

(The annotations to this game, by V. V. Smyslov, are from his autobiographical work *V poiskakh garmonii* (Fizkultura i Sport, 1979). The translation from the original Russian is by Douglas Griffin.)

Botvinnik ('Trud') – Smyslov ('Burevestnik')

Board 1, 4th round, Team Championship of the Moscow City Council of Trades Unions, Moscow,
12th May 1965

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4

The first time this interesting system of development was encountered in my practice was against Ólafsson (Candidates' Tournament, 1959). As subsequent practice showed, Black has a perfectly acceptable game.

4.Bg2 0–0 5.d3 Nc6 6.Bd2 Re8 7.e4 Nd4

Perhaps the most logical of all here is 7...Bc5, establishing control over the d4–square. In this case on 8.a3 it was possible to reply 8...a5.

8.a3 Bc5

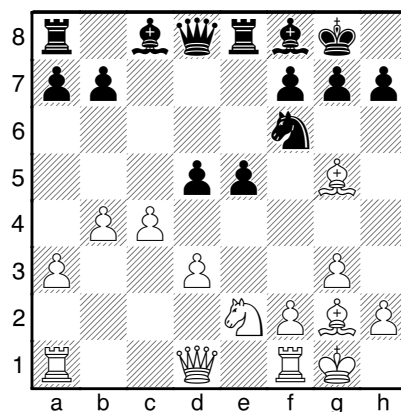
A manoeuvre drawing 'fire upon himself'.

9.b4 Bf8 10.Nge2 Nxe2 11.Nxe2

On 11.Qxe2 there could have followed 11...g6 12.0–0 Bg7. If then 13.f4, then 13...exf4 14.Bxf4 d5! 15.cxd5 Nxd5, and Black obtains a free game.

11...c6 12.0–0 d5 13.exd5 cxd5 14.Bg5

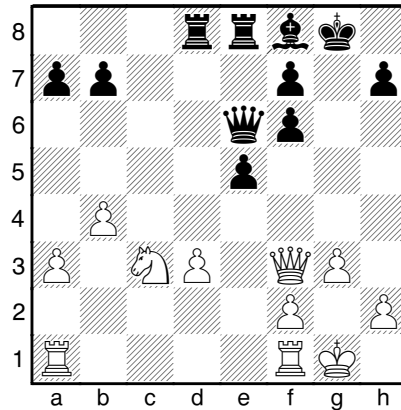
At first sight the pin on the knight seems unpleasant. Unfavourable, for instance, is 14...dxc4 15.dxc4; or 14...d4 15.f4 with a clear initiative for White.



14...Be6!

Black does not fear the doubling of pawns on the f-file, reckoning on obtaining counter-play.

15.cxd5 Bxd5 16.Bxf6 gxf6 17.Bxd5 Qxd5 18.Nc3 Qe6 19.Qf3 Rad8



White's plan consists in advantageously positioning his knight on the e4-square. However, Black has had time to completely mobilise his forces and now intends to double rooks for an attack on the d3-pawn. In the forthcoming struggle his chances are not in the least worse.

20.Rfd1 b6 21.g4 Bh6 22.Qf5

In the case of 22.Ne4 Bf4 Black threatens to double rooks on the d-file, and also to play ...f6-f5 with a positional advantage.

22...Rd4 23.Ne4 Qxf5 24.gxf5 Red8 25.Kf1!

A subtle assessment of the endgame. Bad is 25.Nxf6+ Kf8, and transferring the king to e7, Black achieves an advantage

25...Rxd3 26.Ke2 R3d4!

The exchange of the heavy pieces would have been premature.

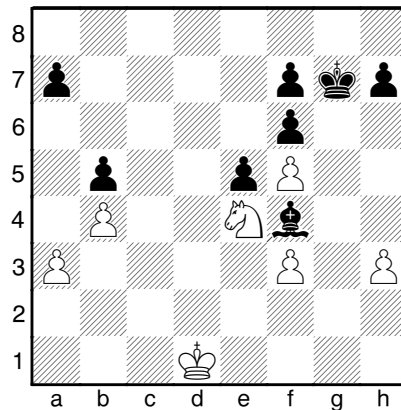
27.Rxd4 Rxd4 28.f3 Bf4 29.Rg1+

This check only promotes the strengthening of Black's position. Deserving attention is 29.h3, so as on 29...Kg7 to reply 30.Rg1+ Kf8 31.Rd1. If 30...Kh6, then 31.Rg4 b5 32.Nxf6 Rd2+ 33.Ke1 Rd6 34.Ne4 Ra6 35.f6 Rxa3 36.Nd6 Kh5 37.Nf5, forcing perpetual check with the knight on the squares g7 and f5.

29...Kf8 30.h3 b5 31.Rd1

Now, when the a3- and b4-pawns are fixed on dark squares, the exchange of rooks does not rid White of difficulties. In the struggle against passed pawns the bishop proves to be a more effective piece than White's knight. However, with accurate defence White could still have coped on salvation.

31...Rxd1 32.Kxd1 Kg7



33.Nc3

If 33.Nd6 a6 34.Ne8+, then 34...Kh6 35.Nc7 Kg5 36.Nxa6 Kh4 37.Nc7 Kxh3 38.Nxb5 h5, and the offensive of the h-pawn guarantees Black victory. But instead of 35.Nc7 it is better to continue 35.Nxf6! Kg5 36.Nxh7+ Kxf5 37.Nf8 e4 38.Nd7 exf3 39.Ke1 Ke4 40.Nc5+ Kd5 41.Nxa6 Bc1 42.h4 Bxa3 43.h5, and White achieves a draw.

33...a6 34.Ne4

Now White cannot avoid defeat. Stronger is 34.Nd5!, so as on 34...Kh6 to reply 35.Nxf6 Kg5 36.Nxh7+, analogously to the variation analysed in the previous note.

34...Be3

The bishop transfers to a better position and simultaneously prevents the manoeuvre 35.Nc5 in view of 35...Bxc5 36.bxc5 Kf8 with a won pawn ending.

35.Kc2 Bd4 36.Nd6 Kh6

The beginning of a decisive action. The king sets off on the conquest of the enemy pawns.

37.Ne4 Kh5 38.Nxf6+ Kg5 39.Nxh7+ Kxf5 40.h4 Be3

With the idea of isolating the knight after 41...Bh6.

41.Nf8

The sealed move. White resigned without resuming play.

Indeed, after 41...Kf4 42.Nd7 Bd4 43.h5 (or 43.Nf6 Kxf3 44.Kd3 Kf4 45.Nd5+ Kg4 46.Nc7 f5 47.Nxa6 f4 48.Nc7 f3 49.Nxb5 Kg3 and then ...f3-f2) 43...Kxf3 44.Kd3 f5 45.h6 Ba1 46.h7 e4+ the passed pawns decide the outcome of the struggle.