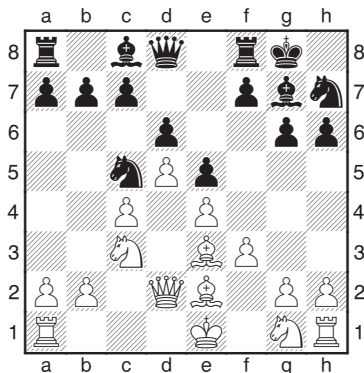


White to move

The move **1.Rg7** puts the opponent in zugzwang and they must give up one of his pawns. If the Rook retreats, we pick up the h6-pawn, while after 1...Kd6 2.c5+ Ke6 3.Rc7, we pick up the pawn on c6.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Borkowski Franciszek (1/3)  
 Legnica 1993

# 1.11

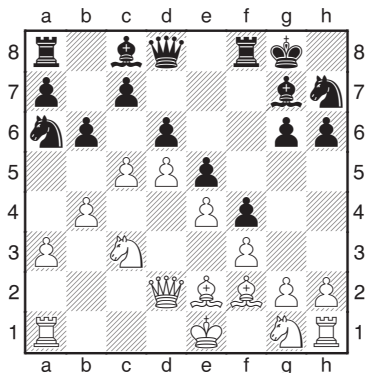


White to move

With the move **1.b4**, we force the Knight away from its active position. After **1...Na6** **2.a3**, the Knight will be out of play for a long time.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Borkowski Franciszek (2/3)  
 Legnica 1993

# 1.12

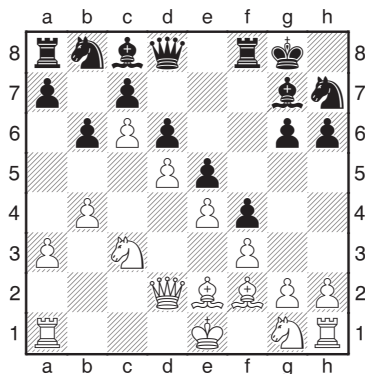


White to move

After **1.cxd6**, we would open the c-file, which would naturally be beneficial for us. However, by playing **1.c6**, we achieve much more, because we practically exclude the Rook, the Knight and the Bishop from the game.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Borkowski Franciszek (3/3)  
 Legnica 1993

# 1.13

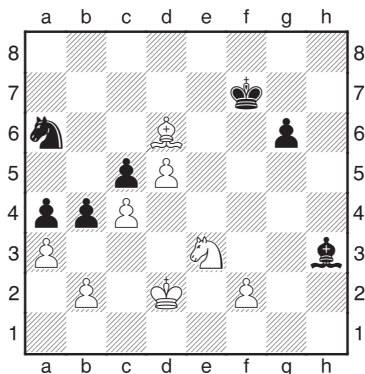


White to move

By playing **1.a4**, we plan a4-a5-a6 and b4-b5 pawn pushes. After **1...a5 2.b5**, the queenside is closed and so are three Black's pieces.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Shishkin Vadim (5/5)  
 Jarosławiec 1995

# 1.14

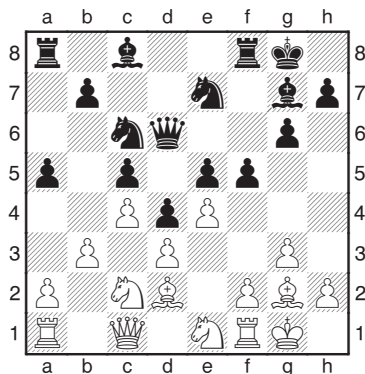


White to move

Black wants to drive the Bishop away from the d6-square to allow his own Knight to enter the game. Thus, we have to defend the d6-Bishop with the following sequence of moves: **1.Kd3 Ke8 2.Ke4 Kd7 3.Ke5**.

□ Nizialek Ryszard  
 ■ Sapis Witalis (1/5)  
 Legnica 1996

# 1.15

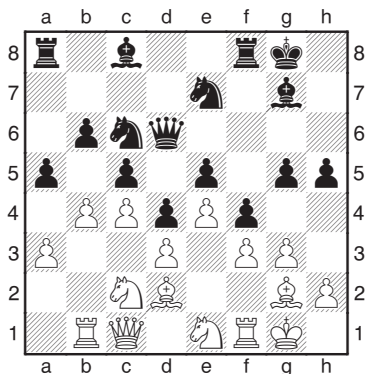


Black to move

With **1...f4**, we gain space on the kingside, close the c1-h6 diagonal for the Bishop and the Queen, as well as close the g2-Bishop and prevent f2-f4.

□ Nizialek Ryszard  
 ■ Sapis Witalis (2/5)  
 Legnica 1996

# 1.16

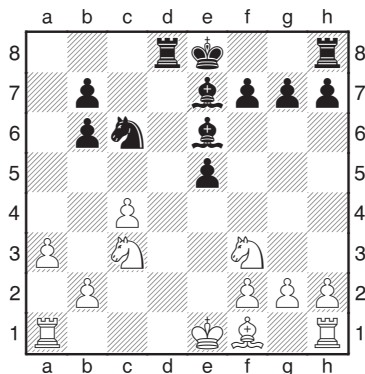


Black to move

After **1...a4**, almost all of White's minor pieces are out of play. Now, the Knights cannot escape either via a3 or b3.

□ Dębowskiak Marcin  
 ■ Sapis Witalis  
 Poraj 1998

# 1.17

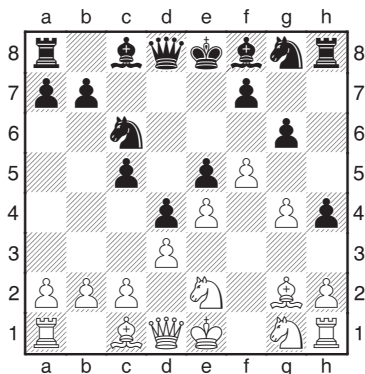


Black to move

Despite the doubled isolated b-pawns, the position is much better for Black, who has two Bishops, better-developed pieces and a stronger centre. With the move **1...f5**, we increase the control over the centre, prepare to chase the white Knight away from the f3-square in order to install our own Knight on either d4 or e5, and open the a1-h8 diagonal for the dark-squared Bishop.

□ Dymek Łukasz  
 ■ Sapis Witalis (1/8)  
 Międzybrodzie Żywieckie 2005

# 1.18

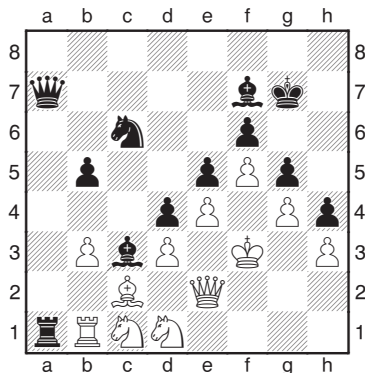


Black to move

By playing **1...g5**, we close the kingside and restrict the activity of practically all of White's minor pieces.

□ Dymek Łukasz  
 ■ Sapis Witalis (8/8)  
 Międzybrodzie Żywieckie 2005

# 1.19

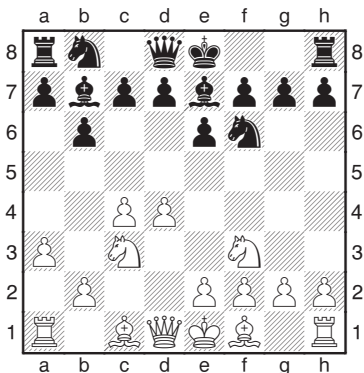


Black to move

With **1...Qa3**, we threaten to take the c1-Knight. Due to a space disadvantage, even the exchange on c3 will not help White.

□ Sapis Witalis  
 ■ Barwiński Dionizy (1/5)  
 Chotowa 2006

# 1.20



White to move

With **1.d5**, we blunt the b7-Bishop and claim some space in the centre. Developing the Bishop to b7 at the cost of two tempi (b7-b6 and Bc8-b7) turns out to be a waste of time.

### **Sapis Witalis – Koziel Ryszard [C03]**

Częstochowa (Poland) 1980

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Ngf3 Nf6 5.Bd3 c5 6.exd5 exd5 7.dxc5 0-0  
8.0-0 Bxc5 9.Nb3 Bb6 10.Nfd4 Nc6 11.c3 Nxd4 12.Nxd4 Bxd4 13.cxd4 h6  
14.Qb3 b6 15.Bf4 Be6 16.Rac1 Rc8 17.Rxc8 Bxc8 18.Re1 Re8 19.Rxe8+  
Qxe8 20.Be5 Qc6 21.Qc2 Qxc2 22.Bxc2 Nd7 23.Bd6 b5 24.b3 f6 25.Bg6 Nf8  
26.Bd3 Bd7 27.Bb8 a6 28.f3 Ne6 29.Ba7 Kf7 30.Kf2 Nf4 31.Bc2 g6 32.Bb8  
Ne6 33.Ke3 f5 34.Bd6 Nd8 35.h4 Ke6 36.Bf8 Nf7 37.Bd3 Kf6 38.Kd2 g5  
39.hxg5+ hxg5 40.Kc3 a5 41.Bc5 Nd8 42.Bb6 Nb7 43.Bc7 g4 44.fxg4 fxg4  
45.Kd2 Bc6 46.Ke3 Kg5 47.Bf4+ Kh4 48.Bg6 a4 **49.g3+ Kh3 50.Bc7 axb3**  
**51.axb3 b4 52.Kf4 Bb5 53.Bf5 Be2 54.Bc8 Ba6 55.Bxg4+ Kg2 56.Bf3+**  
**Kf2 57.Bxd5 Ke2 58.g4 Kd3 59.Ke5 Kc3 60.g5 Bd3 61.Bxb7 Kxb3**  
**62.Bd6 Kc3 63.Be4 Bc4 64.d5 b3 65.Ba3 b2 66.g6 Ba2 67.Bxb2+ Kxb2**  
**68.g7 Bxd5 69.Bxd5 1-0**

### **Rudenko Jerzy – Sapis Witalis [A31]**

Częstochowa (Poland) 1980

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 b6 5.Nc3 Bb7 6.Bf4 d6 7.Bg3 g6 8.f3  
Bg7 9.e4 0-0 10.Be2 Nh5 11.Bf2 Nf4 12.Bf1 Nc6 13.Nd5 Nxd4 14.Bxd4  
Bxd4 15.Qxd4 e5 16.Qd2 Ne6 17.Bd3 Bxd5 18.cxd5 Nd4 19.0-0 f5 20.Rac1  
f4 21.Ba6 **b5 22.Rfd1 Qb6 23.Qxd4 exd4 24.Rc6 Qa5 25.a3 Rab8 26.Rdc1**  
**Rb6 27.Bc8 Qd2 28.Be6+ Kh8 29.R6c2 Qe3+ 30.Kh1 d3 31.Rc8 Rxc8**  
**32.Rxc8+ Kg7 33.h4 Qe1+ 0-1**

### **Włodarski – Sapis Witalis [A31]**

Częstochowa (Poland) 1981

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 b6 5.Nc3 Bb7 6.Bf4 d6 7.Bd2 g6 8.f3  
Bg7 9.Qc2 Nbd7 10.e3 Ne5 11.Be2 Nfd7 12.Nd1 Rc8 13.Qb3 Nc5 14.Qb5+  
Kf8 15.Nf2 **a5 16.Bxa5 bxa5 17.b4 Ba6 18.Qxa5 Qxa5 19.bxa5 Bxc4**  
**20.Rb1 Bxe2 21.Kxe2 Nc4 22.Nc6 Bf6 23.Rhc1 Rxc6 24.Rxc4 Ra6 25.Rb5**  
**Kg7 26.Nd3 Nxd3 27.Kxd3 Rha8 28.Ra4 Rc8 29.Rb6 Ra7 30.a6 Rc3+**  
**31.Kd2 Rcc7 32.Kd3 d5 33.a3 e6 34.e4 dxe4+ 35.fxe4 Bd8 36.Rd6 Be7**  
**37.Rb6 Bc5 38.Rb5 Bg1 39.h3 Rc6 40.Rb1 Bh2 41.Rb7 Raxa6 42.Ra7**  
**Rd6+ 43.Ke2 Rac6 44.Rb7 Rc2+ 45.Ke3 Bg1+ 46.Kf4 Rf2+ 47.Ke5**  
**Bh2+ 48.g3 Bxg3# 0-1**

### **Sapis Witalis – Ostrowski Leszek [A48]**

Cracow (Poland) 1985

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 c5 3.c3 b6 4.Bf4 g6 5.Nbd2 Bg7 6.e4 cxd4 7.cxd4 0-0 8.Rc1 Bb7 9.Bd3 d5 **10.e5 Ne8 11.h4 Nc7 12.h5 Ne6 13.Be3 Nc6 14.hxg6 fxg6 15.Rc3 Nf4 16.Bxf4 Rxf4 17.Nb3 e6 18.Qc1 Rg4 19.Rxc6 Qf8 20.Rc7 Rxc2 21.Nbd2 Rc8 22.Bf1 Rg4 23.Bh3 Rxc7 24.Qxc7 Re4+ 25.Nxe4 Qxf3 26.Bxe6+ Kh8 27.Rxh7+ 1-0**

### **Sapis Witalis – Sendera Jarosław [A48]**

Szczecin (Poland) 1986

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bf4 Bg7 4.e3 d6 5.h3 0-0 6.Bc4 b6 7.0-0 Bb7 8.Nbd2 c5 9.c3 Nbd7 10.Bh2 a6 11.Qe2 Ra7 12.Bd3 Qa8 13.e4 Ne8 14.Rfel Nc7 15.Rad1 cxd4 16.cxd4 Ne6 17.Qe3 d5 **18.e5 Rc8 19.Nh4 Nd8 20.f4 f6 21.e6 Nf8 22.f5 Bc6 23.fxg6 hxg6 24.Nxg6 Bb5 25.Bf5 Nxg6 26.Bxg6 Rc6 27.Bf5 Qc8 28.Bf4 Ba4 29.Nb3 1-0**

### **Ferenc Józef – Sapis Witalis [D16]**

Słupsk (Poland) 1991

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.d4 d5 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 Bg4 6.e3 e5 7.dxe5 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Nfd7 9.Bxc4 Nxe5 10.Be2 Nxf3 11.gxf3 Be6 12.Kc2 Nd7 13.b3 Nc5 14.Bc4 Bxc4 15.bxc4 a5 16.Ne4 Na6 17.Bb2 Nb4+ 18.Kb3 f6 19.Rad1 Be7 20.Rhg1 Kf7 21.Bd4 Rhd8 22.Bb6 Rxd1 23.Rxd1 Ra6 24.Bc5 b6 25.Nd6+ Ke6 26.Bxb4 axb4 27.Nc8 **Bc5 28.Rd8 g5 29.Re8+ Kd7 30.Rh8 Kc7 31.Rg8 h5 32.h3 f5 33.e4 fxe4 34.fxe4 g4 35.hxg4 hxg4 36.e5 Ra8 37.Ne7 Rxg8 38.Nxg8 Bxf2 39.e6 g3 40.Nf6 g2 41.e7 g1Q 42.e8Q Qb1# 0-1**

### **Sapis Witalis – Zapolskis Atanas [D00]**

Legnica (Poland) 1992

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c6 3.e3 Qb6 4.b3 Bf5 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bd3 Bxd3 7.Qxd3 e6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.c4 a5 10.Nc3 Be7 11.c5 Qd8 12.a3 0-0 13.b4 b5 14.e4 dxe4 15.Nxe4 Nd5 16.Bd2 axb4 17.axb4 Qc7 18.Ra3 e5 19.Rfal Rxa3 20.Qxa3 exd4 21.Qa7 N7f6 22.Ng3 Qc8 23.Nxd4 Rd8 24.Ngf5 Bf8 25.Qa6 Qxa6 26.Rxa6 g6 27.Nd6 Bxd6 28.Nxc6 Bf4 29.Nxd8 Bxd2 30.Ra8 Nc7 31.Rc8 Nfe8 32.Nc6 Kf8 33.Rd8 Bc3 34.Rd3 Bb2 35.Kf1 Nf6 36.Rd8+ Kg7 37.Ke2 Nfd5 38.Rd7 Ne6 39.g3 Ndc7 40.Kd3 Kf6 **41.Kc2 Ba1 42.Rd1 Be5 43.f4 Bxf4 44.gxf4 Nxf4 45.Rd7 Nfd5 46.Kd3 g5 47.Kd4 Nf4 48.Nd8 Nce6+ 49.Nxe6 Kxe6 50.c6 1-0**



### **Sapis Witalis – Jaracz Pawel [E68] (5)**

Soczewka (Poland) 1992

1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.c4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.b3 Re8 9.Qc2 c6 10.Rd1 Qe7 11.e4 exd4 12.Nxd4 Nc5 13.f3 a5 14.Be3 Nfd7 15.Bf2 (*prophylaxis*) Ne5 16.h3 (*prophylaxis*) h5 17.f4 Ned7 18.Re1 Nf8 19.Rad1 Bd7 20.a3 Rad8 21.b4 axb4 22.axb4 Nce6 23.Nf3 (*exchange*) Nh7 24.Na4 (*improving*) c5 25.b5 g5 26.f5 Nef8 **27.Nb6 f6 28.Qd2 Qf7 29.Qd5 g4 30.hxg4 hxg4 31.Qxf7+ Kxf7 32.Nh2 Ke7 33.Nd5+ Kf7 34.Nc7 Bc8 35.Nxe8 Kxe8 36.Nxg4 Ke7 37.Ne3 Nd7 38.g4 Ne5 39.Bg3 Bh6 40.Nd5+ Kf7 41.Bxe5 fxe5 42.Kf2 Bd7 43.Rh1 Kg7 44.f6+ Nxf6 45.Nxf6 Rf8 46.Rxd6 1–0**

### **Sapis Witalis – Daurelle Herve [D32]**

Legnica (Poland) 1993

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 cxd4 5.Qa4+ Bd7 6.Qxd4 exd5 7.Qxd5 Nc6 8.Bg5 Nf6 9.Qd2 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Nd5 Qg6 12.Nc7+ Kd8 13.0-0-0 Kxc7 14.Qxd7+ Kb6 15.Qd3 Qxd3 16.exd3 Bc5 17.Nh3 Rhe8 18.g3 Rad8 19.Kb1 g5 20.Bg2 f5 21.a3 a5 22.Bxc6 bxc6 23.Rd2 Rd6 24.Kc2 a4 25.Rhd1 Bd4 26.Ng1 g4 27.Ne2 Bf6 28.Nc3 Ka5 29.Re2 Rb8 30.Rdel Bxc3 31.bxc3 Rb3 32.Re5+ Kb6 33.Rxf5 Rxa3 34.Rb1+ Kc7 35.d4 Ra2+ 36.Rb2 Ra1 37.Rf7+ Rd7 38.Rxd7+ Kxd7 39.Kd3 Rh1 40.Rb4 a3 41.Ra4 Rxh2 42.Ke3 Rh1 43.Rxa3 Rc1 44.Kf4 Rc2 45.Kxg4 Rxf2 46.Ra7+ Kd6 47.Rh7 Rh2 48.c4 Ke6 49.Kf4 Rh1 50.g4 Rf1+ 51.Ke4 Rf6 **52.Rg7 Rf1 53.Rg6+ Kd7 54.Rxh6 Re1+ 55.Kd3 Rd1+ 56.Kc3 Rf1 57.Rg6 Rf4 58.Kd3 Rf1 59.c5 Rd1+ 60.Ke4 Re1+ 61.Kf5 1–0**

### **Sapis Witalis – Borkowski Franciszek [E73] (3)**

Legnica (Poland) 1993

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 Na6 7.Qd2 e5 8.d5 Nc5 9.f3 h6 10.Be3 Nh7 11.b4 Na6 12.a3 f5 13.c5 f4 14.Bf2 b6 15.c6 Nb8 **16.a4 a5 17.b5 Bf6 18.Bc4 Bg5 19.0-0-0 Kg7 20.Kc2 Qe7 21.Nge2 h5 22.h4 Bh6 23.Rdg1 Rf6 24.Be1 Qf8 25.Qc1 Kh8 26.Bd2 Bg7 27.Nd1 Rf7 28.Nf2 Qe7 29.g3 Qf8 30.gxf4 exf4 31.Rxg6 Nf6 32.Nd3 Bh6 33.Rhg1 Kh7 34.Bxf4 Bxf4 35.Qxf4 Nxe4 36.Rh6+ 1–0**

### Sapis Witalis – Shishkin Vadim [E74] (5)

Jarosławiec (Poland) 1995

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Bg5 (*disappearing*) h6  
7.Be3 c5 8.d5 e6 9.h3 exd5 10.exd5 Bf5 11.g4 Bd7 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.g5  
(*opening*) Ng8 14.gxh6 Nxh6 15.h4 (*opening*) Nf5 16.h5 Kg8 17.hxg6 fxg6  
18.Bg5 Qe8 19.0-0-0 a6 20.Re1 b5 21.Nh3 b4 22.Nd1 Qf7 23.Bd3 a5 24.Nf4  
(*outpost*) Na6 25.Ne6 Rfe8 26.Nxg7 Kxg7 27.Qf4 Rxe1 28.Rxe1 Re8 29.Rh1  
Rh8 30.Rxh8 Kxh8 31.Bxf5 Qxf5 32.Qxf5 Bxf5 33.Be7 a4 34.Ne3 Be4  
35.Bxd6 Kg7 36.a3 Kf7 37.Ng4 Bg2 38.Kd2 Bf1 39.Ne3 Bh3 **40.Kd3 Ke8**  
**41.Ke4 Kd7 42.Ke5 b3 43.Nd1 Bf1 44.Nc3 Bxc4 45.Nxa4 Bb5 46.Nxc5+**  
**Nxc5 47.Bxc5 Bc4 48.Kd4 Be2 49.Kc3 Bf3 50.Kc4 g5 51.a4 g4 52.Be3**  
**Kc7 53.Kc5 Kd7 54.Bf4 Be2 55.Kb4 Bf3 56.Kc4 Bg2 57.d6 Kc6 58.Kxb3**  
**1-0**

### Dębowiak Marcin – Sapis Witalis [B01]

Poraj (Poland) 1998

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 Nxd5 4.c4 Nb6 5.Nc3 e5 6.d5 Bb4 7.Bd2 c6 8.dxc6  
Nxc6 9.a3 Be7 10.Be3 Be6 11.Qxd8+ Rxd8 12.Bxb6 axb6 13.Nf3 **f5 14.Be2**  
**e4 15.Nd2 Nd4 16.0-0-0 Bg5 17.h4 Bh6 0-1**

### Dymek Łukasz – Sapis Witalis [B23] (8)

Międzybrodzie Żywieckie (Poland) 2005

1.e4 d5 2.Nc3 d4 3.Nce2 e5 4.d3 c5 5.g3 Nc6 6.Bg2 h5 7.f4 h4 8.f5 g6 9.g4  
g5 (*restricting*) 10.a4 f6 11.b3 a6 12.Nh3 Bd7 13.0-0 Nh6 14.Bf3 Nf7  
15.Bd2 b5 16.axb5 axb5 17.Rxa8 Qxa8 18.Qa1 Qb7 19.Qa2 Be7 20.Ra1 0-0  
21.Nf2 Rb8 22.Nd1 Be8 (*improving*) 23.Kf2 Nd6 24.Nb2 Bf7 25.Nc1 Kg7  
(*improving*) 26.h3 Qc7 27.Be1 Rb7 28.Qa8 Nc8 29.Qa2 Nd6 30.c4 dxc3  
31.Bxc3 Nd4 (*outpost*) 32.Bxd4 cxd4 33.Nd1 Nc8 (*improving*) 34.Rb1 Ra7  
35.Qd2 Bb4 36.Qb2 Ra3 37.Be2 Qc5 38.Kf3 Ne7 (*improving*) 39.Nf2 Nc6  
40.Bd1 Bc3 (*outpost*) 41.Qe2 Qa7 42.Bc2 Ra1 43.Nd1 **Qa3 44.Nxc3 dxc3**  
**45.Qd1 Nd4+ 0-1**

## Afterword

*“As Vitalis in his burrow sat  
Of his forehead rubbed some sweat.  
– Doesn’t seem to be that great!  
Once or twice his tail he spun,  
And then sadly said: – It’s done!”*

*Jan Wiktor Lesman (Jan Brzechwa)  
“The Mischiefs of Vitalis the Fox”*

“For several years I have been working at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, USA, where I am involved in training students and children, from beginners up to grandmasters. Long have I been searching for a book that I'd be able to recommend to many of them, a book familiarizing them with basic strategic rules. At last, I've found a valuable item that I am going to use on a regular basis. I hope the book will be translated into English as well. Witalis's book is easily readable and clear. Examples from his own practice have been selected scrupulously. Moreover, they demonstrate discussed issues well. I like the set of puzzles that is not hard to solve if you have read through the theoretical section with caution. It is important that the games of chess are quoted to the end, which allows Readers a deeper understanding of the material and to have a full insight into how to realize an achieved advantage.”

**Bartłomiej Macieja - An Olympian, the European Champion,  
twice the Polish Champion**

“Why in 2019? If only I had got hold of this book 15 years ago... + A brilliant manual for chess coaches! + I bought this book for my brother, but I decided to browse it myself. To my surprise, this book has changed my views in several respects. Above all, the author has created separate categories and chapters for different strategical concepts – an excellent idea! The chapters are as follows: a) Weakening the Opponent's Position b) Improving Your Own Position c) Prophylaxis d) Exchanging Pieces. When I was getting acquainted with the material presented in the book, I decided to look at it from the viewpoint of my last tournament, i.e. Senior League Division 1. And there came the surprise! A lot of examples from the book were very similar to my games! Had I perhaps bought the book before the tournament, I would not have allowed my Queen to get trapped, as in the game against FM Karol Rawicz. What is more, the moves I considered to be quite natural to play turned out to perfectly go with the topics from the book. All in all, as a player with the rating of 2349 I can wholeheartedly admit that I have learnt something from this book! In my opinion, this is by far one of the best books by a Polish author that has ever been written”.

**Kamil Plichta - FIDE Master, Chessable Author**