

(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 – Liberzon

12<sup>th</sup> round, 37<sup>th</sup> USSR Championship, Moscow, 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1969

**1.c4 g6 2.Nc3 Bg7 3.d4 Nf6 4.Bg5 c5 5.e3 cxd4 6.exd4 d5**

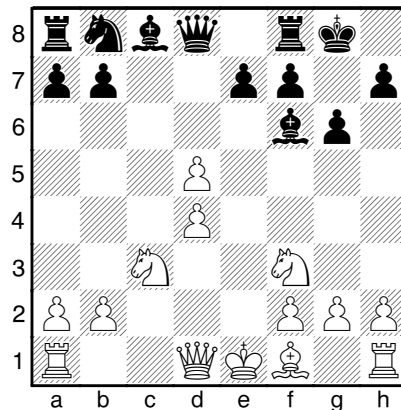
Now the position loses its King's Indian outlines. The pawn sacrifice is provoked by Black's aspiration to rapidly develop his pieces. This plan leads to interesting and lively play.

**7.Bxf6 Bxf6 8.cxd5 0–0**

Also encountered is 8...Qb6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7 11.Nge2, and White retains slightly the better chances.

**9.Nf3**

The most natural continuation. On 9.Qd2 there could follow 9...e6! 10.Bc4 exd5 11.Nxd5 Bg7 12.Ne2 Nc6 13.Rd1 Be6 14.Ne3 Bxc4 15.Nxc4 Qd5, and Black re-establishes material equality.



**9...Nd7**

Deserving attention is 9...Bg4. In the game Smyslov-Taimanov (39<sup>th</sup> USSR Championship, Leningrad 1971) there occurred further: 10.Bc4 Nd7 11.0–0 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 Bxd4 13.Qe4 Bf6, and Black managed to achieve a solid position, carrying out the transfer of the knight via b6 and c8 to the square d6.

**10.Bc4 Nb6 11.Bb3 Bg4 12.0–0 Rc8 13.Re1**

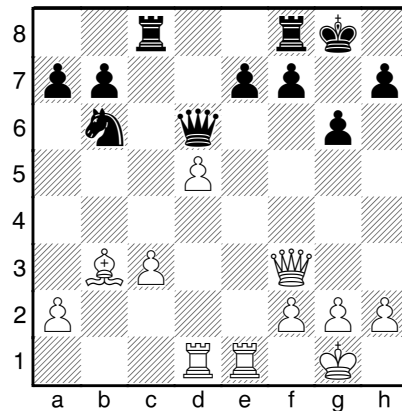
White systematically creates pressure on the e-file, not aiming at the retention of the extra pawn.

**13...Bxf3 14.Qxf3 Bxd4 15.Rad1 Bxc3**

An interesting idea.

Black is left with a good knight and there arise pleasant prospects for the endgame on the queen's flank. But a complicated middlegame still lies ahead. From this point of view the exchange of the dark-squared bishop does not lack shortcomings. Now the e7-pawn becomes more vulnerable, while the king is deprived of an important defensive piece.

**16.bxc3 Qd6**



**17.h4!**

White's chances are in an attack on the king's flank. In the case of 17...Kg7 18.h5 Qf6 19.h6+ Kxh6 20.Qxf6 exf6 21.Re7 he achieves an active rook on the 7th rank.

**17...h5 18.Rd4 Kg7 19.Rf4 Rc7**

A good defensive manoeuvre. On 19...Nd7 strong was 20.Rfe4 Rfe8 21.Qe3 with a double attack on the pawns at e7 and a7.

**20.Re6! Qd8 21.Re3 Qd6 22.Rfe4**

White maintains the tension of the struggle. Naturally, the pawn at d5 is inviolable on account of 22...Nxd5 23.Rd3 e6 24.c4.

**22...a5**

Premature activity, as a result of which the position of the knight at b6 is weakened. It was better to adhere to waiting tactics.

**23.a4 Qf6?**

This is already a straightforward mistake, which leads to an unexpectedly swift finale.

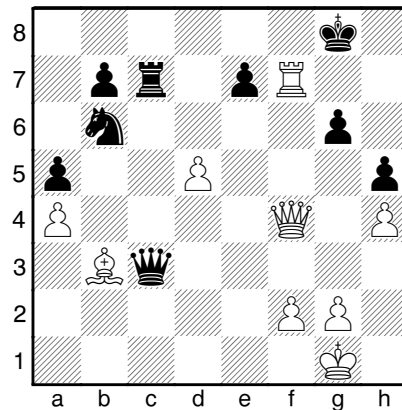
**24.Rf4 Qd6 25.Re6**

The rook again rushes to e6, but this time with decisive effect. The essence of the position consists in the fact that the queen cannot return to d8, since the knight at d8 is left under attack.

25...Qc5 26.Rxg6+

Destroying the pawn cover of the king. If 26...Kxg6, then 27.Qg3+ Kh7 28.Rf5 Rc6 29.Bc2 Rg6 30.Rxf7+, winning.

26...fxg6 27.Rxf8 Qxc3 28.Qf7+ Kh6 29.Qf4+ Kg7 30.Rf7+ Kg8



31.d6!

The bishop at b3, which had been lying 'asleep' in ambush, is included in the attack. If now 31...Qc1+, then 32.Kh2 Qxf4+ 33.Rxf4+, etc.

31...Qxb3 32.Rf8+

Black resigned.