

MODERN COFFEEHOUSE ATTACK

Viktor Moskalenko on the Stonewall with 5...Be7 and 6...Ne4

Dutch Stonewall A92: 1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.Nf3 Be7 5.0-0 d5 6.c4 Ne4!?



In recent years (2014-2020), the highly creative GM Richard Rapport from Hungary as well his wife, WGM Jovana Rapport, have successfully implemented a very interesting dynamic line in the Stonewall system. Instead of the traditional ...Bd6, Black develops his bishop on e7 and the king's knight on e4, delaying the quick castling (see the above diagram). Then, on the seventh move, Black tries to place his second knight on c6. And on move 8 he already starts with an attack on the kingside, ...h5-h4!

This system has rarely been played and does not have an official name. However, some of the concepts of this modern attacking idea have already been covered in the new book by GM Nikola Sedlak, "Playing the Stonewall Dutch", as well as in my video on the "Stonewall System", Unichess 2020.

As we will see, the variation leads to extremely sharp and rich positions in many lines. But a lot depends on White's next moves, in particular his 7th:

Games 1 and 2: 7.b3 Nc6!

Game 3: 7.Nbd2 Nc6!

Game 4: 7.Nc3 c6!?

Game 5: 7.Qc2 Nc6/0-0/Nbd7

Game 1: 7.b3 Nc6! 8.Bb2 8...h5! 9.Nc3 h4!



The introduction that helps to understand how the key idea works in practice (also featuring some recent online games by the author, Nemo101).

Game 2: 7.b3 Nc6! 8.Bb2 h5! 9.Nbd2 h4!

This instructive game Ehlvest, J - Rapport, R 0-1 confirms that White's slow reaction with b3/Bb2 does not ensure an easy life for him. Welcome to the masterclass of GM Rapport's modern attack!

Game 3: 7.Nbd2 Nc6!

It is obvious that White's harmless play allows his opponent to develop the main attacking idea almost automatically: Stella, A - Rapport, R 0-1.

Game 4: 7.Nc3! c6!?

Actually, developing the knight to c3 is the most effective method of dealing with a flank attack. Black just doesn't have time. Now, in case of 7...Nc6?! 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Qb3!?, the black pawn on d5 becomes a clear target...

Perhaps the astonished reader might reasonably ask "so, what the hell is Black supposed to do!?" Rapport played 10...h5!?, after all!

You will find the complete article on the DVD!