Event : 4th North Atlantic Teams Tournament	Board : 2
Opponents : Ireland	White : M Read
Date : 1995/98	Black : C O'Hare

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

This was originally known as the Sicilian Pelikan but by the time of this game it was more commonly called the Sveshnikov Sicilian.

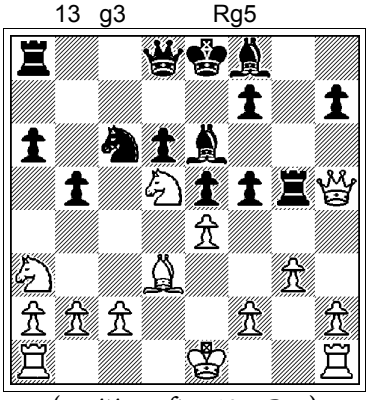
6	Ndb5	d6
7	Bg5	a6
8	Na3	b5
9	Bxf6	

The most aggressive move. A more positional alternative is 9 Nd5 Be7 10 Bxf6 Bxf6 11 c3 intending to relocate the knight from a3 to the centre.

9	...	gxf6

9 ... Qxf6?! is an error as 10 Nd5 Qd8 11 c4 is a strong White response.

10	Nd5	f5
11	Bd3	Be6
12	Qh5	Rg8
13	g3	Rg5



(position after 13 ... Rg5)

Here the main line at the time was 14 Qxh7 Bxd5 15 exd5 Ne7 and now 16 O-O-O (the tricky 16 Nxb5? is well answered by 16 ... e4 17 Be2 Qb6) 16 ... Qb6 when :

a) 17 Rd2? loses the exchange after 17 ... Rg6! (threatening to trap the queen by 18 ... Rh6) 18 Qh4 e4! 19 Be2 Bh6

b) 17 f4 Rg6 18 Qh3 e4 19 Be2 Qe3+ 20 Rd2 Bg7 gave Black more than enough for his pawn in Pyda v Zezulkin, Poland 1993

c) 17 Rhf1 Rg6 18 Qh3 e4 19 Be2 Bg7 and Black has a strong queenside attack in prospect for his small material deficit.

My original idea was to vary with (14 Qxh7 Bxd5 15 exd5 Ne7) 16 Rd1 which keeps the f-pawn covered so that 16 ... Qb6 would be less strong. I had intended to answer 16 ... Nxd5 with 17 Bxb5+ axb5 18 Rxd5 but noticed at the last minute that Black would then have 18 ... Rxa3!! 19 bxa3 Qa8! skewering the two rooks.

As a result of this analysis I decided to opt for a more conservative 14th move.

14	Qd1	Bxd5
15	exd5	Ne7
16	O-O	

A new move. All of the previous games that I could find continued 16 c3 eg Sideif-Zade v Yurtaev, Dnepropetrovsk 1980 which went on 16 ... Bg7 17 h4 Rg6 18 Nc2 e4 19 Be2 Qc7 with chances for both sides.

16	...	Bg7

The acid test of White's novelty lie in the line 16 ... e4 17 Be2 f4! 18 Qd2 (not 18 Nxb5? f3 19 Bc4 Qd7! threatening 20 ... axb5 as well as 20 ... Qh3) 18 ... Nxd5 19 c4 bxc4 20 Bxc4 Nb6 21 Qxf4 d5.

On the other hand, White would have a clear advantage after 16 ... Nxd5 17 Bxb5+ axb5 18 Qxd5.

17	Qd2	Bh6

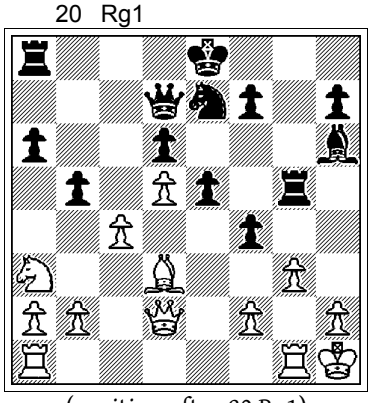
If 17 ... Rh5, White would react strongly on the queenside with 18 c4!

18	Kh1	f4
19	c4	Qd7

Going straight for checkmate on the kingside.

The tricky line 19 ... fxg3 20 fxg3 Rxg3? fails to 21 Qxh6 Rxd3 22 Rxf7! Kxf7 23 Qxh7+ and 24 Qxd3.

20 Rg1



(position after 20 Rg1)

20	...	f3?

Threatening 21 ... Rh5 followed by 22 ... Qh3.

20 .... Qh3 can be met by 21 Bf1 and if 21 ... Qxh2+ then 22 Kxh2 Rh5+ 23 Kg2 f3+ 24 Kxf3 Bxd2 25 cxb5.

Crucial was 20 ... Rh5! when :

a) 21 g4? f3! 22 Qd1 Bf4! 23 gxh5 Qh3 24 Rg3 Bxg3 25 Qg1 Bf4 is winning for Black eg 26 cxb5 O-O-O! 27 Bxh7 Qxh5

b) 21 Qe2 Qh3 22 Rg2 f5! and now both 23 Bc2 e4 24 f3 and 23 Re1 Bg5 24 Bc2 e4 25 f3 lead to terrific complications with White's central counterplay balancing Black's kingside attack.

21 Qe3!

Putting the finger directly on the problem with Black's last move. Unless Black now wishes to surrender a pawn after 21 ... f5 22 cxb5, he must give up his hopes of a kingside breakthrough.

21	...	Qg4
22	Be4	b4

The only way to retain material parity.

23	Bxf3	Qc8
24	Nc2	Qxc4
25	Qb3!	Qxb3
26	axb3	

Black's backward a-pawn will prove to be a greater weakness than White's doubled b-pawns.

26	...	a5
27	Ne3	

Not of course 27 Nxb4? Rb8.

27	...	f5
28	Rgd1	

Covering the d-pawn with the rook so that the knight becomes free to move to c4.

28	...	e4
29	Be2	Kf8

There is no way for Black to prevent the loss of a pawn.

30	Nc4	f4
31	Nxd6	fxg3
32	hxg3	Nxd5
33	Nxe4	Re5
34	Bf3	

The endgame commences. In the long term White's biggest asset is his passed f-pawn, but in the short term the fact that he continues to have an initiative is very important.

34	...	Ra7
35	Kg2	Bg7

For his part Black will hope that the

presence of opposite coloured bishops will become an important feature of the position as the game goes on.

36	Rd3	Ke7
37	Rad1	Nb6
38	Nd6	Rc7?

Not 38 ... Rd7?? 39 Nc8+!

However 38 ... h5 was necessary in order to keep Black's bishop on the board, although life would hardly have been rosy for him after 39 Be4 Bh8 40 f4.

39	Be4	h5
40	Nf5+	Kf7
41	Nxg7	Rxe4?

If Black had seen what was about to befall him, he would have opted for 41 ... Kxg7 42 Rd4 when White still has to do some work to bring home the point.

42	Nxh5	Rc2

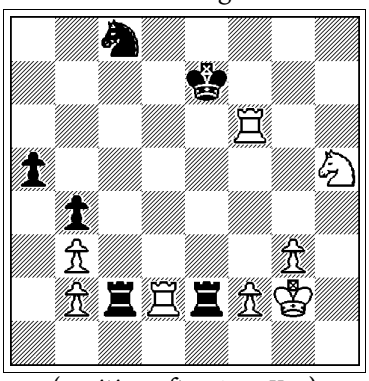
It looks as if Black is going to get one of his pawns back after ...

43	Rd6	Nc8
44	R1d2	Re2

... but White has a trick up his sleeve!

45	Rf6+	Ke7

45 ... Kg8 loses neatly to 46 Rd8+ Kh7 47 Rff8 Ne7 48 Rh8+ Kg6 49 Nf4+.



(position after 45 ... Ke7)

46	Re6+!!	Kxe6

46 ... Rxe6 47 Rxc2 is equally hopeless.

47	Rxe2+	Rxe2
48	Nf4+	Ke5
49	Nxe2	

The ending is now a trivial win.

49	...	Ke4
50	g4	Ne7
51	Ng3+	Kf4

51 ... Kd3 52 Nf5 is also a straightforward win for White after for example 52 ... Ng6 53 Ne3 Nf4+ 54 Kg3 Ne6 55 Kh4 etc.

52	f3	Ng6
53	Kf2	Resigns

After 53 ... Nh4 54 Ne2+ Ke5 55 Kg3 the march of the passed pawns will be about to begin.