

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 a6
4 Ba4 Nf6
5 O-O Be7

The Closed Ruy Lopez. Many games in this line follow theory for a lot of moves and the current one will be no exception.

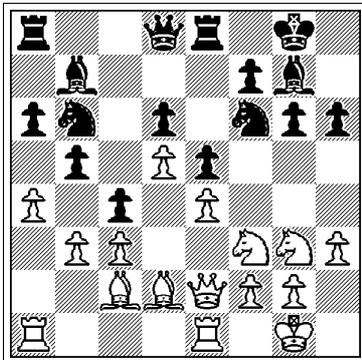
6 Re1 b5
7 Bb3 d6
8 c3 O-O
9 h3 h6

The Smyslov Variation which is quiet but solid. It was very popular in the early 1970s but had largely drifted out of fashion by the time of this game.

10 d4 Re8
11 Nbd2 Bf8
12 Nf1 Bb7
13 Ng3 Na5
14 Bc2 Nc4

All of the moves so far had been played many times before.

15 b3 Nb6
16 Bd2 c5
17 d5 g6
18 Qe2 Bg7
19 a4 c4



(position after 19 ... c4)

In this position Informator 13 gave 20 bxc4 Nxc4 21 Reb1 Qc7 22 axb5 axb5 23 Rxa8 Rxa8 24 Rxb5 Nxd2 25 Qxd2 Ra2. Black was not sure that he would have enough compensation for the pawn here, and therefore after 20 bxc4 he was planning the novelty 20 ... bxa4!? intending 21 Bxa4 Nxa4 22 Rxa4 Nd7 with the idea of blockading the c5-square...

20 b4!

... but White gets his novelty in first.

This move was suggested, but not analysed, in the same Informator. The plan behind it is to slowly move

forwards on both sides of the board whilst depriving Black of any counterplay.

20 ... Nbd7

White also has an edge after 20 ... Qc7 21 Be3 Nxa4 22 Bxa4 bxa4 23 Rxa4 due to his superior pawns.

21 Be3 Qc7
22 Qd2 h5
23 Ra2 bxa4!?

Attempting to obtain some activity before White is able to double rooks on the a-file.

24 Rxa4 a5
25 b5 Nb6
26 Ra3 Nfd7
27 Rb1

27 Rea1 can be answered by 27 ... Nc5 as after 28 Rxa5? Rxa5 29 Rxa5 Black has 29 ... Nxd5 when he would stand well.

27 ... Nc5
28 Qe2!

A move which fits in perfectly with the plan that White adopted on move 20 as the queen now exerts influence on both sides of the board.

28 ... Rec8
29 Nd2 Ncd7
30 Ngf1 Kh7
31 g4

White is aware that his opponent's last move was designed in order to get a rook to the h-file when it becomes open, but he goes ahead with this move anyhow as he realises that Black will be unable to support that rook with any other pieces.

31 ... hxg4
32 hxg4 Rh8
33 Ng3 Bh6

A move designed to force White into making a decision about the future of his g-pawn.

34 g5 Bg7
35 Raa1 Kg8
36 f3 Kf8
37 Qf2 Kg8

White's long-term strategy is working well. Black is devoid of counterplay and must sit quietly and await events.

38 Bd1 Kf8
39 Be2 Ke7
40 Ndf1

White does not need to rush. He has improved the position of his kings-

bishop already, and now he does the same with this knight.

40 ... Rhc8
41 Nh2 Rf8
42 Ng4 Rh8

Black is unwilling to push his passed a-pawn forward for the time being as this would present the b4-square to White's rook and make both the a- and c-pawns vulnerable.

43 Rf1 Rh7
44 Nf6!

Finally making his bid for victory after his patient build-up.

44 ... Bxf6
45 gxf6+ Kxf6

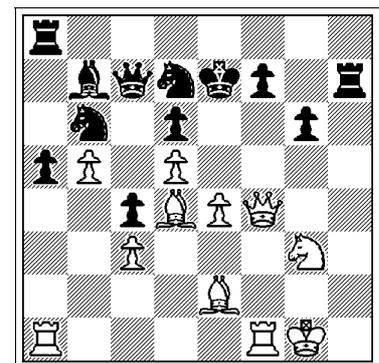
Black is obliged to accept the pawn sacrifice. An example of what would happen if he defended passively is 45 ... Kf8? 46 f4 exf4 47 Qxf4 Ne5 48 Kg2! to be followed by 49 Rh1 and decisive penetration down the h-file.

46 f4 exf4!?

He could also try 46 ... Ke7!? with hope of survival after 47 fxe5 (or 47 f5 Rg8!) 47 ... dxe5 48 Bg5+ Kf8. He would be under pressure but would have a pawn in the bank plus the insurance of a potentially strong passed a-pawn.

47 Qxf4+ Ke7
48 Bd4

White prevents Black from doubling rooks on the h-file.



(position after 48 Bd4)

48 ... Ke8?

This is an error. 48 ... Ne5 was necessary. Then after 49 Qg5+ Kf8 (but not 49 ... Ke8 or 49 ... Kd7 which are both answered by 50 Nf5! with a very strong attack, the immediate threat being 51 Nxd6) Black is still well in the game after either 50 Kg2 Nbd7! 51 Rh1 f6 or 50 Bxe5 dxe5 51 Qxg6 Rg7 52 Qh6 Kg8.

49 Qe3

So that the attack on the knight at b6 prevents Black from playing his other steed to e5.

49 ... a4?

Black plays his last trump. After the game White suggested 49 ... Nc8 instead, freeing the other knight to go to e5. Even so, the plan of 50 Kg2 and 51 Rh1 would still give White a clearly superior game, but after the text move it turns out that Black is lost.

50 Kg2! a3

50 ... Ra5 fails to 51 Rh1 eg 51 ... Rxh1 52 Rxh1 Rxb5 53 Rh8+ Nf8 (53 ... Ke7 loses to 54 Nf5+! gxf5 55 Qg5+ mating) 54 Qh6 Nd7 (or 54 ... Qe7 55 Bf6! Qxf6 56 Qxf8+ Kd7 57 Bg4+ and mate next move) 55 Bg7 winning a piece.

51 Rh1 Rxh1

52 Rxh1 a2

53 Bg4!!

Beautiful play! The way in which White refutes Black's strategy since move 49 is to allow him to carry it out in its entirety and then mate him!

53 ... a1=Q

Everything else also loses now that White's king's bishop covers the important d7-square.

54 Rh8+ Nf8

54 ... Ke7 allows 55 Nf5+! gxf5 56 Qg5+ mating.

55 Rxf8! Kxf8

55 ... Ke7 56 Qg5+ Kxf8 57 Qh6+ transposes to the game continuation.

56 Qh6+ Ke7

Or 56 ... Ke8 57 Qh8+ Ke7 58 Bf6 mate.

57 Qh4+ g5

57 ... f6 58 Bxf6+ is mate in two more moves while 57 ... Kf8 (or 57 ... Ke8) 58 Qh8+ is mate next move.

58 Qxg5+ Ke8

58 ... Kf8 allows mate by 59 Qh6+ Ke7 (or 59 ... Ke8 60 Qh8+ Ke7 61 Bf6) 60 Bf6+ Ke8 61 Qh8.

Black offered White the remaining moves of the game by conditional continuation so that he would bring his attack to its ultimate conclusion with both sides wasting no extra money in stamps.

59 Qg8+ Ke7

60 Nf5+ Kd7

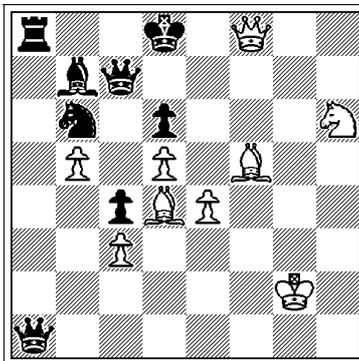
61 Nh6+ f5

62 Bxf5+ Ke7

63 Qf7+ Kd8

64 Qf8 mate

Black's extra queen never got off its queening square. White's attack thoroughly deserved to finish with a mate, and the mate deserves a diagram.



(final position)