

1 e4 e5  
 2 Nf3 Nc6  
 3 Bb5 a6  
 4 Ba4 Nf6  
 5 O-O Be7  
 6 Re1 b5  
 7 Bb3 d6  
 8 c3 O-O  
 9 h3 h6

The Smyslov defence to the Ruy Lopez - old fashioned but solid.

10 d4 Re8  
 11 Nbd2 Bf8  
 12 Nf1 Bb7  
 13 Ng3 Na5  
 14 Bc2 c5

Deviating from main-line theory in an attempt to force White into unmapped territory.

15 d5 Nc4

The second edition of ECO ends here without giving an assessment of the position.

16 Bd3 Nb6  
 17 Bd2

White transposes back into the book. This position is normally reached via 14 ... Nc4 15 Bd3 Nb6 16 Bd2 c5 17 d5.

17 ... g6!?

ECO 2nd edition also gives 17 ... Bc8 leading to equality. After the text move, it gives 18 Nh2 c4 19 Bc2 Nbd7 20 b4 a5 with a small advantage for White, who will plan to play a pawn thrust to f4 at an appropriate moment.

18 Nh2 Nbd7

This is Black's improvement on the above line. It's advantage over 18 ... c4 19 Bc2 Nbd7 is that after White plays his pawn to f4 Black can capture it and meet the bishop recapture by playing his knight to e5 which gains a tempo by attacking the bishop on d3.

19 Be3 Bg7  
 20 Qd2 h5?!

In view of the attack that White obtains after this move, it would appear that 20 ... Kh7 would be more appropriate.

21 Bg5!

White intends to play 22 f4 and to meet 22 ... exf4 with 23 Qxf4 with pressure against Black's kingside.

To avoid this, Black has to play the move which he has deliberately

avoided (see the note to Black's 18<sup>th</sup>).

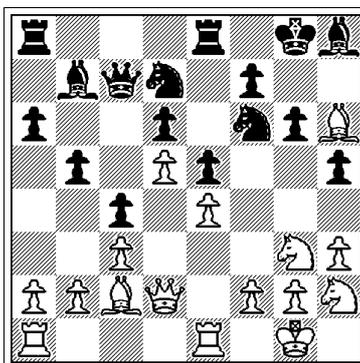
21 ... c4  
 22 Bc2 Qb6  
 23 Be3!

Another very strong bishop move. 23 Kh1 (unpinning the f-pawn) would allow Black to gain a tempo for defence by 23 ... Nh7 when the bishop on g7 overprotects the vital e5 square.

23 ... Qc7  
 24 Bh6 Bh8?

In retrospect, it is easy to see that this move is a blunder. Black tries to keep his king's bishop to support his e5 square.

In theory this is a correct decision, but in practice it squanders a tempo, which White immediately takes advantage of. 24 ... Nh7, covering the g5 square, would have been better. After 25 Bxg7 Kxg7 26 f4 exf4 27 Qxf4 Ne5 White would have an edge, but Black's defences would be difficult to breach.



(position after 24 ... Bh8)

25 f4 exf4  
 26 Qxf4 Ne5  
 27 Re3

White develops his rooks in readiness for the final assault.

27 ... Bc8

Black should not play 27 ... Nh7, in view of 28 Nf5! when 28 ... gxf5 29 Rg3+ Ng6 30 exf5 Be5 31 fxf6! fxf6 (31 ... Bxf4?? allows mate in 2) 32 Rxf6+ Kh8 33 Qf5 gives White a raging attack.

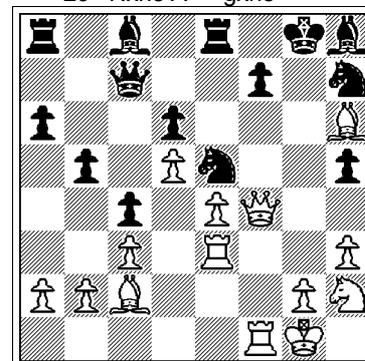
28 Rf1 Nh7!

White has a big advantage, and if Black defends by normal means he is sure to be beaten.

This move is useful in that it covers the weak g5 square and gives added protection to the knight at e5. It's

principle virtue, however, is that it tempts White into a losing sacrifice.

29 Nxh5?? gxh5



(position after 29 ... gxh5)

30 Qg3+

30 Rg3+ loses to 30 ... Ng6 when 31 e5 is met by 31 ... Bxe5 and after 32 Bxg6 Qa7+! (but not 32 ... Bxf4?? 33 Bxf7+ Kxf7 34 Rg7+ Kf6 35 Rxf4+ and 36 Rxc7 when White is material ahead. The text puts the queen on a protected square) 33 Kh1 Bxf4 34 Bxf7+ Kxf7 35 Rg7+ Kf6 36 Rxf4+ Bf5 37 Rxa7 Rxa7 Black emerges a rook up.

30 ... Ng6  
 31 e5

Now, however, 31 ... Bxe5 loses beautifully to 32 Bxg6 when 32 ... Bxg3 is impossible since 33 Rxe8 mates.

It looks as though Black is beaten. But....

31 ... h4!!

... and White is unable to recover his material deficit. After 32 exd6, Black has 32 ... Qd7 or 32 ... Rxe3 so ...

32 Resigns