

(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.)

Smyslov (Moscow) – Korchnoi (Leningrad)

Board 2, 4th round, 6th USSR People's Spartakiad, Final Group 1, Riga, 24th July 1975

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.g3 0–0 5.Bg2 c6 6.0–0 d5 7.cxd5 cxd5

I had occasion to play this symmetrical variation with Black in a match against M. Botvinnik. In a complicated positional struggle white disposes of a slight initiative.

8.Ne5

8.Nc3 is often encountered, on which possible is the discharging manoeuvre 8...Ne4.

8...Ng4

8...Bf5 9.Nc3 Ne4 10.Bf4 leads to more complicated play.

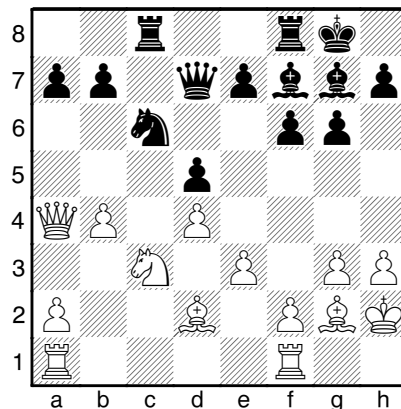
9.Nxg4 Bxg4 10.Nc3 Nc6 11.h3 Be6

It is also possible to retreat to c8 with the bishop and on 12.e3 to play 12...e6.

12.e3 Rc8 13.Bd2

White's pieces are placed more naturally; Black, however, has an uncomfortably-placed bishop on e6 and subsequently he will have to lose time in order to free the path of the e-pawn.

13...Qd7 14.Kh2 f6 15.Qa4 Bf7 16.b4



Somewhat premature, since it permits Black to obtain counter-play in the centre.

Better was 16.Rfd1, and now 16...e5 cannot be played on account of 17.dxe5 fxe5 18.Nxd5 Bxd5 19.Be1, and White regains the piece, remaining with an extra pawn.

16...e5! 17.b5 Ne7 18.Qxa7

Both sides are proceeding along their intended paths.

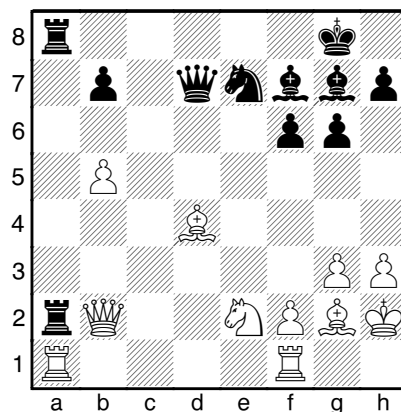
18...Ra8 19.Qc5 Rfc8 20.Qb4 Rc4

Now Black regains the central pawn with a good game.

21.Qb2 exd4 22.exd4 Rxd4 23.Ne2 Rda4 24.Bc3

An active continuation, leading to an exceptionally sharp situation. White had to reckon with the consequences of the move 22...d4.

24...d4 25.Bxd4 Rxa2



The struggle has reached its culminating point. Black's initiative along the a-file appears dangerous. The rooks cannot be exchanged, since the knight on e2 is lost. However, White leaves his queen under attack...

26.Rfe1!

Now on 26...Rxb2 there follows 27.Rxa8+ and 28.Bxb2.

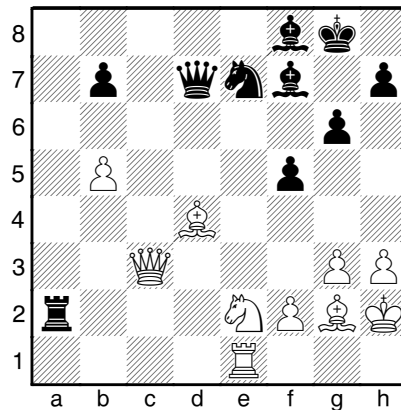
26...f5

An outwardly showy reply. Now on 27.Bxg7 there follows 27...Rxb2. Deserving attention was the manoeuvre 26...Nf5, on which White could have played 27.Bc3 or even 27.Bxf6 followed by 27...Qe6 28.Bxg7 Rxb2 29.Bxb2 Rxa1 30.Bxa1, obtaining sufficient compensation for the queen.

27.Rxa2 Rxa2 28.Qc3 Bf8?

This retreat leads to a very difficult position. 28...Rxe2 was bad on account of 29.Bxg7 Rxe1 30.Bh6, and mate is inevitable.

Black ought to continue 28...Bxd4 29.Qxd4 Qxd4 30.Nxd4, although in this endgame White's chances are to be preferred.



29.Qe3!

Clearly, this move had escaped Black's attention. 30.Qe5 is threatened, and 29...Bg7 is impossible on account of 30.Bxg7 Kxg7 31.Nc3.

29...Bd5 30.Nc3 Bxg2 31.Kxg2

Not being distracted from the goal; on 31.Nxa2 it was necessary to reckon with 31...f4.

31...Ra8 32.Qe5! Kf7 33.Qh8 Qd6

33...h5 was impossible on account of 34.Qh7+ Ke8 35.Qxg6+.

34.Qxh7+ Ke8 35.Be5 Qe6 36.Re3 Qf7 37.Qh4 Rd8 38.Bf6 Rd6 39.Bxe7

The simplest solution – White, having an extra pawn, continues the attack.

39...Bxe7 40.Qh8+ Qf8

On 40...Kd7, 41.Qb8 wins.

41.Qe5

Centralising the queen. Impossible now is 41...Qf6 on account of 42.Qxf6 Rxf6 43.Nd5.

41...Kf7 42.Nd5 Bd8 43.h4 Kg8 44.h5

Black resigned. On 44...gxh5 there would have followed 45.Rf3.