

(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 – Tolush

Chigorin Memorial (Final Group), Leningrad 1951

1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.g3 c5

Rejecting the hackneyed variations with the move 3...d5, Black permits White's central pawn to cross the demarcation line and thereby achieve definite spatial gains.

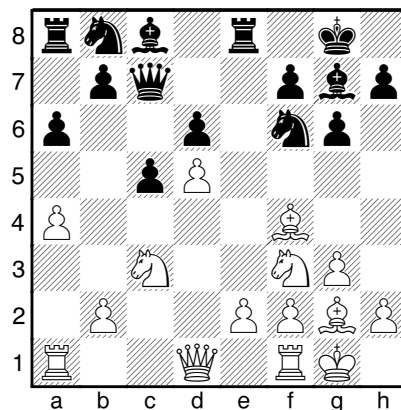
4.d5

Setting off on the path of a complicated struggle. Quieter here is 4.Nf3.

4...exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Bg2

White aims at piece development of his game. Another plan was associated with the moves 6.f3 and 7.e4, creating a pawn centre.

7...Bg7 8.Nf3 0–0 9.0–0 Re8 10.Bf4 a6 11.a4 Qc7



12.Qd2

Also deserving attention is 12.Nd2, heading to c4 with the knight. For instance: 12...Nh5 13.Nc4 Nxf4 14.gxf4. Then possible is 14...f5 15.a5 Nd7 16.Na4 Nf6 17.Nab6 Rb8 18.Rc1, intending to continue 19.b4.

12...Nbd7 13.Rfc1 c4

An interesting idea – exploiting the weakness of the b3–square in connection with the threatened transfer of the knight to c5. The negative side of this advance is the loss of control over the central d4–square.

14.Bh6 Bh8

Avoiding the exchange of the important bishop. On 14...Nc5 it was possible to continue 15.Bxg7 Nb3 16.Bxf6, and for the queen White obtains three minor pieces.

15.Qf4

Here the queen takes up an active position and simultaneously attacks c4, thereby restricting Black's initiative on the queen's flank.

15...Rb8

Intending the advance ...b7-b5. On 15...Ne5 White would have replied 16.Nxe5 Rxe5 17.Qd2, intending the subsequent transfer of his bishop via e3 to the d4-square.

16.h3

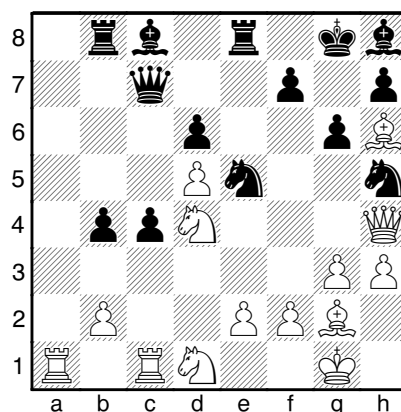
Directed against the move ...Ng4, which is possible in some cases. White does not prevent the advance 16...b5, believing that his pieces are conveniently placed to repulse the opponent's offensive on the queen's flank.

Weaker is 16.a5 b5 17.axb6 Rxb6, and Black obtains pressure along the b-file.

16...b5 17.axb5 axb5 18.Nd4 Nh5 19.Qh4 b4

Black consistently carries out his plan. Weaker is 19...Bf6 20.Bg5 Bxd4 21.Qxd4 Nc5, since after 22.Rd1 Nb3 23.Ra7 Nxd4 24.Rxc7 Nxe2+ 25.Nxe2 Rxe2 26.Be7 White's pieces occupy strong positions. In the event of 22...b4 23.Ne4 Bxh3 24.Nxc5 dxc5 25.d6 Qd7 26.Qxc4 a strong passed pawn is created for White on the d-file.

20.Nd1 Ne5



21.Nc6!

The invasion of the knight on c6 reveals the weaknesses in the opponent's camp, caused by the precipitous advance of the pawns on the queen's flank.

21...Nxc6 22.Rxc4

The only correct decision. On 22.Qxc4 Black had prepared the insidious reply 22...Nxc3! 23.fxg3 Qb6+ 24.Kh2 Ne5, while in the case of 22.dxc6 Be6 he obtained a strong position in view of the threat of 23...d5.

22...Bf6!

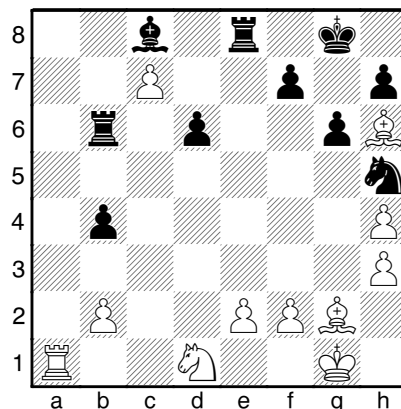
A counter-blow. On 23.Bg5 Black reckons on replying 23...Bxg5 24.Qxg5 Qd8, retaining the extra piece.

However, White intends a sacrifice of the exchange, which takes the game into a sharp ending.

23.Rxc6 Qxc6 24.dxc6 Bxh4 25.c7!

An important intermediate move. The black rook is deflected to the b6-square, where it will be unfortunately placed.

25...Rb6 26.gxh4



In the resultant position White has a far-advanced passed pawn and actively-placed bishops, and he can transfer the knight to the central square d5; all this puts Black in a difficult situation despite his material advantage.

If now 26...Re7, then 27.Ne3 Rxc7 28.Nd5, and White regains the exchange, retaining a positional advantage. On 26...Rxe2 there follows 27.Ne3 Ra6 28.Rc1 Ra7 29.Nd5 etc.

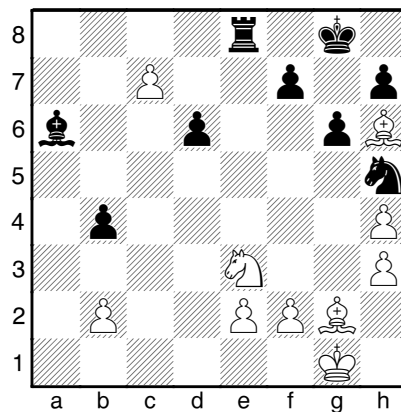
The following variation is indicative for the assessment of the endgame: 26...Bb7 27.Ne3 Bxg2 28.Kxg2 Rc6 (28...Nf6 29.Rc1 Rc8 30.Bg5 d5 31.Bxf6 Rxf6 32.Nxd5 Re6 33.Rc4) 29.Nd5 Rc5 30.e4 f5 31.Ra7 fxe4 32.Rb7 Rxd5 33.Rb8 Rde5 34.Rd8! and wins.

Also in the case of 26...Nf6 27.Ne3 d5 28.Nxd5 Nxd5 29.Bxd5 Black's situation remains difficult. For instance, 29...Rxe2 30.Ra8 Re8 31.Rb8 Ra6 32.Bb7 Ra7 33.Rxc8 Rxc8 34.Bxc8

Rxc7 35.Ba6; or 29...Re7 30.Bg5 Rxc7 31.Bd8 Rd7 32.Bxb6 Rxd5 33.Ra8 Rd1+ 34.Kh2 Rc1 35.Ba5, winning the b4–pawn, while on 29...Ra6 strong is 30.Rd1, threatening to penetrate to d8 with the rook.

The rook, with the pawn on the 7th rank, creates dangerous threats to the enemy king. Therefore Black decides to discharge the situation, exchanging the rook.

26...Ra6 27.Rxa6 Bxa6 28.Ne3



28...Nf6

In transferring the knight for the defence of the d5–square, Black loses the b4–pawn.

The move 28...b3 created a more difficult task for the development of White’s initiative. In this case White’s attacking possibilities are well illustrated by the following variations: 29.Bc6 Re5 (29...Re7 30.Bb5 Bb7 31.Nd5!) 30.Nd5 Rxe2 31.Bb5 Re1+ 32.Kh2 Bb7 33.Bc6 Ba6 34.Ba4. If now 34...Rb1, then 35.Ne7+ Kh8 36.Bd2, and the pawn cannot be taken on account of 37.Bc3+. On 34...Bb7 there follows 35.Bd2 with the possible continuations: 35...Rb1 36.Bc3 Rc1 37.Bxb3, and the c7–pawn will subsequently cost Black a piece, or 35...Re2 36.Bc6 Bc8 37.Nb6 Ba6 38.Bb5!. However, after the best reply 35...Rd1 36.Bc6 Ba6 37.Bc3 Rc1 Black obtains saving possibilities.

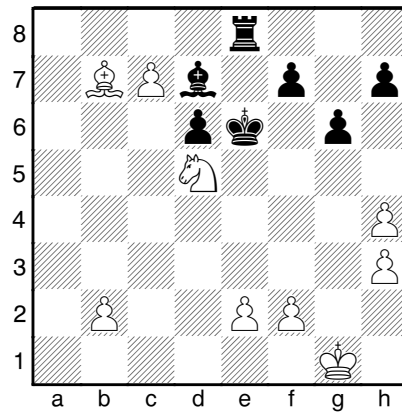
29.Bg5 Kg7

No better is 29...Ne4 in view of 30.Nd5 Kg7 31.Nxb4 Bc8 32.Bd8, reinforcing the passed pawn.

30.Bxf6+ Kxf6 31.Nd5+ Ke6 32.Nxb4

With the win of this pawn White creates two connected passed pawns, which decide the outcome of this tense struggle. Black cannot continue 32...Bxe2 on account of 33.Bb7 Kd7 34.Bc6+, and White wins.

32...Bb5 33.Bb7 Bd7 34.Nd5



34...Bc8

35.Nb6 followed by 36.c8=Q was threatened.

35.Bc6 Rg8 36.b4 g5 37.h5 g4 38.h4 Ba6 39.b5 Bc8 40.b6 g3
and without waiting for the reply, Black resigned.