

(The annotations to this game, by V. V. Smyslov, are from the article *Neuyadamaya garmoniya*, edited by A. P. Suetin and published in *Shakmaty v SSSR* (№ 6, 1981) to mark the awarding of the Order of Friendship of Peoples to Smyslov by the Soviet premier L. I. Brezhnev and the Secretary of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet, M. Georgadze, in a decision dated 24th March 1981. The translation of the annotations from the original Russian is by Douglas Griffin.)

Smyslov – Larsen

10th round, Tilburg (Interpolis), 13th November 1979

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b5

Despite its seeming extravagance, this move is perfectly acceptable. Within it the idea of active play on the queen's flank is combined with the diagonal development of the bishop on b7. Analogous play takes place in the variation 1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.b4.

3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0–0 e6 5.d3 d5

If 5...c5, then 6.e4 d6 7.a4 b4 8.Nbd2 Be7 9.Nc4, and White has a promising position.

6.c4!

An energetic manoeuvre, characteristic of White's opening set-up. He aims at the opening of the centre, so as to obtain space for piece play.

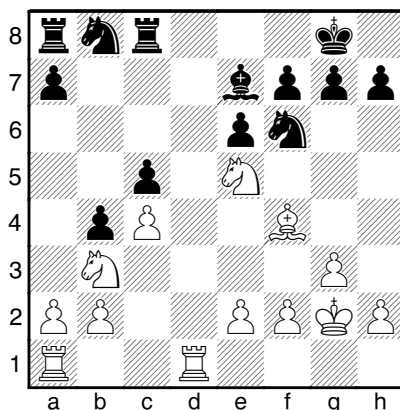
6...dxc4

Possibly Black ought to have replied 6...a6, since now the d-file is opened, and after the forced exchange of queens an endgame favourable for White arises.

7.dxc4 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 b4

Of course, 8...bxc4 is unfavourable on account of 9.Ne5, regaining the pawn.

9.Bf4 c5 10.Ne5 Bxg2 11.Kxg2 Be7 12.Nd2 0–0 13.Nb3 Rc8



Black goes over to the tenacious defence of a difficult endgame. The c5- and b4-pawns are weakened and limit the activity of their own bishop. On 13...a5 there could have followed 14.a4 Rc8 15.Rd3 Ne8 16.Rad1 f6 (or 16...Bf6 17.h4 h6 18.h5) 17.Nd7 Nxd7 18.Rxd7, and the rook on the 7th rank is very dangerous.

14.Na5

The knight takes up a strong position, preventing the move ...N8-c6. If 14...Bd8, then 15.Nb7 Be7 16.Nd6 Bxd6 17.Rxd6 Ne8 18.Rdd1 f6 19.Nd3 a5 (or 19...Na6 20.b3 and then a2-a3) 20.Nxc5! Rxc5 21.Rd8 Kf7 (or 21...e5 22.Be3) 22.Bxb8 Rxc4 23.Rad1 with the threat of 24.R1d7+.

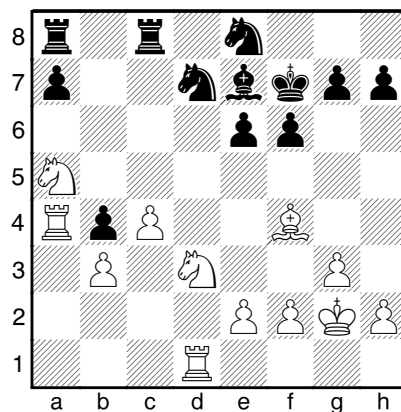
14...Ne8 15.a3!

White's initiative grows with inexorable consistency. The undermining of the pawn chain leads to the opening of the a-file, after which the a1-rook develops great activity.

15...f6 16.Nd3 Kf7 17.axb4 cxb4 18.Ra4

The positional pressure on the weak b4-pawn has become perceptible. On 18...Nc6 it is good to reply 19.b3 Nd4 20.Kf1 e5 21.Bd2.

18...Nd7 19.b3



19...g5

The alternative was 19...e5 with the possible continuation 20.Bd2 Rab8 21.Bxb4 Nb6 (or 21...e4 22.Bxe7 exd3 23.Bb4 Nb6 24.Raa1 dxe2 25.Rd4!, and 25...Nxc4 is impossible in view of 26.Nxc4 Rxb4 27.Ne5+ fxe5 28.Rxb4) 22.Ra2 Nxc4 23.Nxc4 Bxb4 24.Rxa7+, and White has an extra pawn and an active position.

If 24...Be7, then 25.Ndxe5+ fxe5 26.Rdd7; or 24...Kf8 25.Nxb4 Rxb4 26.Rdd7 Rxb3 27.Nd6 Nxd6 28.Rxd6 Rb4 29.h3 Rd4 30.Rb6, and the rook returns to the 7th rank. Or 24...Kg6 25.Ra6 Kf7 26.Nxb4 Rxb4 27.Rd7+ Kf8 28.Raa7 Rxb3 29.Nd6, analogously to the previous variation.

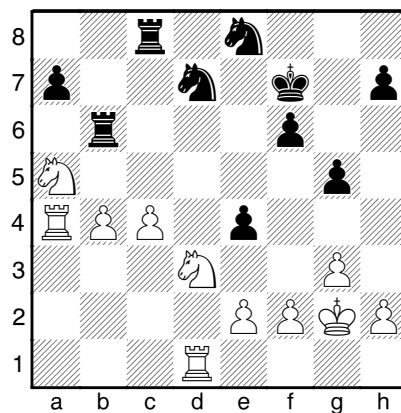
20.Bd2 Rab8 21.Bxb4 Bxb4

If 21...Nb6, then 22.Ra2 Nxc4 (or 22...Bxb4 23.Nxb4 Nxc4 24.Nac6) 23.Bxe7 Nxa5 24.Rxa5 Kxe7 25.Nc5!, and Black does not avoid the loss of material.

22.Rxb4 Rb6 23.Ra4

White's plan has been crowned with success. He has not only an extra pawn, but also the better position. However, the realisation of the advantage that has been achieved still demands technical accuracy.

23...e5 24.b4 e4



25.c5!

The most precise continuation. Weaker was 25.Nc1 on account of 25...Rd6 26.Rxd6 Nxd6 27.c5 Nb5, and the knight occupies a good blockading position on b5.

25...Rb5

If 25...exd3, then 26.cxb6 dxe2 27.Rxd7+ Ke6 28.b7 Rb8 29.Nc6!, and White wins.

26.Nc1

If 26.Nb2, then the reply 26...Nxc5 has to be reckoned with.

26...Ne5 27.Na2! f5 28.Nc3 Rbb8 29.Rd5

The attack develops unhindered. The rook on the 5th rank is very actively placed, strengthening the attack on Black's central pawns.

29...Kf6 30.Nb3 Nc7 31.Rd6+ Kf7 32.Nd4

Now Black's position on the king's flank collapses, and he suffers substantial loss of material.

32...e3 33.Nxf5 exf2 34.Kxf2 a6 35.Ne4 Re8 36.Nxg5+ Kg8 37.e4 a5 38.Rxa5 Rxb4

If 38...Nc4, then 39.Rd7 Nxa5 40.Nh6+, and mate on the following move.

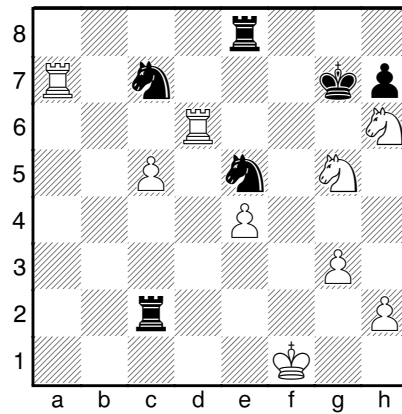
39.Ra2

More energetic was 39.Ra7! .

39...Rc4 40.Nh6+ Kg7 41.Ra7!

Here too this manoeuvre leads most quickly of all to the goal.

41...Rc2+ 42.Kf1



42...Rxc5

The white king shelters from the 'lateral' checks on h3, while on 42...Rf8+ there follows 43.Nf5+. If 42...Rc8, then 43.Rxc7+ Rxc7 44.Nf5+ Kf8 45.Rd8#.

43.Ne6+ Rxe6 44.Rxe6 Nf7 45.Re7

Black resigned.