Event : 5th European Team Championship Preliminaries	Board : 2
Opponents : Italy	White : M Read
Date : 1994/96	Black : A Scuderi

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 e5

The Sveshnikov Variation.

6 Ndb5 d6
7 Bg5 a6
8 Na3 b5
9 Bxf6

The tactical line. A more positional alternative is 9 Nd5.

9 ... gxf6
10 Nd5 Bg7

A modern departure from the traditional 10 ... f5.

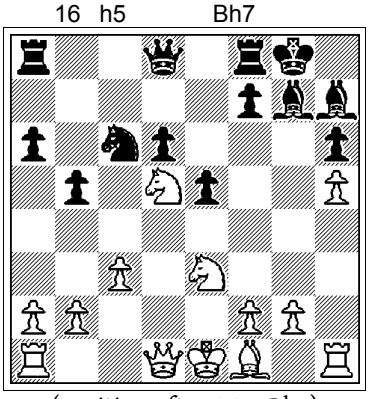
11 c3 f5
12 exf5 Bxf5
13 Nc2

Despite Black's attempt to deviate at move 10, we have transposed into one of the main lines of the 10 ... f5 variation.

13 ... O-O
14 Nce3 Bg6

A comparatively rare move. 14 ... Be6 is usually played.

15 h4 h6
16 h5 Bh7



(position after 16 ... Bh7)

Theory's latest word on the position at the time was a line given in Informator 57 which ran 17 Bd3 f5 18 g4 e4 19 Be2 f4 20 Nxf4 Rxf4 21 Qd5+ Kh8 22 Qxc6 Qf8! with Black having good compensation for his pawn.

17 g4

Varying from the above line, with a plan to control the central squares. 17 ... f5 is prevented due to 18 Nxf5 Bxf5 19 exf5 Rxf5 20 Ne3 Rf7 (forced due to the threat of 21 Qd5+ winning the knight) 21 Bg2 winning material.

17 ... Ne7
18 Qf3!

Continuing the plan outlined above. White already has an initiative.

18 ... Nxd5
19 Qxd5 e4
20 Rd1

White uses his superior control of the centre to begin an attack on Black's central pawns.

20 ... Be5
21 Bg2 Re8
22 Nf5

Not 22 Bxe4?? Bxe4 23 Qxe4 Bxc3+.

The text eliminates Black's white-squared bishop from the equation and thereby forces the win of a pawn.

22 ... Bxf5
23 gxf5 Qe7
24 Kf1!

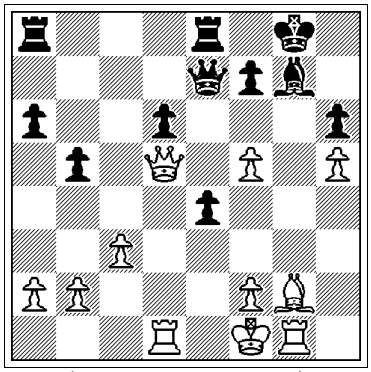
Removing the king from the e-file onto a much safer square. 24 Bxe4? would have been met by 24 ... Bxc3+.

24 ... Bg7
25 Rg1!?

White rejected 25 Re1 due to 25 .. b4 26 Rxe4 Qg5 and if 27 f4 then 27 .. Qg4 when Black has plenty of counterplay.

He also did not like 25 Qxd6 Qg5! when Black is threatening 26 ... Rad8.

The text is designed to put pressure on the g-file which is home to Black's king.



(position after 25 Rg1)

25 ... Kf8?!

25 ... e3? 26 fxe3 Qxe3 27 Qd2! is very good for White as both 28 Bxa8 and 28 f6 are threatened.

However Black should have remained calm and defended with 25 ... Rad8, not fearing 26 Bxe4 Qxe4 27 Qxe4 Rxe4 28 f6 because after 28 ... Re6 29 fxg7 Re5 he should hold the draw comfortably.

26 Qxd6 Ra7
27 Bxe4

A neat little trick.

27 ... Qxd6
28 Rxd6 Rxe4
29 f6 Bxf6

Not, of course, 26 ... Bh8? 27 Rd8+ Re8 28 Rxe8+ Kxe8 29 Rg8+ etc.

30 Rxf6 Rd7!

White has won one pawn and will win another but, starting with this move, Black will prove that he has enough counterplay to hold the draw.

31 Rg3

Not 31 Rxh6?? Rd1+ 32 Kg2 Rg4+.

31 ... Rd2
32 Rxh6 Rxb2

If 32 ... Ree2 then 33 Rf6 and the h-pawn will begin to roll.

33 Rxa6 Rf4!
34 Ra8+

34 Rg2 Rh4! 35 Rg5 Rf4 36 Ra8+ Ke7 37 Re5+ Kf6 38 Re2 transposes to the game continuation.

34 ... Ke7
35 Re3+ Kf6
36 Re2 Rb1+
37 Kg2 Rh4!

Black's rooks become ever more active.

38 Ra6+

38 h6 Rxh6 39 Ra6+ Kg7 40 Rxh6 Kxh6 leaves a drawn ending. White must make sure that he keeps a two pawn advantage if he is to win.

38 ... Kg5

But White has been forced to allow Black to activate his king.

39 h6

The pawn is safe as 39 ... Rxh6? 40 f4+! Kh5 41 Re5+ f5! 42 Rxh6+ (42 Rxf5+ is answered by 42 ... Kg4) 42 ... Kxh6 43 Rxf5 should win for White.

39 ... f5!

The pawn reports for attacking duty also.

40 Re3

40 Ree6 allows 40 ... Kf4! when 41 Red6 Rg4+ is a draw by perpetual check and 41 Re3 Rbh1 42 Rf3+ Ke5 leaves a drawn ending as the h-pawn will fall.

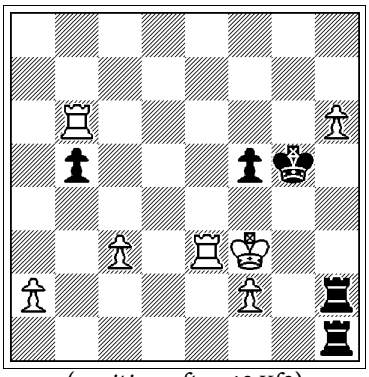
40 ... Rbh1!

And not 40 ... Rxh6?? 41 Rg3+.

41 Rb6

There is nothing better. 41 Rg3+ Kf4 42 Rf3+ Ke5 transposes into the line in the note to White's last move while 41 Ree6?? Kf4 is actually winning for Black!

41 ... R4h2+
42 Kf3



(position after 42 Kf3)

Now Black has the opportunity to put the finishing touches to his excellent defensive effort.

After 42 ... Rf1 43 Re2 Rh3+ 44 Kg2 Rfh1! White has a choice of :

a) 45 Rc2?? Kf4 and Black mates next move

b) 45 Re3 when 45 ... R3h2+ 46 Kf3 repeats the position in the diagram above

c) 45 Rb2 when Black has 45 ... f4!! 46 R2xb5+ Kg4 47 Rg6+ Kh4 48 Rb4 (pinning the pawn) 48 ... Kh5 49 Rf6 (49 ... f3 mate was threatened) 49 ... f3+! 50 Rxf3 R1h2+ 51 Kg1 (not 51 Kf1?? Rxf3) 51 ... Rh1+ with perpetual check

d) 45 Rd2 f4!! 46 Rd3 (46 Rxb5+?? loses after 46 ... Kg4 while 46 Rd5+ Kg4 47 Rg6+ Kh4 48 Rd4 Kh5 49 Rf6 f3+! is a draw in the same manner as line c) above) 46 ... f3+! 47 Rxf3 R3h2+ and Black draws by perpetual check again.

e) 45 f4+ Kxf4 46 Rf2+ Kg4 47 Rg6+ Kh5 when 48 Rd6 (48 Rg8 R1h2+ 49 Kf1 Rh1+ 50 Ke2 Kxh6 is a straightforward draw) 48 ... Kg5 49 Rd5 R3h2+ 50 Kf3 Rxf2+ 51 Kxf2 Rxh6 52 Rxb5 Rh2+ is a dead draw

42 ... Kh5??

After having taken only 30 days for his first 40 moves, Black took 9 days over his 41st and spent 6 days on this one, but the drawing line eluded him.

43 Rxb5 Resigns

Both 43 ... Rf1 44 Re2 Rh3+ 45 Kf4 and 43 ... Kg5 44 Ree5 Rh3+ 45 Ke2 Kxh6 46 Rxf5 Rxc3 47 Rfc5 are easy wins for White.