

(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.)

**Evans – Smyslov**  
7<sup>th</sup> round, São Paolo 1978

**1.c4 c6 2.Nf3 d5 3.b3 Bg4 4.cxd5 cxd5**

Perfectly acceptable was 4...Bxf3 5.gxf3 cxd5, but I did not fear the manoeuvre of the knight to e5.

**5.Ne5 Bf5 6.e3 Nf6 7.Qf3**

An interesting plan, associated with tactical threats on the king's flank. Of course, 7.Bb2 is more in keeping with the principles of development, but already in the opening White was aiming at a sharpening of the game.

**7...e6 8.Bb5+ Nbd7 9.Bb2 a6**

This reply clarifies the situation and demands an accurate calculation of the variations.

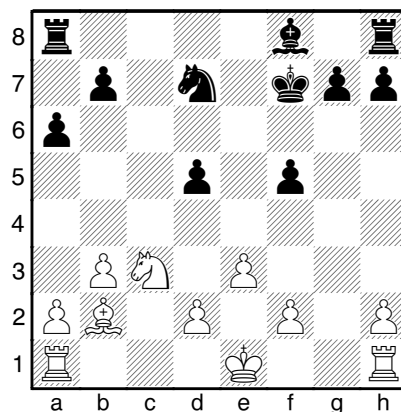
**10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Nxf7!?**

A tempting knight sacrifice. It had for a long time been 'hanging' over the position of the black king, but it does not bring anything real.

**11...Kxf7 12.g4 Qg5 13.gxf5 Qxf5 14.Qxf5+**

It made no sense to avoid the exchange of queens with 14.Qg3, since after 14...Rc8 Black's chances are clearly better.

**14...exf5 15.Nc3**



Bypassing the middlegame, the play has passed immediately into an ending. Seemingly, at this

point Evans was happy with his position, but the following move forced him to stop and think.

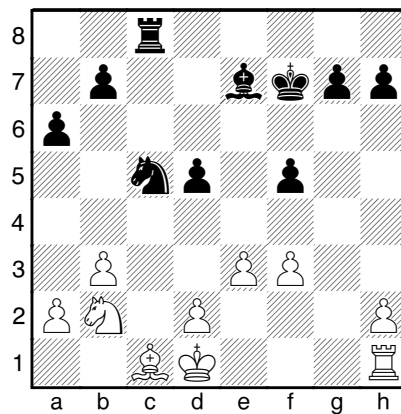
**15...Nc5!**

It transpires that the initiative belongs to Black. The check by the knight on d3 is threatened, while if 16.Ke2, then there follows 16...d4! 17.exd4 Re8+ 18.Kf3 (or 18.Kd1 Nd3 19.Kc2 Nb4+ 20.Kb1 g6 21.a3 Nd3) 18...Nd3 19.Rab1 g5 with the better game for Black.

**16.Nd1 Rc8 17.Ke2 Ne6 18.Rc1 Rxc1 19.Bxc1 Be7 20.Nb2 Rc8 21.Kd1**

White has defended tenaciously, preventing the rook from becoming active along the c-file. But all the same he has not managed to equalise the game – his pieces are occupying passive positions.

**21...Nc5 22.f3**



**22...d4!**

In this way Black strengthens his position, while White's central pawns become weak.

**23.exd4 Ne6 24.d5 Nf4 25.Nc4 Nxd5 26.Bb2 Rd8 27.Re1 Bf6 28.Bxf6**

Deserving attention is 28.Ne5+, although in this case too Black retains the advantage after 28...Kg8 29.a3 Nc7 30.Kc2 Nb5 in connection with the transfer of the knight to d4.

Now, however, with the exchange of bishops Black's king becomes active.

**28...Kxf6 29.a3 Nc3+ 30.Kc2 Nb5 31.Re3 h5!**

The beginning of a pawn offensive on the king's flank. In passing the manoeuvre of the rook via d4 to h4 is threatened.

**32.Rd3 Nd4+ 33.Kc3 Ne2+ 34.Kc2 Rd4**

The rook heads along the intended route to the square h4. This places White in a critical situation, since it is difficult to defend his scattered pawns.

### 35.Re3 Ng1! 36.Kd1

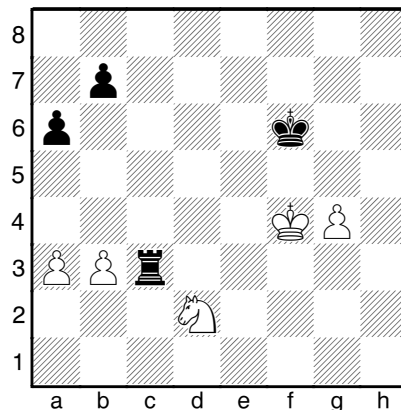
The king moves nearer to the h-pawn, so as in the event of 36...Rh4 37.Ke1 Rxb2 to seek counter-chances with the move 38.d4. Not wishing to present White with the possibility of activating his game, I preferred a more methodical plan of realising the advantage.

### 36...f4 37.Rc3 g5 38.Ke1 g4 39.fxg4 hxg4 40.Kf2 Nf3 41.h3 Ng5

Since 36...f4 events have taken on a virtually forced character. Now Black wins the exchange and obtains an advantage sufficient for victory. Another continuation was 41...Nxd2 42.Nxd2 Rxd2+ 43.Ke1 Ra2 44.hxg4 Kg5, and here too Black retains the advantage.

Which path is better? This question is of an emotional character. I preferred to go into the endgame with rook against knight.

### 42.hxg4 Ne4+ 43.Kf3 Nxc3 44.dxc3 Rd3+ 45.Kxf4 Rxc3 46.Nd2



In striving to retain the queen-side pawns, White loses the g-pawn. In the event of 46.g5+ there arose the variation 46...Ke7 47.Ke5 Rxb3 48.g6 (or 48.a4 b5 49.axb5 Rxb5+, and 50.Kf4 is impossible on account of 50...Rb4) 48...b5 49.Nd6 Kf8! 50.Kf6 Rxa3 51.Nf5 Rf3, and Black wins.

### 46...Ke7!

Weaker is 46...Rd3 on account of 47.Ne4+ Ke7 48.Nc5 Rc3 49.Nxb7 Rxb3 50.Nc5 Rxa3 51.Ke5 a5 52.Kd4! Kd6 53.Ne4+ Kc6 54.g5 a4 55.g6 Ra1 56.Ke5, and the g-pawn becomes dangerous.

### 47.Ke4 Rg3 48.Nf3

White has to part with his passed pawn, since on 48.Kf4 there would have followed 48...Rd3.

### 48...Rxb4+ 49.Kd5 Rg3 50.Nd4 Rg5+ 51.Kc4 Kd6

This endgame is won for Black, although it still takes some time to drive the opponent's pieces into unfavourable positions.

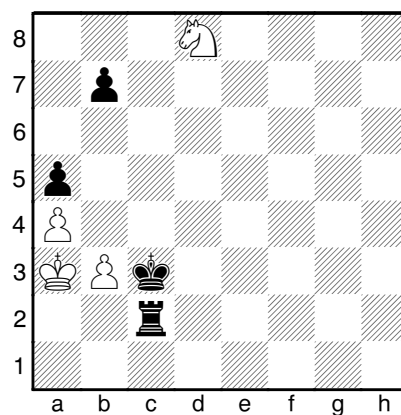
52.a4 Rg4 53.Kc3 Kd5 54.Nc2 Rh4 55.Ne3+ Kc5 56.Nc2 Rh3+ 57.Kb2 Kd5 58.Na3 Kd4  
 59.Nc2+ Kd3 60.Nb4+ Kd2 61.Nd5 Rh6

Preventing the transfer of the knight via b6 to c4 and intending to operate on the c-file with the rook.

62.Nb4 Rd6 63.Nc2 Rc6 64.Nd4 Rc5 65.Nf3+ Ke2 66.Nd4+ Kd3 67.Ne6 Rc2+ 68.Ka3 a5!

Now White's king has no way out, and there remains only to follow the movements of the knight.

69.Nd8 Kc3



The most decisive. Giving up a pawn, Black creates a mating net around the enemy king.

70.Nxb7

Or 70.Ne6 Rb2 71.Nd4 b6 72.Nb5+ Kc2 73.Nd4+ Kb1, and mate on the next move.

70...Rc1 71.Ka2 Kb4 72.Nd6 Rc2+ 73.Kb1 Kxb3 74.Nb7 Rc7! 75.Nxa5+ Kxa4

White resigned.