

**Matthew Wadsworth – Agustin Pernas [B07]**  
 WYCC U–12 (Round 11), 18.11.2012  
 Greet, Andrew

**1.e4 d6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 e5 4.dxe5**

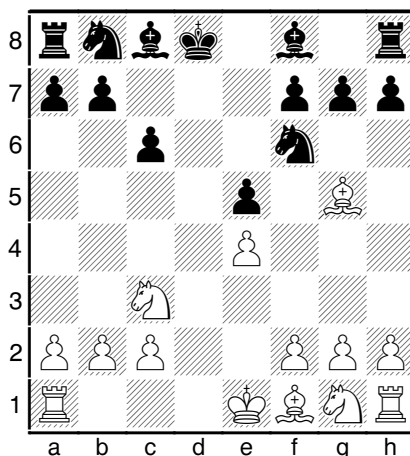
Rumour has it that Matthew's opening preparation may have been influenced by the recommendation given in *Beating Unusual Chess Defences – 1 e4*, which was authored by an anonymous coach in the group and is, by the way, available in all good bookshops.

**4...dxe5 5.♙xd8+ ♔xd8**

Black's misplaced king is an important theme in this variation. White can hardly play for a direct attack after the early queen exchange, but Black may still experience difficulties in bringing his rooks into play.

**6.♕g5 c6**

This move immediately emphasises one of the drawbacks of White's position: the misplaced knight on c3. 6...♖e6 is the other main line.



**7.0–0–0+ ♔e8 8.♗f3**

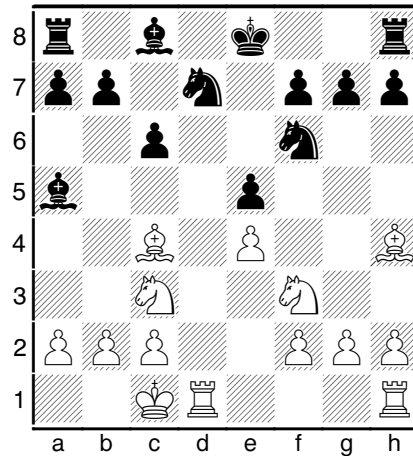
White does not hurry to exchange on f6, as the damage to Black's pawn structure would be compensated by the bishop pair and the extra support to the e5-pawn. Instead White hurries to create piece pressure.

**8...♗bd7 9.♕h4!**

This move takes the sting out of a possible ...♗g4. It also prepares the attacking ideas of ♕g3 and ♗g5 (combined with ♕c4).

**9...♕b4 10.♕c4 ♕a5**

A typical manoeuvre - the bishop is heading for c7 where it bolsters the e5-pawn and covers d6.



### 11. ♖xf6!?

The usual continuation has been 11.a3, a useful move which prepares an escape square on a2 for the bishop. Then after 11...h6 12. ♖xf6! gxf6 13. ♗e2! White obtained an excellent position in Khenkin - Bellini, Bratto 2004. Matthew goes for something similar, albeit without the useless ...h6 move having been played for Black.

### 11...gxf6 12.a3

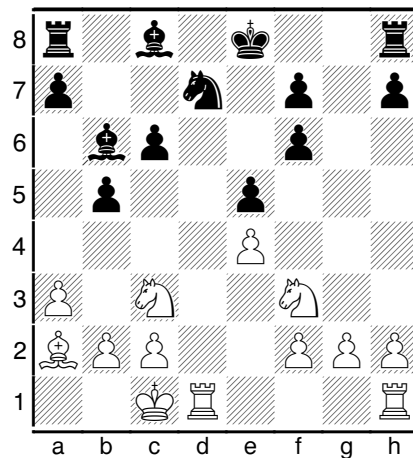
If White tries 12. ♗e2 here, then 12...b5 13. ♖b3 ♗c5 14. ♗g3 ♖c7 followed by ...a5 shows the importance of White's a2-a3 move.

### 12...b5

Black should have gone for 12... ♖xc3 13.bxc3 ♗c5 with decent chances in the position with mutual pawn weaknesses.

### 13. ♖a2 ♖b6?

Sometimes one mistake is all it takes to slip from a decent position into a dreadful one.



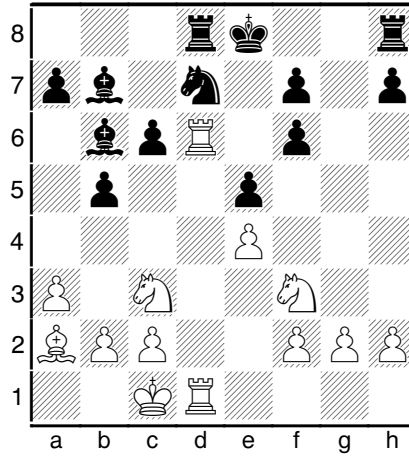
### 14. ♖d6!

Matthew immediately capitalises on his opponent's error. It soon becomes clear that Pernas has no way to defend his pawns.

**14...♔b7**

14...♔xf2 15.♖xc6 leaves Black facing the ruinous threats of ♜xb5 and ♜d5.

**15.♖hd1 ♖d8**



**16.♔xf7+!**

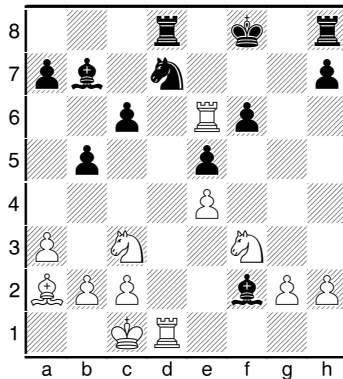
This tactical trick occurs surprisingly often in the queenless Philidor with the black king on e8.

**16...♔e7**

After 16...♔xf7?? Black not only loses a pawn, but also the bishop on b7.

**17.♔e6**

Simplifying to an endgame. Possibly even stronger is: 17.♔a2! ♔xf2 (otherwise ♜h4 will be horrific for Black) 18.♖e6+ ♔f8

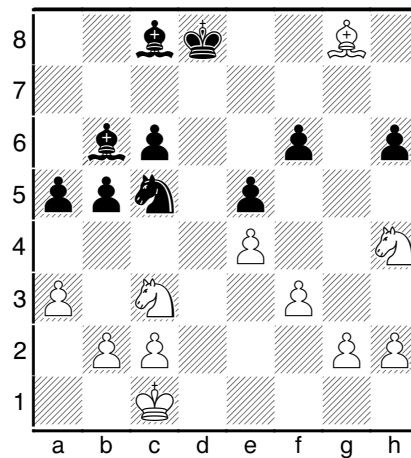


19.♖xf6+! ♜xf6 20.♖xd8+ ♔g7 21.♖xh8 ♔xh8 22.♜xe5 with a two-pawn advantage, although perhaps Matthew was concerned about opening the position for his opponent's bishop pair.

**17...♜c5 18.♖xd8 ♖xd8 19.♖xd8 ♔xd8 20.♔g8**

20.♔f5 places the bishop on a better square.

20...h6 21.♘h4 ♕c8 22.f3 a5



23.♕h7!

Correcting the minor error on move 20.

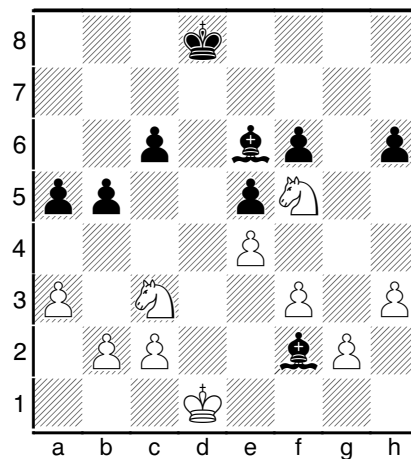
23...♘e6 24.♕f5 ♕e3+

This check hardly helps Black, although White should eventually win either way.

25.♖d1 ♕g1 26.♕xe6 ♕xe6 27.h3

One must always be cautious about giving the opponent two bishops against two knights, but here the position is sufficiently blocked for it not to be a major problem.

27...♕f2 28.♘f5



28...♕xf5?

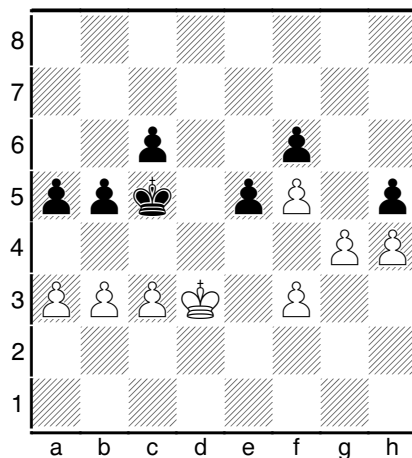
Now White's task is pretty straightforward, as he can advance on the light squares. After 28...h5 White's extra pawn would make him the favourite to win the game eventually, but a long technical task would lie ahead.

**29.exf5 ♖d4 30.♔d2 ♕e7 31.b3 ♗xc3+**

The king and pawn ending is an easy win, but I suppose Black preferred this over the humiliating prospect of being paralysed by a knight on e4.

**32.♔xc3 ♕d6 33.♔d3 ♕d5 34.c3 h5 35.h4 ♔c5 36.g4**

Black could have resigned here (or several moves ago). The rest can pass without comment.



**36...♕d6 37.c4 hxg4 38.fxg4 bxc4+ 39.♔xc4 c5 40.h5 ♕e7 41.♔xc5 ♕f8 42.b4 e4 43.♔d4 e3 44.♔xe3 axb4 45.axb4 ♕g7 46.b5 ♕h6 47.b6 ♕g5 48.b7 ♕h6 49.b8♖ ♕g5 50.♖f4+ ♕h4 51.♔f2**

**1-0**

Congratulations to Matthew. Medal or no medal, 8.5/11 is a tremendous achievement at this level of competition.