

1 e4 c6
2 d4 d5
3 exd5 cxd5
4 Bd3

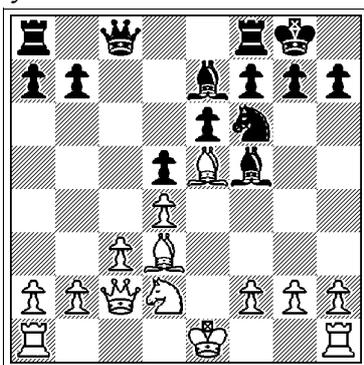
A quiet variation against the Caro-Kann Defence which aims only for a small advantage, but has the benefit of giving Black relatively few counterchances.

4 ... Nc6
5 c3 Nf6
6 Bf4 Bg4
7 Qb3 Qc8?
8 Nd2 e6
9 Ngf3 Be7
10 Ne5 Nxe5

If Black had intended to play this move, as opposed to the alternative 10 ... Bh5, then there is no good reason why he couldn't have put his queen on d7 at move 7.

11 Bxe5 O-O
12 Qc2 Bf5?!

In Informator 9, Shamkovich claims that White would obtain a clear advantage in the line 12 ... Kh8 13 h3 Bh5 14 Bxf6 Bxf6 15 Bxh7 g6 16 g4. However after the further 16 ... Bxd4 17 gxh5 Kxh7 it does not appear that anything disastrous is about to befall Black, so perhaps White might have tried an alternative line if Black had played in this manner.



(position after 12 ... Bf5)

13 Bxf5 exf5
14 Qb3 Qc6
15 a4

ECO 2nd edition says that this position is slightly advantageous to White. This is because, thanks to Black's 12th move, White will ultimately be able to create a passed pawn with his queenside majority, whereas Black will be unable to do likewise on the kingside against correct White defence.

After this move the players are left to their own devices to find moves as ECO's line ends. White's plan will clearly be to exchange pieces and attempt to exploit his better pawns in an ending.

15 ... Rac8
16 Qc2 Ne4
17 f3 Nxd2
18 Qxd2

His previous two moves coerced Black into allowing the exchange of knights, which is as per White's plan.

18 ... Qc4
19 Qe2 Qxe2+?

Black is confident that he will hold the ending, but this move must surely be questioned because that task will be much more difficult than he anticipates.

20 Kxe2 Rfe8
21 Kd3

Centralising his king and preparing to establish a passed pawn by playing his pawns to b3 and c4.

21 ... g5
22 Bg3

Black was threatening to trap this bishop with 22 ... f4 and then win it by 23 ... f6.

22 ... f4
23 Bf2 h5
24 Rhe1 Bd6

Preparing 25 ... Re6 intending 26 ... Rce8 in an attempt to coerce White into allowing him to undouble his f-pawns.

25 Rxe8+! Rxe8
26 b3 g4
27 h3

This ensures that Black will never be able to create a kingside passed pawn.

27 ... f5

Protecting his g4-pawn and giving his king a direct route to e6 from where it can defend his d-pawn. However it gives up the option of answering White's next move with 28 ... Re6.

28 Re1?!

In view of the fact that White eventually has to rely on Black errors to obtain the full point in the further course of the game, it seems that he should have preferred 28 c4! g3 29 Bg1 at this point.

28 ... Rxe1

29 Bxe1 Kf7!

Facilitating his next move. However he has no play of his own, and White will be able to manoeuvre almost endlessly in his attempt to arrange a winning ending for himself.

30 c4 Ke6
31 b4 dxc4+

Clarifying the pawn structure immediately, rather than allowing White the option of advancing his pawns to c5 and b5 later on.

32 Kxc4 Bc7
33 Bf2

To provoke Black into moving either his a- or b-pawn.

33 ... a6
34 Bh4

As Black has no possible method of obtaining any play, White decides to bide his time with a series of probing moves on his next few turns, hoping that Black will panic and make an unforced error.

34 ... Bb8
35 Bg5 Bd6
36 Bd8 Kd7
37 Bb6 Kc6
38 a5 Kd7
39 Bc5 Bc7
40 Kd5 g3

A small victory for White. Black becomes nervous about a double exchange on g4 followed by a king move to e4, and he puts another pawn on a black square to avoid it. White was not actually intending to play such a line.

41 Kc4 Ke6
42 Bb6 Bb8

Of course 42 ... Bxb6?? 43 axb6 Kd6 loses to the simple 44 d5.

43 d5+

Finally White makes a committal move, although he intends to continue to probe slowly in the immediate aftermath of this.

43 ... Ke7
44 Bc5+ Kd7
45 Kd4 Bc7
46 Bf8 Bb8
47 Kc5 Ba7+
48 Kc4 Be3?!

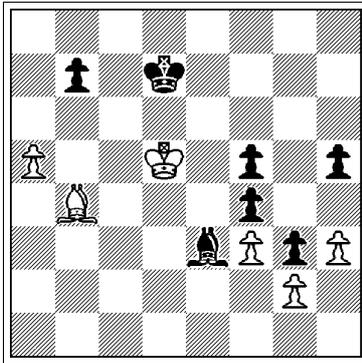
This makes his defence much more difficult. 48 ... b6 or 48 ... Bb8 were the accurate moves, keeping his bishop in touch with both the queenside

and, crucially, the e5 square.

49 Bc5 Kc7
 50 b5 axb5+
 51 Kxb5 Kd7
 52 Kc4 Bd2
 53 Bb4 Be3
 54 d6!?

White finally decides to make his bid for victory.

54 ... Kc6
 55 d7 Kxd7
 56 Kd5



(position after 56 Kd5)

56 ... Ba7?

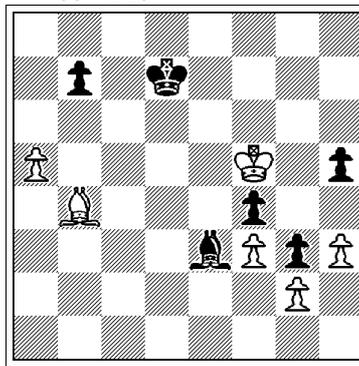
At last Black makes the decisive error. After 56 ... Bc1! he holds the position in problem like style:

- a) 57 Ke5 Kc6 58 Kxf5 Kb5 with:
 - i. 59 Be1 Kc4 60 Ke4 (else 60 ... Kd3 intending 61 ... Ke2 and 62 ... Kf1) 60 ... h4! 61 a6! (the only move) 61 ... bxa6 62 Ba5 Kb5 63 Bd8 and it is White who is grovelling for the draw.
 - ii. 59 Bc3 Kc4 60 Be5 Kd3! 61 Bxf4 Bxf4 62 Kxf4 h4! 63 Kg4 Ke2 64 f4 Kf2 65 f5 Kxg2 66 f6 Kh2 67 f7 g2 68 f8=Q g1=Q+ with a draw
- b) 57 Bc3 h4!! (the only move that is sufficient) 58 Ke5 Kc6 59 Kxf5 Kb5 and:
 - i. 60 Kg4?? Kc4 61 Be5 Kd3! 62 Bxf4 Bxf4 63 Kxf4 Ke2 64 Kg4 (here we see the point of 57 ... h4. White cannot capture on g3) 64 ... Kf2 and Black will queen first and win
 - ii. 60 Ke4 Ka4 with a positional draw
- c) 57 h4 Bb2 (the point behind 56 ... Bc1 in that it prevents White playing his king to e5) 58 Bd2 Bf6 59 Bxf4 Bc3! 60 Bxg3 Bxa5 with an equal ending

Neither player saw these variations during the game. White believed that he had a won game after Black's 48th move, and Black had clearly given up hope when making the text move.

57 Ke5 Bc3

58 Kxf5



(position after 58 Kxf5)

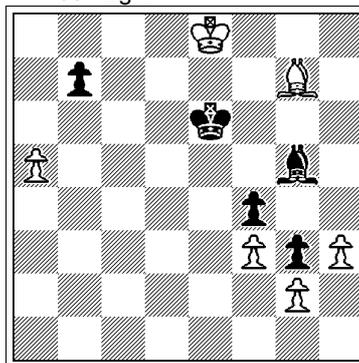
58 ... Bc1

Now 58 ... Kc6 fails to save him after 59 h4! Kb5 60 Bc3 Kc4 61 Be5 and:

- a) 61 ... Kd3 62 Bxf4 Bf2 63 Kg5 Ke2 64 Kxh5 Kf1 65 Kg4 Kxg2 66 h5 and Black cannot ever advance his g-pawn so White wins
 - b) 61 ... Bd2 62 Bc7 Kb5 63 Bxf4 Bxa5 64 Bxg3 Kc4 65 Be5 b5 66 g4! with a straightforward win
- 59 Kg5 Ke6
 60 Kxh5 Kf5
 61 Bc3

The rest is a simple matter of technique. White will get his king back into the action in due course.

61 ... Ba3
 62 Kh6 Bf8+
 63 Kh7 Be7
 64 Kg7 Bd8
 65 Kf7 Bh4
 66 Ke8 Ke6
 67 Bb2 Bg5
 68 Bg7!



(position after 68 Bg7)

68 ... Kd6

It is zugzwang:

- a) 68 ... Be7 69 Be5! Bb4 70 Bc7 Bd2 71 Kd8 Kd5 72 h4 and Black has no defence
 - b) 68 ... Bh4 69 Bh6 Kf5 70 Kd7 Bf6 71 Kc7 Bc3 72 Kb6 Bd2 73 h4 and White wins easily eg 73 ... Ke5 74 Bg5 Kf5 75 Bd8 and 76 Kxb7
- 69 Kf7 Bd8
 70 Bf6! Bxa5
 71 h4 Resigns

The h-pawn will queen.