

(The annotations to this game, by V. V. Smyslov, are from his autobiographical work *Izbrannye partii* (published by Fizkultura i Sport in 1952). The translation from the original Russian is by Douglas Griffin.)

Smyslov – Byvshev

Chigorin Memorial (Final Group), Leningrad 1951

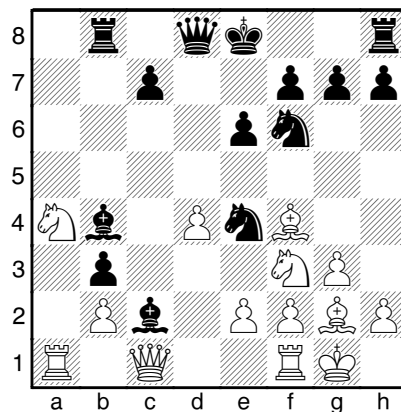
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Nbd7 6.Qxc4 a6 7.Qc2 Rb8

Black prepares the advance of the b-pawn, intending to develop his queen's bishop on b7. Another plan is associated with immediate action in the centre with 7...c5.

8.Nf3 b5 9.a4 Bb7 10.axb5 axb5 11.Nc3 b4 12.Na4 Be4 13.Qd1 b3!

The b-pawn has travelled a swift path, securing the support for an invasion of the light-squared bishop on c2. Black's strategic plan is interesting and leads to a sharp situation.

14.0-0 Bc2 15.Qe1 Ne4 16.Bf4 Bb4 17.Qc1 Ndf6



Black's pressure has become perceptible. Now he threatens to strengthen his position still further with 18...N5. In good time White carries out a simplifying manoeuvre, which permits him to repulse Black's onslaught and to prepare a counter-offensive in the centre.

18.Ne1! Bxe1 19.Qxe1 Qxd4 20.Bxc7 Rc8 21.Bb6 Qd6 22.Ba5

Preventing castling in view of the threat of 23.Bb4, White simultaneously prepares the advance f2–f3, which was bad immediately on account of 22...Nd2.

22...Rb8 23.f3 Nc5 24.Qc3 Na6

On a6 the knight deprives the white pieces of the b4–square, but occupies a poor position. Deserving attention is the continuation 24...Nxa4 25.Rxa4 Qd7, preparing castling. In this case Black would have had to reckon with the possibility of an exchange sacrifice in the variation 26.Rd4 Nd5 27.Rxd5 Qxd5 28.Qxg7, which led to a double-edged game.

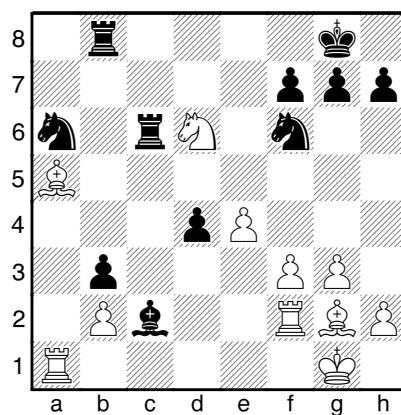
25.e4 e5 26.Nb6

White has managed to stabilise the play on the queen's flank and to establish a formidable pawn centre. Now he transfers his knight to a better position. Of course, on 26...Rxb6 there follows 27.Qc8+.

26...0-0 27.Nc4 Qc5+ 28.Ne3 Qd4

A tough struggle has unfolded around Black's far-advanced forepost on the queen's flank. Black wants to force White to exchange on d4, reinforcing the position of the bishop on c2.

29.Rf2 Rfc8 30.Qxd4 exd4 31.Nf5 Rc4 32.Nd6 Rc6



33.e5

The white pawn crosses the demarcation line. As a counter-balance to the advanced position of Black's immobile bishop on c2 White now establishes on d6 an active and flexible knight. This circumstance should secure White the advantage in the subsequent development of the endgame.

33...Nd5 34.f4 Rc5 35.Rd2 d3 36.Ne4 Rcb5 37.Nd6 Rc5 38.Kf2

Renouncing the repetition of moves, White deprives the black knight of the e3-square and thereby prevents the manoeuvre ...Nd5-e3-c4.

38...Nab4 39.Bxb4 Nxb4 40.Ra7 Rf8

Stronger was 40...Na2 so as to revive his play on the queen's flank after 41...Nc3!. But here too White retained the advantage, continuing 41.Ne4 Rcc8 42.Ke3.

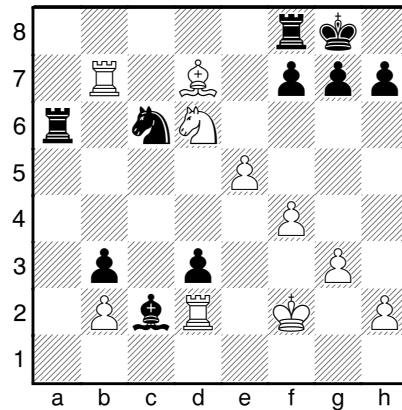
41.Bh3!

The sealed move.

White threatens the move 42.e6 or even 42.Nxf7. Interesting variations arise in the case of 41...Bb1. For instance, 42.e6 Rc2 43.exf7+ Kh8 44.Ra8!! Rxd2+ 45.Kf3 Rxa8 46.Ne8, and the pawn promotes to a queen.

41...Rc6 42.Bd7 Ra6 43.Rb7 Nc6

On 43...Nd5 White continues the attack with 44.Bb5 Ra2 45.Bc4, completing the geometrically precise manoeuvre Bg2–h3–d7–b5–c4 by stationing the bishop in an active position.



44.Nxf7!

An accurately-calculated blow. On 44...Rxf7 decisive is 45.Be6 Nd8 46.Bxf7+ Nxf7 47.Rb8+, while on 44...Kxf7 there follows 45.Bxc6+, obtaining a passed pawn in the centre.

44...Na5

Black removes the knight, creating the threat of 45...Nc4, but nor does this manoeuvre prevent the conclusion of White's combination.

45.Rc7 Rxf7

If 45...Kxf7, then 46.Bb5+, winning the rook on a6.

46.e6! Rxd7

Black fails to notice the mate. However, also after other continuations his game is hopeless.

47.Rc8+

Black resigned.