

(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.)

Ólafsson – Smyslov

27th round, FIDE Candidates' Tournament, Belgrade, 26th October 1959

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

I employed this move in the present game with the aim of testing an original plan of play, associated with the manoeuvre 6...e5–e4!. Subsequent practice confirmed the viability of the opening idea, and the new system of development soon became fairly widely used.

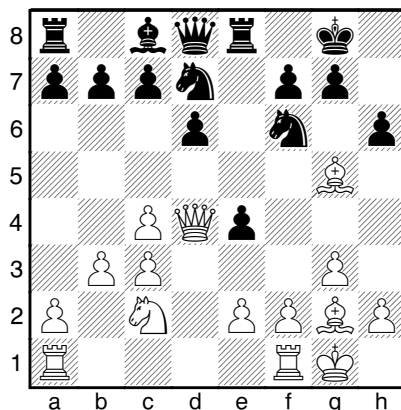
4.Bg2 0–0 5.Nf3 Re8 6.0–0 e4!

This advance of the pawn beyond the demarcation line gave new life to the whole variation. On e4 the central pawn becomes an important forepost in Black's set-up. Now the activity of the g2–bishop is limited, while on 7.Ng5 there follows 7...Bxc3 8.bxc3 h6, and the knight has to retreat to the modest square h3.

7.Nd4 Nc6 8.Nc2 Bxc3

The most logical continuation. The key to the position is the e4–pawn, and it needs to be over-protected. In addition, on the c-file doubled pawns are created for White, which somewhat reduces their value. In the case of 8...Bf8 the manoeuvre Nc2–e3–d5 was to be feared.

9.dxc3 Ne5 10.b3 d6 11.Bg5 Ned7 12.Qd4 h6



Just in time, in order to rid himself of the unpleasant pin on the f6–knight. If 13.Be3, then permissible is first 13...b6 and then 14...Bb7, completing piece development.

13.Bxf6 Nxf6 14.Ne3 Qe7 15.Rae1 Bd7 16.f4 exf3

A correct solution to the positional problem. The capture en passant permits White to establish control over the e5–square and to consolidate in the centre. Now the e-file is opened, and the

chances of both sides become absolutely level.

17.exf3 Bc6 18.Nc2

18.Nd5 is dangerous in view of 18...Qxe1 19.Nxf6+ gxf6 20.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 21.Kf2 Rae8, and White does not have time to take the pawn on f6, since his king finds itself under the threat of mate.

18...Qd7 19.Nb4 Re7

Perhaps the best move. Simpler was 19...a5 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.f4 c5 22.Qd2 Rab8.

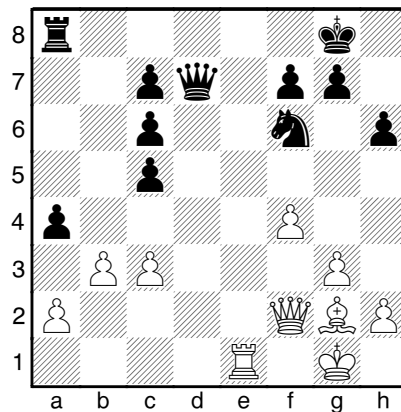
20.Qf2 Rxe1 21.Rxe1 a5 22.Nxc6 bxc6 23.c5

This activity proves to be to no purpose. As soon becomes clear, the game is opened to Black's advantage. Natural and better looks 23.f4 with the possible variation 23...Re8 24.b4 axb4 25.cxb4 (or 25.Rxe8+ Qxe8 26.cxb4 Qe6) 25...Rxe1+ 26.Qxe1 Qf5 27.Bxc6 Qc2, and Black has sufficient counter-play for the pawn.

23...dxc5!

Precisely thus, not fearing the pawn structure on the c-file. If 24.Qxc5, then 24...Qd2 25.Rf1 Qxa2 26.Qxc6 Re8 27.Qxc7 Re2 28.Bh3 Rxh2 29.Qc8+ Kh7 30.Qf5+ Kh8 31.Qc8+ Ng8, and Black shelters from perpetual check, retaining an attacking position of the heavy pieces.

24.f4 a4!



Black has a dangerous initiative. Exploiting the 'tripled' pawn on c5 (which for the time being is still alive), he has time to open the a-file for his rook. In the case of 25.b4 cxb4 26.cxb4 Ng4! 27.Bh3 (or 27.Qb2 Re8) 27...Rd8 28.Bxg4 Qxg4 an endgame with the better chances for Black results.

25.Qxc5 axb3 26.axb3 Qd2 27.Qe3 Qb2 28.h3 Ra2

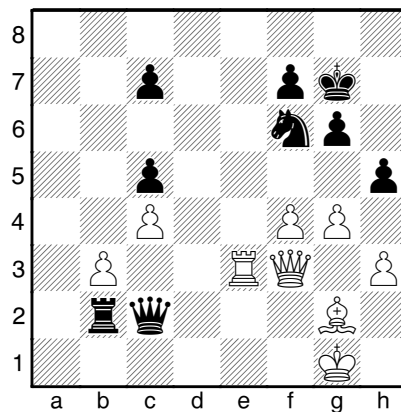
How quickly the situation on the board has changed! The queen and rook have taken up threatening positions on the penultimate rank, and White is forced to concern himself with the

safety of his king.

29.Qf3 c5 30.g4 g6 31.c4 Kg7 32.Rd1 Qc2!

A typical method of active play on both flanks. The b3–pawn is a convenient object of attack. Without releasing the attack on the king’s position, Black increases the pressure on the pawn weaknesses and still further limits the mobility of the white pieces.

33.Re1 Rb2 34.Re3 h5!



Now the threat is 35...hxg4 36.hxg4 Nxg4 37.Qxg4 Qc1+, in connection with which the advance g4–g5 and the stabilisation of the position on the king’s flank is forced.

35.g5 Nh7 36.Rc3 Qb1+ 37.Bf1

Safely avoiding a little trap: 37.Qf1 Rxc3 38.Kxc3 Qb2+, and the rook on c3 is lost.

37...Nf8

The decisive manoeuvre – the knight heads for the central d4–square. In the case of 38.f5 there follows 38...gxf5 39.Qxh5 Qe1 40.Rf3 Qd2 with an irresistible attack.

38.Qe3 Ne6 39.h4 Qd1 40.Qe5+ Kh7 41.f5 Rb1

White resigned. After 42.fxg6+ fxg6 43.Qf6 Qg4+ 44.Kh1 Qxh4+ 45.Kg1 Qxg5+ White is left two pawns down.