

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nf3 b6

The Queen's Indian Defence. Both sides will follow one of the ancient main lines until move 9.

4 g3 Bb7
5 Bg2 Be7
6 O-O O-O
7 Nc3 Ne4
8 Qc2 Nxc3
9 Qxc3 f5
10 Re1?!

Over his next few turns White plays a number of inconsequential moves such as this one but, annoyingly for Black, he has such a solid position that the time he loses in doing so does not unduly damage it, even though he will obviously not be able to fight for an advantage.

10 ... Bf6
11 Qd2 Qe7
12 b3 d6
13 Bb2 Nd7
14 Rad1 Be4

Black wishes to break in the centre with pawn to e5. However he cannot do this yet because :

- he would like to meet 15 dxe5 with 15 ... dxe5 but this would lose the knight at d7.
- more importantly his undefended bishop at b7 would allow the tactic 15 Nxe5! Which would win White a pawn

This latter point explains the reason for the text move.

15 Qe3 Rad8

Occupying the d-file. Now 16 ... e5 is prepared with no drawbacks.

16 Ba3 c5

In view of White's last move, Black changes his plan. He will try to keep White's queen's bishop out of the game and will put pressure on the centre by playing his knight to c6 via b8, regardless of whether White exchanges pawns on c5 or not.

17 dxc5 dxc5
18 Rd2 Nb8
19 Red1 Nc6
20 Rxd8

Since Black now has a slight positional advantage, White rushes headlong towards, what he hopes will be, an ending that he can hold.

20 ... Rxd8

21 Rxd8 Qxd8
22 Qd2 Qxd2

Black, for his part, is also not averse to an ending, as he feels that the edge that he holds will give him chances to outplay White in a position with reduced material.

23 Nxd2 Bxg2
24 Kxg2 Kf7

For the moment 24 ... Nd4 25 Kf1 Nc2 26 Bc1 does not promise Black enough play and so he makes a useful move which awaits further developments.

25 e4 Bc3
26 Nb1

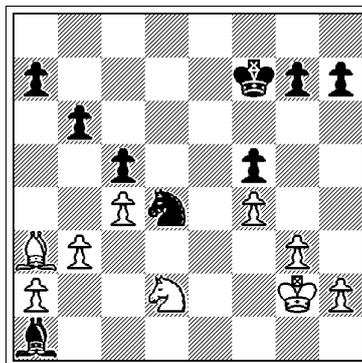
26 Nf3 was playable (26 ... fxe4?! 27 Ng5+) but Black would have retained a slightly superior position with 26 ... Kf6.

26 ... Ba1
27 exf5 exf5
28 f4

White has played the ending well so far. This move will prevent Black's king from infiltrating in the centre.

28 ... Nd4
29 Nd2

This move puts him on a slippery slope. 29 Bc1 would keep his disadvantage to a minimum.



(position after 29 Nd2)

Imagine this position with the white pawn on a4 instead of a2. In that case Black would win a pawn by force if it was him to move. He aims to set up just that position although, in order to do so, he will require White to be nervous about exchanging his bishop for Black's knight.

29 ... Nc2
30 Bc1

30 Nb1! Would have forced Black to look for a different plan.

30 ... Nb4

31 a4

Of course not 31 a3?? Nd3 when Black wins a piece.

31 ... Nd3
32 Ba3 Ne1+
33 Kf2 Nc2
34 Bc1?

This time 34 Nb1! Was totally necessary. In that case 34 ... a5 (if 34 ... Nd4 then 35 b4) does not even threaten to win a pawn as 35 ... Nd4 36 Nd2 Bc3 can be safely met by 37 Nb1. Black would have continued with 34 ... Ke6 instead, but his winning chances would have been few.

34 ... Nd4!

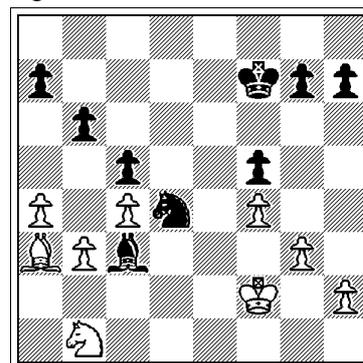
With the unstoppable threat of 35 ... Bc3.

35 Ba3

He has nothing better, but now the position that Black was aiming at in the note to White's 29th move has arisen.

35 ... Bc3
36 Nb1

If 36 Ke3 then 36 ... Bxd2+ 37 Kxd2 Nxb3+ 38 Kd3 Na5 39 Bb2 Nc6 and Black will easily win the ending. A thematic continuation would be 40 Ke3 g6 41 Kd3 Ke6 42 Bg7 Kd6 43 Bc3 Nd8 44 Ke3 Kc6 45 Bf6 Nf7 46 Bc3 a6 47 Kd3 Nd6 48 Be5 Ne4 49 Ke3 b5 with a straightforward victory in sight.

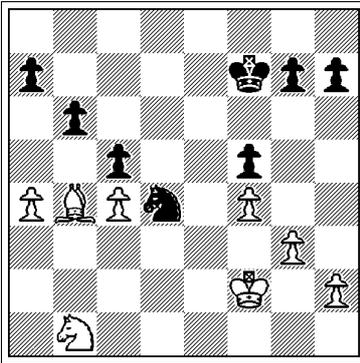


(position after 36 Nb1)

36 ... Ba5
37 b4 Bxb4
38 Bxb4?

38 Bb2 would have been a much harder nut to crack, but after 38 ... Ne6 White would not be able to move his knight without entering the same sort of lost ending as was given in the last note, and an attempt to develop it by 39 Bc3 Ke7 40 Ke3 Kd7 41 Kd3

Kc6 42 Nd2 would allow 42 ... Bxc3
 43 Kxc3 Nd4 44 Nf1 Kb7! 45 Ne3
 Ka6 46 Kb2 Ka5 47 Ka3 a6
 intending 48 ... b5 when Black wins
 comfortably.



(position after 38 Bxb4)

38 ... cxb4
 39 Ke3

Or 39 Nd2 Ne6 40 Nb3 Nc5 41 Nd4
 b3 and Black wins.

39 ... Nb3
 40 Nd2 Nxd2

This game was being played in
 English Descriptive notation and here
 Black offered the conditional
 continuation 'if 41 KxN then 41 ...
 K-K3'. Of course White could have
 resigned at this point, but he intended
 to accept that line and play 42 Kc2.

In actual fact he forgot to include the
 conditional on his postcard and simply
 wrote 41 K-B2 which, of course,
 happened to be a legal move, albeit to
 f2 instead of c2.

41 Kf2(?) Nxc4

Making it clear that White has made a
 clerical error, rather than playing 41
 ... b3 and risking a dispute if White
 tries to play 42 Kxb3.

42 Resigns