

(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 – Liublinsky

13th round, 17th USSR Championship, Moscow, 5th November 1949

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.c3 Bd7 6.d4 Nf6

The most natural plan of development. In the Match-tournament for the World Championship in 1948 the system 6...Nge7 followed by ...Ng6 was encountered (see game № 38).

7.Nbd2 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Re1 Be8

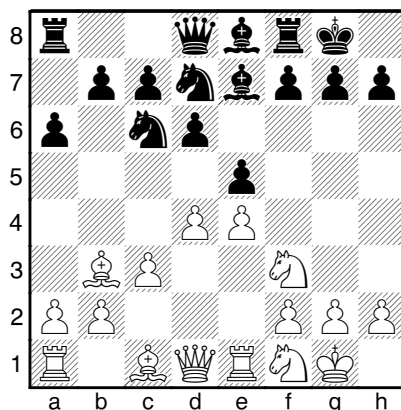
Black begins a complicated piece regrouping, known in theory by the name of the Kecskemét Variation.

Also possible is 9...exd4 10.cxd4 Nb4, beginning a struggle on the queen's flank.

10.Bb3

A useful move. The bishop on b3 occupies an excellent position, hindering Black's counter-play in the centre. After the immediate 10.Nf1 the variation 10...exd4 11.cxd4 d5 12.e5 Ne4 has to be reckoned with.

10...Nd7 11.Nf1



11...Bf6

11...Kh8 and then 12...f6 appears to be in the spirit of the Kecskemét Variation. The move in the text leads to a difficult defence.

12.Ne3 Ne7

12...g6 is bad in view of 13.Nd5 Bg7 14.Bg5.

13.Ng4 Ng6 14.g3 Be7 15.h4 Nf6 16.Ng5

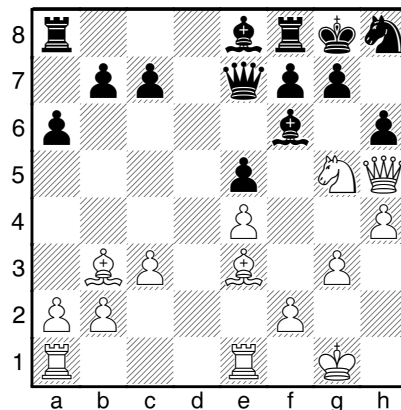
As a result of the opponent's slow manoeuvres White goes over to an attack on the king. His knight on g5 has taken up a strong attacking position, where it remains virtually until the end of the game.

16...h6 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.Qh5!

Intending on 18...hxg5 to reply 19.hxg5 Be7 20.Qxg6, regaining the piece. Defending against the threat of 19.Qxg6, Black removes his knight to a poor position in the corner, but on the other hand reinforces the vulnerable square f7 an additional time.

18...Nh8 19.dxe5 dxe5 20.Be3 Qe7

It is dangerous to accept the knight sacrifice. After 20...hxg5 21.hxg5 g6 22.Qh4 Bg7 23.Kg2 Bc6 24.Rh1 Re8 25.Qh7+ Kf8 26.Bc5+ Re7 27.Qxh8+! Bxh8 28.Rxh8+ Kg7 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Bxe7 White wins.



21.Bd5!

The knight is, as previously, inviolable, since on 21...hxg5 there follows 22.hxg5 g6 23.gxf6!. If Black wishes to avoid the spoiling of his pawn chain, which could have occurred after 21...Bc6 22.Bxc6 bxc6, then he is forced to play 21...c6, depriving his bishop of this important square.

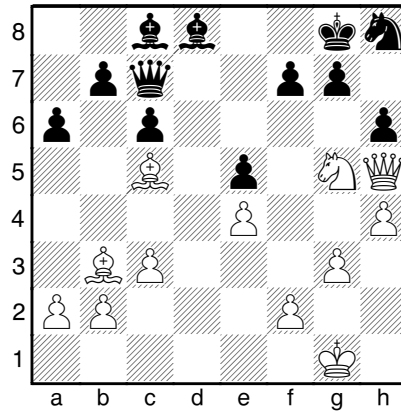
21...c6 22.Bb3 Bd7 23.Rad1 Rad8 24.Rd2 Bc8 25.Red1 Rxd2 26.Rxd2 Qc7

White has occupied the open file and retained an attacking position. With his last move Black wants to throw back White's importunate knight, renewing the threat of 27...hxg5 28.hxg5 g6. However, White has a strong reply at his disposal.

27.Bc5!

Now on 27...hxg5 White replies 28.Bxf8, while on 27...Be7 there follows 28.Bxe7 Qxe7 29.Nf3 Re8 30.Qxe5! Qxe5 31.Nxe5 Rxe5 32.Rd8+ Kh7 33.Rxc8, and the pawn on e5 cannot be taken on account of 34.Bc2.

27...Rd8 28.Rxd8+ Bxd8



29.Nxf7! Nxf7 30.Bb6!

In this lies the idea of the combination! White regains the piece, since on 30...Qxb6 there follows 31.Qxf7+ Kh7 32.h5, creating a mating net. (*Translator's note:* In fact, there is a forced mate here: 32.Qg8+ Kg6 33.Qe8+! Kh7 34.Bg8+ Kh8 35.Bf7+ Kh7 36.Qg8#.)

30...Qd7 31.Bxd8 Kh7 32.Bxf7 Qxd8 33.Bg6+

Black resigned, since he loses a second pawn, on e5.