

(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 Russian is by Douglas Griffin.)

Fischer – Smyslov

21st round, FIDE Candidates' Tournament, Zagreb, 13th October 1959

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4

This system of development, suggested by the Soviet theoretician V. Sozin, had been included by Fischer in his repertoire and with a rare degree of consistency advocated by him in the Candidates' tournament.

6...Be7 7.0–0 a6 8.Bb3 b5 9.f4 0–0 10.f5

This attacking impulse of the young grandmaster is associated with a problematic sacrifice of a pawn.

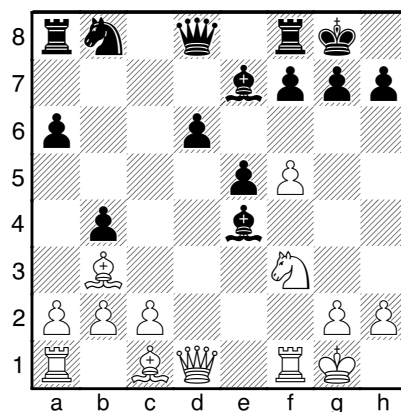
10...b4! 11.Nce2

Of course, the variation with the sacrifice of a piece by means of 11.fxe6 appears to be risky. For instance: 11...bxc3 12.exf7+ Kh8 13.bxc3 Bg4 14.Qe1 Qc8, and Black has sufficient defensive resources.

11...e5 12.Nf3 Bb7

Serious attention was merited by 12...Nxe4. If 13.Bd5, then 13...Bb7 14.Bxb7 Qb6+ 15.Kh1 Qxb7, and no compensation for the pawn deficit is apparent.

13.Ng3 Nxe4 14.Nxe4 Bxe4



15.Qe1!

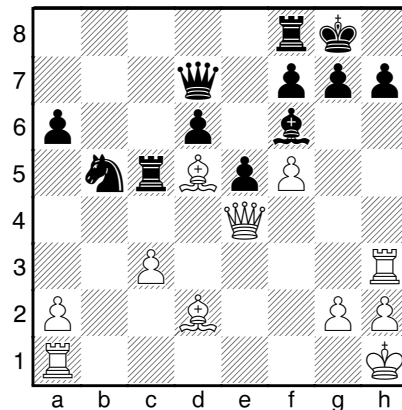
This fine manoeuvre permits the heat of the struggle to be maintained. On 15...Bxf5 there follows 16.Nxe5 dxe5 17.Rxf5 Nc6 18.Be3 with quite good chances. Leading to complicated play is 15...Qb6+ 16.Kh1 Qb7 17.Qg3 Nd7 18.Bh6 Bf6 19.Rad1 Kh8 20.Be3 etc. Black prefers to

simplify the situation.

15...Bxf3 16.Rxf3 Nc6 17.Qe4 Nd4 18.Rh3 Bf6

The threat of 19.f6 has to be prevented. In the interim White has time to transfer his bishop to the centre of the board.

19.Bd5 Rc8 20.c3 bxc3 21.bxc3 Nb5 22.Bd2 Rc5 23.Kh1 Qd7



Into Black's plan comes: 1) the transfer of the f8-rook to the queen's flank; 2) in the case of danger to evacuate the king along the route ...g8-f8-e7. The tactical justification of the move 23...Qd7 lies in the variation 24.c4 Nc7 25.Bb4 Nxd5 26.Bxc5 Nf4, and Black's chances are better.

24.Bb3

White frees the queen for the attack on the king's flank, but in so doing releases the blockade of the central pawns. Deserving attention was 24.Rf1. For instance: 24...Rfc8 25.c4 Nc7 26.Bb7 Rb8 27.Be3 (or 27.Bb4 d5 28.cxd5 Qb5) 27...Rxc4 28.Qxc4 Rxb7, and Black obtains two pawns for the exchange.

24...d5 25.Qf3 Nd6! 26.Rf1 Ne4

The knight has transferred to an excellent position, thanks to which rich possibilities for counter-play appear.

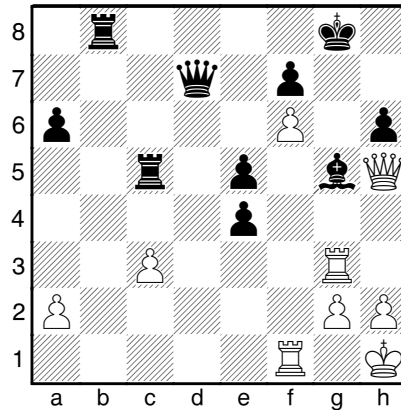
27.Qh5 h6 28.Bxh6

The play passes into a period of great complications. At the cost of a piece the king's pawn cover is destroyed.

28...gxh6 29.Bc2

If 29.Qxh6, then 29...Rfc8 30.Bc2 (30.Rff3 Bg7) 30...Bg7 31.Qh7+ Kf8 32.Bxe4 dxe4 33.f6 Bxf6, and the attack is beaten back.

29...Bg5 30.f6 Rb8! 31.Bxe4 dxe4 32.Rg3



The attack has reached its culmination. Neither 32...Kh7 or 32...Kf8 can be played on account of 33.Rxg5. 33.Qxh6 and 33.h4 are also threatened. In this critical situation Black is rescued by an interesting tactical idea.

32...Qf5!

A spectacular manoeuvre of the queen, which cannot be taken on account of the mating threat on b1 (now the point of the move 30...Rb8! is clear), completely solving the problem of the defence.

33.Kg1 Qg6 34.Qe2 Rc6

First and foremost eliminating the dangerous f6-pawn. White can now regain the piece, but he does not prove to be in a position to repulse the counter-threats.

35.h4 Rxf6 36.Rxf6 Qxf6 37.Qh5

In the case of 37.hxg5 there would have followed 37...Qf4 38.Qg4 h5!.; 37.Qxe4 is also impossible in view of 37...Qf4 38.Qxf4 exf4 39.Rg4 f5, and Black wins.

37...Qf4 38.Kh2 Kg7 39.hxg5 hxg5 40.Qxg5+ Qxg5 41.Rxg5+ Kf6 42.Rh5 Rb1! 43.Kg3 Rf1

The rook endgame is won fairly simply. The king is cut off from Black's pawns, and they rush irresistibly forward.

44.Rh4 Kf5 45.Rh5+ Ke6 46.Rh6+ f6 47.Rh4 e3 48.Re4 f5

White resigned.