

(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 – Taimanov

Chigorin Memorial (Final Group), Leningrad 1951

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Qa4+ Bd7 6.Qxc4 Bc6 7.Nf3 Bd5 8.Qa4+ Bc6

In this variation it is important to carry out the advance ...c6–c5. Instead of the bishop move in the text, blocking the path of the c-pawn, deserving attention is 8...Qd7, and if 9.Qd1, then 9...c5 10.Ne5 Qc7.

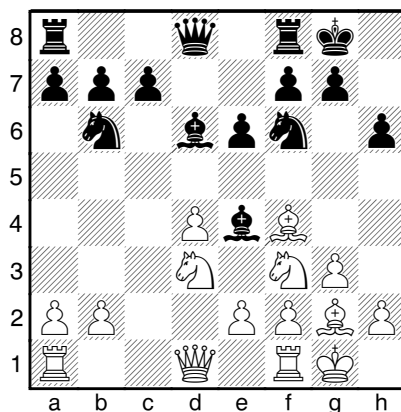
9.Qd1 Nbd7 10.0–0 h6 11.Nbd2

Usually the knight is developed on c3. In the present game White chooses a plan associated with the transfer of the knight to the e5-square.

11...Bb4 12.Nc4 0–0 13.Bf4 Nb6

A typical piece arrangement. In the event of 13...Nd5 14.Bd2 Bxd2 15.Qxd2 N5b6 White creates positional pressure on the queen's flank by means of 16.Na5.

14.Nce5 Be4 15.Nd3 Bd6



16.Nc5!

A manoeuvring struggle is in progress, marked by White's growing initiative. If now 16...Bxf4, then 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.gxf4, and White obtains a strong position in the centre and good prospects along the diagonal h1–a8.

16...Bxc5 17.dxc5 Qxd1 18.Rfxd1 Na4 19.Bxc7

After the exchange of queens White has retained the more active game. On 19...Nxb2 there follows 20.Rd4, cutting off the black knight.

19...Rfc8 20.Bd6 Nxc5 21.Rd4 Bd5 22.Bf1

This move is an integral part of White's plan, which proposes after a move by the knight to prepare the pawn manoeuvre f2–f3 and e2–e4.

22...Rc6 23.Be7 Bxf3

If 23...Re8, then 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.e4 Bxe4 26.Nd2 with the threat of winning the exchange with the move 27.Bb5.

Black's calculations were based on the variation 24.exf3 Nd5 25.Bxc5 Rxc5, when he obtains a solid position in the centre.

24.Bxf6

This manoeuvre, preventing the transfer ...Nf6–d5, is based on the variation: 24...Bxe2 25.Bxe2 gxf6 26.b4 Na4 27.b5 Nc3 28.Rg4+ followed by 29.bxc6.

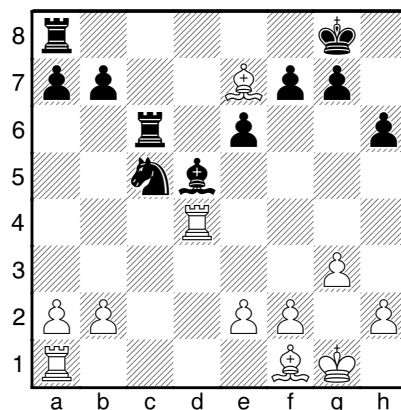
24...Be4

An incorrect decision: if the bishop is to be retreated, then Black ought to have agreed to the continuation 24...Bd5 25.Rg4 g6 26.f3, in which the initiative belongs to White. Perhaps the best of all was to choose 24...gxf6 25.exf3 e5, intending to transfer the knight to the e6–square.

25.Be7 Bd5

The bishop should guard the diagonal h1–a8, since on 25...Bg6 there arises the variation: 26.Bg2 Rc7 27.Bd6 Rcc8 28.b4 and then 29.Bxb7.

But now the poor position of the black pieces in the centre permits White to begin a dangerous offensive. The subsequent developments are of a forcing character.



26.b4!

Driving back the enemy knight. Black's move in reply is forced.

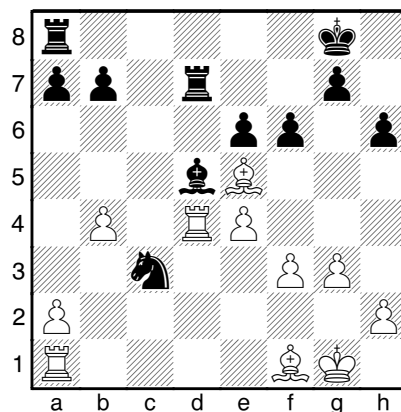
26...Ne4

Obligatory in view of the threat of e2–e4.

27.f3 Nc3 28.e4 Rc7

This move represents the best practical chances in the position that has arisen, and is evidence of Black's aspiration to organise counter-play. If 28...Bxa2, then 29.b5 Rc7 30.Bd6 Rcc8 31.Bb4 Bb3 32.Ra3 and White wins a piece.

29.Bd6 Rd7 30.Be5 f6



The idea of Black's defence. Seemingly, he has managed to avoid difficulties, but the following reply by White clarifies the situation.

31.Rd3!

Now both of the opponent's minor pieces prove to be under attack. 31...fxe5 cannot be played on account of 32.Rxc3 Bc6 33.b5, and the bishop perishes.

31...Na4 32.exd5 fxe5 33.dxe6

The other point of the transfer of the rook to d3 - where it proves to be defended – has now become obvious. Thanks to this circumstance White wins an important pawn.

33...Rxd3 34.Bxd3 Kf8

34...Re8 will not do in view of 35.Bb5 with a simultaneous attack on Black's pieces. Soon White wins another pawn, after which his material advantage decides the outcome of the struggle.

35.Re1 Rd8 36.Bc2 Nc3 37.Rxe5 Ke7 38.Bb3 Rd2 39.Rc5 Ne2+ 40.Kf1 Nd4 41.Rc7+ Ke8 42.Rxb7

Black resigned.