

(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.)

Keene – Smyslov

12th round, Buenos Aires (Clarín), 29th November 1978

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3

One of the most problematic continuations in the Grünfeld Defence. After 5...dxc4 White creates a strong pawn centre. However, on c4 the queen is exposed to attack by the enemy pieces and pawns, which helps Black on the way to counter-play.

5...dxc4 6.Qxc4 0–0 7.e4 Bg4

This system of development leads to lively piece play. I had occasion to employ it especially often in my early years, and I had no objection to once again testing my theoretical variation.

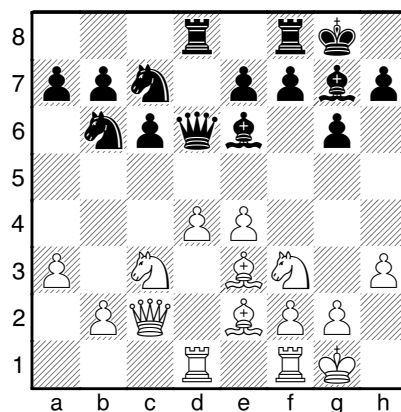
8.Be3 Nfd7 9.Qb3 Nb6 10.Rd1 c6

This move limits White's attacking possibilities.

11.Be2 Na6 12.0–0 Qd6 13.a3

Denying the b4-square to the black pieces. Naturally, the exchange on a6 did not attract attention, since White would have had to reckon with the doubling of the pawns on f3, and the weakening of his king's position, in reply.

13...Nc7 14.h3 Be6 15.Qc2 Rad8



The pressure on the pawn centre increases. Into Black's plan comes ...Be6–c4, freeing the square e6 for the transfer of the knight from c7.

16.Ng5!

A very energetic manoeuvre. The English grandmaster Keene displays a desire for the initiative, beginning active play on the king's flank.

16...Bc4 17.e5 Qd7 18.Bg4

The logical conclusion of White's idea. In this way he forces the advance 18...e6, since otherwise Black proves to be in a cramped situation.

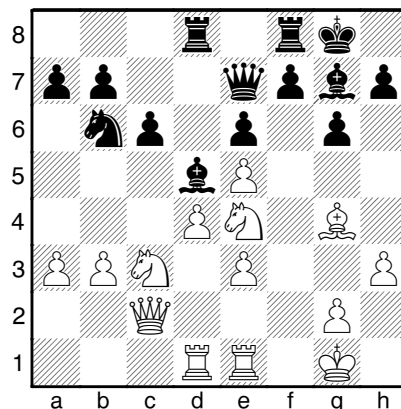
18...e6 19.Rfe1 Ncd5

Now the position takes on clear outlines. White aims to transfer a knight to e4 and to obtain play on the dark squares, while Black disposes of an outpost in the centre on d5.

20.Nge4 Nxe3

It is essential to exchange the bishop, in order to prevent the threat of 21.Bg5. But now White reinforces his pawn position in the centre.

21.fxe3 Qe7 22.b3 Bd5!



A difficult solution to the positional problem, based on the concrete calculation of variations.

Of course, the retreat of the bishop to a6 presented White with an undisputed advantage after 22...Ba6 23.Nc5. The bishop is placed more actively on d5, but it could easily prove to be in danger in connection with the advance e3–e4. If now 23.Nc5, then 23...Bxe5 24.Nxd5 (24.e4 Bxd4+ 25.Rxd4 Qxc5) 24...Rxd5 25.Bf3 Bg3 26.Bxd5 Bxe1, and the sides' chances are level. If 23.Nd6, then possible is 23...f5 24.Be2 (or 24.exf6 Bxf6 25.Nde4 e5) 24...Nc8 25.e4 fxe4 26.Ncxe4 Nxd6 27.Nxd6 b5 with good play for Black.

23.Nf6+

White is attracted by an attack on the king. In the event of a double capture on f6 there follows e3–e4, and the bishop perishes.

23...Bxf6 24.exf6 Qxa3!

It is in this that the idea of the counter-attack lies! Not fearing mating threats, Black falls on the opponent's queen's flank. On 25.e4 there follows 25...Bxb3 26.Qd2 Kh8 27.Qh6 Rg8, and the king is defended, whereas White's position in the centre becomes unsafe.

25.Rb1 e5 26.dxe5 Rfe8

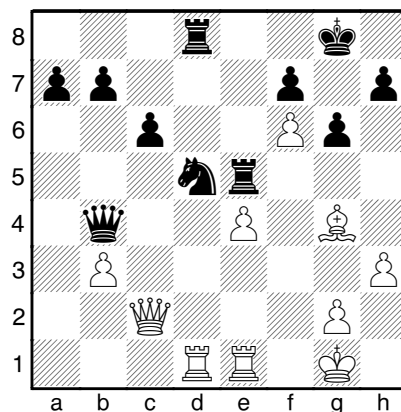
Black has successfully overcome the difficulties of defence. Now his bishop is out of danger, while the play with rooks on the central files proves to be highly effective.

27.Nxd5 Nxd5 28.Rbd1

Hoping to hinder the capture of the e5-pawn with the help of a pin on the e-file, but these efforts prove to be insufficient. Leading to a more complicated situation was 28.e4 Nc7 29.Red1 h5 30.Bf3 Rxd1+ 31.Rxd1 Rxe5 with chances for both sides.

28...Rxe5 29.e4 Qb4!

Much stronger than 29...Rde8 30.Bd7 Nxf6 31.Bxe8, and White can fight successfully. After the move in the game 30...Rde8 31.Bd7 Rxe4 is already threatened.



30.Qf2

Perhaps the best decision, since 30.Qc1 will not do on account of 30...Qb6+ 31.Kh1 Nxf6; nor will 30.Qd2 Qxd2 31.Rxd2 Rde8, and Black avoids all difficulties, remaining with a material advantage.

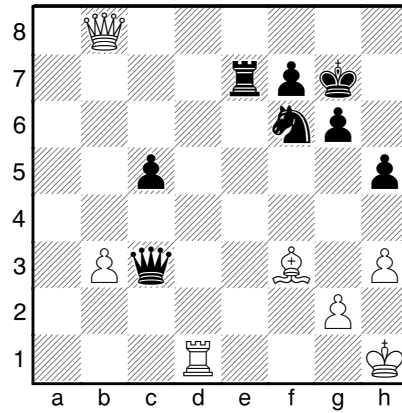
30...Rxe4 31.Rxe4 Qxe4 32.Qxa7 Re8 33.Qxb7 Nxf6

After stormy complications the play had clarified to Black's obvious advantage. He has managed to eliminate the dangerous f6-pawn and to retain material superiority with a dominating piece position.

34.Bf3 Qe3+ 35.Kh1 c5 36.Bd5 Re7 37.Qb8+ Kg7 38.Bf3 h5 39.Rf1

If 39.b4, then 39...c4 40.b5 c3 41.Qc8 Nd7! with the threat of ...Ne5.

39...Qd3 40.Rd1 Qc3



In this position the game was adjourned. Analysis showed that Black's chances of victory are quite real, although in the case of 41.Kh2 Rd7 42.Rxd7 Nxd7 43.Qb7 Ne5 a struggle would still have lay ahead.

However, White sealed the move

41.Rd8

and resigned, not resuming play. There could have followed: 41...Re1+ 42.Kh2 Qc1 43.Rh8 Rh1+ 44.Kg3 h4+! 45.Kxh4 (45.Rxh4 Qe1+) 45...g5+ 46.Kg3 Qe1#.