

(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 – Ólafsson

12th round, Reykjavík International 1974

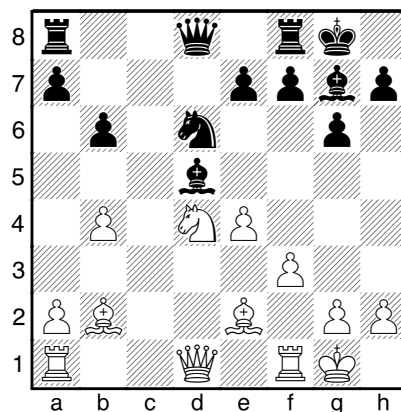
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 c5

I had expected that Ólafsson would, as usual, employ the Grünfeld Defence. The choice of opening spoke of the Icelandic grandmaster's desire to complicate the game.

5.e3 0–0 6.dxc5 Na6 7.Be2 Nxc5 8.0–0 b6 9.Nd4

This move is made with the idea of playing b2–b4. The immediate 9.b4 will not do on account of 9...Nce4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Nd4 Nc3, and after the exchange of the bishop on e2 Black obtains a comfortable game.

9...Bb7 10.b4 Nce4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4 12.Bb2 d5 13.f3 Nd6 14.cxd5 Bxd5 15.e4!



Limiting the opponent's light-squared bishop. On 15...Bc4 there could have followed 16.Nc6 Qc7 17.Bxg7 Bxe2 (or 17...Kxg7 18.Bxc4 Qxc6 19.Bd5) 18.Qxe2 Kxg7 19.b5 with a positional advantage. In the case of 15...Nc4 possible is 16.Bxc4 Bxc4 17.Nc6! Qd6 18.Qxd6 exd6 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Rfd1, winning a pawn.

15...Bb7 16.Qd2 Rc8

(Translator's note: Later, in the correspondence game Gipslis-Nesis (USSR, 1983) Black played more strongly: 16...e5! 17.Nb3 Qe7 18.b5 Rfd8 19.Ba3 Qe8!, etc.)

17.Rfd1 Qe8

17...Nc4 is to White's advantage on account of 18.Bxc4 Rxc4 19.Nf5 Qxd2 20.Nxe7+ Kh8 21.Bxg7+ Kxg7 22.Rxd2 Rxb4 23.Rc1 followed by an invasion on the 7th rank.

18.a4 Nc4 19.Bxc4 Rxc4 20.Nb5 Bxb2 21.Qxb2 Qb8 22.Rd7 a6

Also deserving attention is 22...Bc6. After 23.Rxe7 Bxb5 24.axb5 Qd6 25.Rexa7 Rxb4 Black equalises the game.

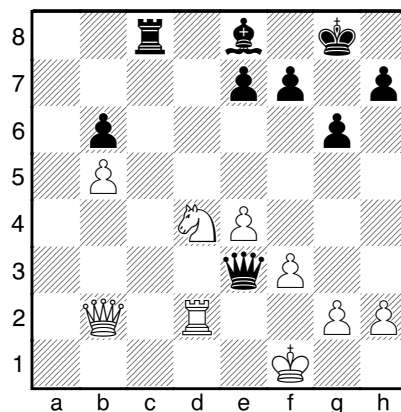
23.Na3 Rc7 24.Rd2 Rd8 25.Rad1 Rxd2 26.Rxd2 Rc8 27.Nc2 Bc6

On 27...Qf4 I intended to play 28.Ne1 Qe3+ 29.Kf1.

28.b5 axb5 29.axb5 Qf4

Black is carried away by the pursuit of attacking chances. 29...Be8 ought to have been preferred.

30.Nd4 Qe3+ 31.Kf1 Be8



32.Nc6!

Destroying the co-ordination of the black pieces. Now White obtains a far-advanced pawn, since the exchange on c6 is effectively forced.

32...Bxc6 33.bxc6 Qc5 34.Rc2 Qd6 35.e5 Qc7

The threat of the advance c6–c7 has to be reckoned with.

36.Qb5 Ra8 37.Rc1 Kg7

On 37...Ra5 there would have followed 38.Qd3, and 38...Rxe5 is impossible on account of 39.Qd7.

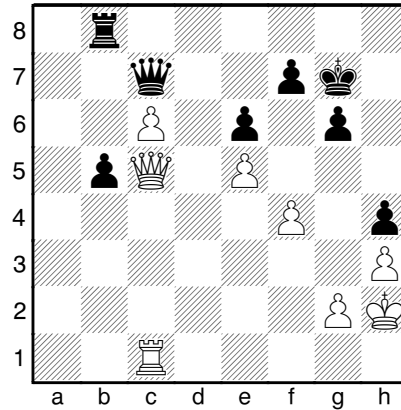
38.f4 h5 39.h3 h4

A risky advance – the h4–pawn soon becomes the object of attack.

40.Qb2 e6 41.Qf2 Rh8

As often happens with all mortals, after a tense struggle Ólafsson seals an unfortunate move. Passive defense of the pawn soon leads Black into *zugzwang*. Better was 41...b5, activating his passed pawn.

42.Kg1! b5 43.Qc5 Rb8 44.Kh2



The white king is now in complete safety. Black is in *zugzwang*. On 44...b4 there follows 45.Qd6 Qa7 46.c7 Rc8 47.Qd8 Qb7 48.f5!, and on 48...b3 – 49.fxe6, while on 48...gxf5 – 49.Rc4 with irresistible threats.

44...Qa5 45.Rd1! Qa4

On 45...Rc8 decisive is 46.Qe7 Qc3 47.c7! Qxc7 48.Rd7, while on 47...Qg3+ – 48.Kh1 Qxf4 49.Qd7 Qa4 50.Rf1.

46.c7 Qxf4+ 47.Kg1 Rc8 48.Rd8

Black resigned.