

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 Bd2 c5

The crucial test of White's gambit lies in its acceptance by 4 ... dxe4 5 Qg4 Qxd4. Like all other alternative moves, the text gives White the opportunity to play for the advantage.

5 a3 bxc3
6 Bxc3 c4

Black avoids the unclear 6 ... Nf6 7 dxc5 Nxe4! 8 Bxg7 of Boleslavsky v Bronstein, Moscow 1950.

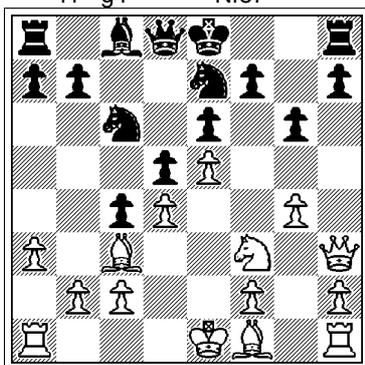
7 e5 Nc6
8 Qg4

In a four player all-play-all tournament I had two games with the black pieces and only this one as white. Therefore it was imperative to play for the full point here, and subsequently some of my moves in this game were more blatantly combative than might usually be the case.

8 ... g6?!

8 ... Kf8 is more prudent. The text move loosens his kingside slightly.

9 Nf3 Nh6
10 Qh3 Nf5
11 g4 Nfe7



(position after 11 ... Nfe7)

12 Be2

Notwithstanding the comments in the note to White's 8th move, I rejected 12 Qh6! here as I felt that after 12 ... f5 neither 13 Qg7 Rg8 14 Qxh7 fxc4 15 Ng5 or 13 exf6 Ng8 14 f7+ would give me sufficient advantage in the ensuing complications to make winning the game likely.

12 ... h6

In his turn, Black permanently prevents any queen sortie to h6.

13 Qg2 Bd7
14 h4

Aiming for play on the kingside where White has a preponderance of pieces.

14 ... Qb6
15 h5 O-O-O
16 O-O-O Rdg8
17 Qh2 a6

If Black had advanced his pawn to g5 on any of his last three moves, White would have begun to prepare a later pawn break at f4. However Black believes in the solidity of his position as it stands at present.

18 Qf4 Rf8
19 g5!?

Continuing to push on the kingside, at the cost of surrendering the f5 square.

19 ... Nf5?

He should have played 19 ... hxg5 20 Nxg5 and only then 20 ... Nf5. By omitting the exchange of pawns, he presents White with an opportunity...

20 gxh6?

... which he misses. 20 hxg6! fxc6 21 gxh6 Nxh6 22 Qg5 secures the win of the g-pawn.

20 ... Rxh6
21 Nh4 Nce7

White also retains pressure after 21 ... Rfh8 22 Nxf5 exf5 23 Bf3 Be6 24 hxg6 Rxh1 25 Rxh1 Rxh1+ 26 Bxh1 fxc6 27 Qh6.

22 Nxf5

Both the text move or 22 Bb4 keep Black passively placed.

22 ... Nxf5
23 hxg6 Rxh1

If 23 ... Rxc6 then 24 Rh7, threatening 25 Bb4, keeps White active.

With the text move Black accepts that he will be saddled with a weak isolated g-pawn.

24 Rxh1 fxg6
25 Qd2

25 Rh7, intending to follow up with 26 Qh2, also came into consideration.

25 ... Be8

As so often happens in the French Defence, the light squared bishop is Black's worst piece and has no good square available to it.

26 Rh3 Ne??

He retreats his best placed piece in

return for an attack on the f-pawn, but this is an error as White can force a favourable exchange of pieces.

27 Ba5 Qc6
28 Bb4! Rf7
29 Bxe7 Rxe7
30 Qg5

White has a good bishop versus a bad one, and he also has an isolated pawn to aim at.

30 ... Qd7
31 Bg4 Rf7?

In a poor position Black plays for the trap 32 Qxc6?? Rg7! winning a piece for two pawns. However he completely overlooks White's reply which wins a pawn. 31 ... Kc7, keeping a compact position was correct.

32 Rh8! Kc7

If 32 ... Rxf2?? then 33 Qxc6 Kd8 34 Bh5 and the bishop is lost.

32 ... Rg7 also fails to keep material equal as 33 Qf6 wins either the e- or g-pawn.

33 Qxc6 Rf8
34 Qh6

The only move, but it is good enough.

34 ... Rxh8
35 Qxh8 Qf7

Against other moves White would play 36 Qf6 preparing 37 f4 and 38 f5.

36 Qf6 Qxf6?!

36 ... Kd7 was his last forlorn hope, but after 37 Kd2 Qg8 38 Bh3 with 39 f4, intending 40 f5, to follow Black must surely be lost.

After the text move White's winning method is straightforward.

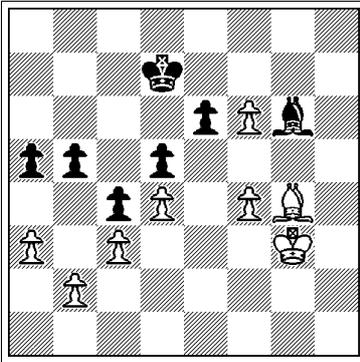
37 exf6 Kd6
38 f4

To prevent 38 ... e5.

38 ... Kd7
39 Kd2

The king has its sights on the g7 square.

39 ... Bf7
40 Ke3 Bg6
41 c3 b5
42 Kf3 a5
43 Kg3



(position after 43 Kg3)

At this point the game was called in for adjudication, but there was no doubt about the result:

- a) 43 ... Bf5 44 Bxf5 exf5 45 Kh4 Ke6 46 Kg5 is obviously hopeless for Black
- b) 43 ... Bf7 44 Kh4 Bg8 (if 44 ... Ke8 then 45 Bh5) 45 Kg5 Ke8 (else 46 Bh5 Bh7 47 Bg6) 46 Bh5+ Kf8 47 Bg6 a4 48 f5! exf5 49 Kxf5 and it is zugzwang

Therefore Black did not oppose White's claim of a win.

43 ... Resigns