

(The annotations to this game, by V. V. Smyslov, are from his autobiographical work *Izbrannye partii* (published by Fizkultura i Sport in 1952). The translation from the original Russian is by Douglas Griffin.)

Bondarevsky – Smyslov

7th round, Chigorin Memorial Tournament, Moscow, 6th December 1947

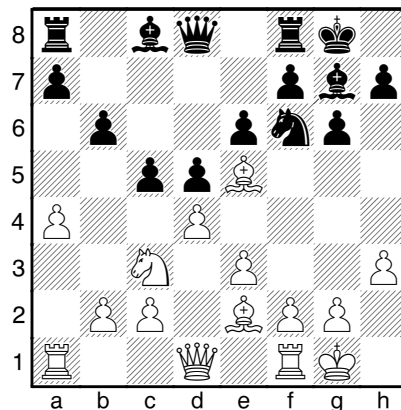
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.h3

Such a treatment of the opening is evidently explained by White's aiming at piece play. A little later this position was repeated in the game Bondarevsky-Boleslavsky; on that occasion there followed 5.h3 Ne4 6.e3 Nxc3 7.bxc3 c5, and Black equalised the chances without difficulty.

5...0-0 6.e3 c5 7.Be2 Nbd7 8.Ne5

Aiming to occupy the centre with pieces, whereas Black reckons on obtaining an initiative on the queen's flank.

8...e6 9.0-0 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 b6 11.a4!



Black has constructed a solid position. The rapid march of the a-pawn has the aim of loosening Black's foundations on the queen's wing.

11...Bb7 12.a5 Bc6

Intending 13...Qd7, after which Black's queen's flank will be sufficiently consolidated.

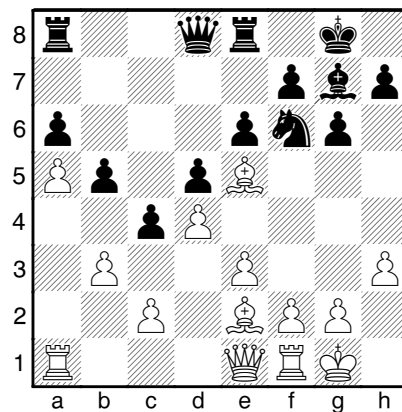
13.Na4

On 13.Nb5 Black had in reserve a good reply – 13...Ne4. In this case White's attempt to organise an invasion on the a-file does not bring success. For instance, 14.Bh2 Qd7 15.Nc7 Rab8 16.axb6 axb6 17.Ra7 Ra8! 18.Qa1 Rxa7 19.Qxa7 cxd4, and Black obtains counter-play in the centre.

13...c4 14.Qe1

Threatening to increase the pressure after 15.Qb4. Black neutralises this threat, freeing the square f8 for his bishop.

14...Re8 15.b3 Bxa4 16.Rxa4 b5 17.Ra1 a6

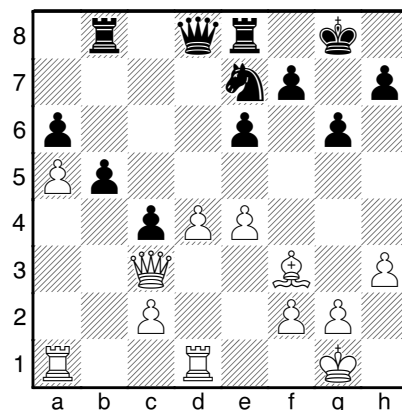


Now the queen's flank is safely consolidated. The position has taken on such a closed character that the presence of two bishops for White does not have serious significance.

18.bxc4

A committing decision. Bondarevsky presents Black with a pawn majority on the queen's flank, counting on his prospects in the centre. Leading to quieter play was the continuation 18.b4 Ne4 19.Bxg7 (but not 19.Bh2 in view of 19...c3 20.Qc1 Qe7 21.Qa3 Bf8) 19...Kxg7. After the move in the text the struggle becomes much sharper and ultimately leads to Black's advantage.

18...dxc4 19.Bf3 Nd5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.e4 Ne7 22.Qc3 Kg8 23.Rfd1 Rb8



24.h4

White hopes to prepare a break in the centre, combining it with mating threats to the black king. The immediate 24.d5 did not promise any advantage. After 24...exd5 25.exd5 Nf5 the knight transfers to d6, blockading the passed pawn. Interesting complications arose after 24.d5 exd5 25.Qf6! Nc8!. Now 26.Qxa6 is impossible in view of 26...Re6, while the continuation 26.Qc6 Re6 27.Qxd5 Qe7 28.Qd7 Qxd7 29.Rxd7 Ne7 leads to an endgame that is favourable for Black.

Black's chances naturally lie in his pawn majority on the queen's flank. It is precisely on this wing that he begins a counter-attack, considering it to be the best reply to White's aggressive plans. His next move concludes the preparation for decisive action.

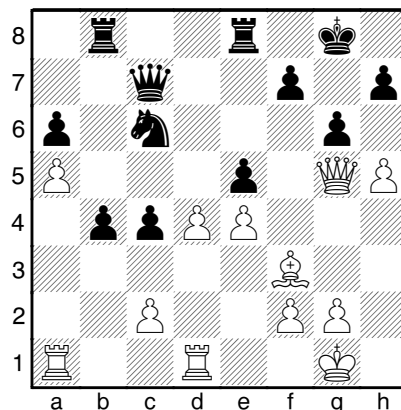
24...Qc7 25.h5

Here too 25.d5 is repulsed with 25...exd5 26.exd5 Nf5 27.h5 b4 28.Qf6 Qd6.

25...b4 26.Qe3 e5!

The initiative belongs to Black. Now his efforts are directed at limiting the mobility of the bishop. This idea is displayed in sharp relief in the variation 27.d5 Nc8 28.Qg5 Nd6 29.h6 Qe7, in which Black has a clear advantage.

27.Qg5 Nc6!



The knight enters the game with great force. It is clear that White's diversion on the king's flank has not achieved its aim. This is seen from the following variations:

- 1) 28.d5 Nd4 29.Qf6 Qd8 30.Qxa6 Qg5 31.Kf1 Nxc2 32.Rac1 Na3, retaining the passed pawns.
- 2) 28.h6 Qd8 29.Qxd8 Rxd8 30.dxe5 c3!, when the threat of 31...Nd4 remains in force. If now 31.Be2, then 31...Nd4 32.Bd3 b3 33.cxb3 Nxb3 34.Rab1 Rxd3 35.Rxd3 c2, while in the case of 31.Rd6 there follows 31...Nxe5 32.Rxa6 b3 33.cxb3 Nxf3+ 34.gxf3 c2 and 35...Rd1+. Finally, on 31.Kf1 there follows 31...Rxd1+ 32.Rxd1 (32.Bxd1 Rb5) 32...b3 33.cxb3 c2 34.Rc1 Nd4 followed by 35...Rxb3.

3) Also bad is 28.Qf6 Re6.

The exchanges which White now carry out in the game signify the collapse of his aggressive intensions.

28.dxe5 Qxe5 29.Qxe5 Rxe5 30.h6

Creating the threat of mate on the back rank. Other continuations are hardly better. For instance, 30.Rd6 Rxa5 31.Rxa5 Nxa5 32.Rxa6 b3 33.cxb3 cxb3, and the passed pawn costs White a piece. White is also promised little joy by the position after 30.Rd5 Rxd5 31.exd5 Nd4 32.Bd1 c3; or 30.Be2 Nxa5 31.Rd5 Rxd5 32.exd5 Rb5 33.d6 Kf8.

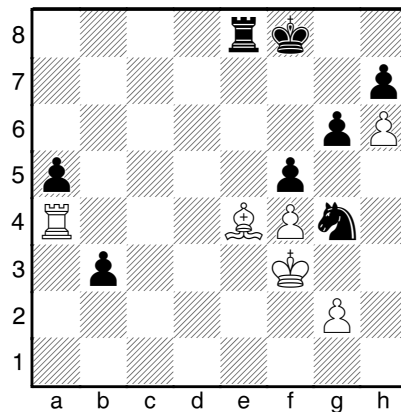
30...Rxa5 31.Rxa5 Nxa5 32.e5 b3

Realising his majority on the queen's flank. Black's strategic idea reaches its conclusion. Now his offensive develops unhindered.

33.cxb3 cxb3 34.Be4 Nc4 35.Kf1 a5 36.Ke2 Kf8

Removing the king from the possible mating net. The further struggle was of a 'time-trouble' character.

37.Rd4 Nxe5 38.f4 Ng4 39.Ra4 Re8 40.Kf3 f5



White resigned.