

This game is annotated by Lev Psakhis in '64' (№. 17, 1984). The translation from the original Russian is by Douglas Griffin. I had the pleasure of manning the demonstration board for this game, as it was in progress!

Prior to the last round, first place had been secured, and so it was possible to play an 'open' game. (*Translator's note:* In his introductory remarks in his report on the tournament in Troon, Psakhis explains that in view of the short duration of the event, he had resolved to play solidly, with 1.c2-c4.)

Psakhis – Pritchett

9th round, Troon 1984

1.e4 c5

Consternation! I had forgotten that my opponent is the author of a weighty monograph on the Scheveningen Variation. But already here nothing can be done.

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e6 6.f4 Nc6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Qf3

I was playing this way for the first time; normally I replied 8.Be2.

8...e5 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.f5

The most principled continuation.

(*Translator's note:* Since at least the time of the game Hübner-Petrosian (7th match-game, Candidates' Quarter-final, Seville 1971) - a game which, incidentally, features in Pritchett's book - it had been known that 10.fxe5 dxe5 11.Bc4 0-0 12.h3 (12.0-0 Ng4!) 12...Be6! is an effective equalising continuation for Black.)

10...Qa5 11.0-0-0 Rb8 12.Bc4 h5!?

An idea of L. Polugaevsky.

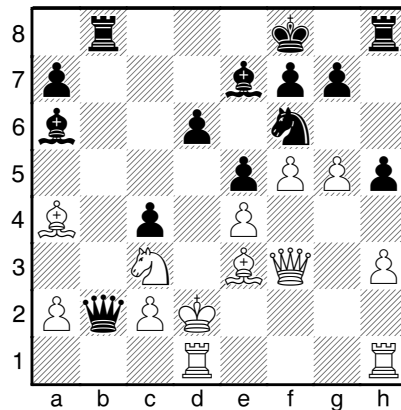
13.Bb3 Ba6

With the move 12...h5 Black has held up White's offensive on the king's flank; he himself threatens ...c6-c5-c4.

14.h3!

(*Translator's note:* A few months later, this position appeared on the board in the game Thorén-Griffin from the final round of the Swedish Junior International (Hallsberg 1984/85).

There White played 14.g3?, which is naturally too slow; after 14...c5 15.h3 c4 16.Ba4+ Kf8 17.g4 White's king-side pawn roller was in motion, but Black had time to continue 17...Qb4 18.g5 Qxb2+ 19.Kd2



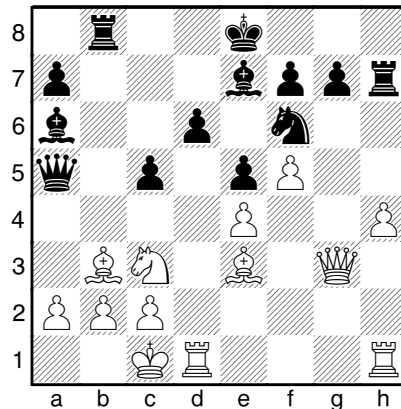
(analysis diagram)

and now 19...Bd8! (the only move, but more than sufficient) 20.gxf6 Qxc3+! (with the point that on 21.Kxc3 Ba5 White is mated) 21.Ke2 Bxf6 22.Rxd6 Qa5! (defending the black bishop at a6, attacking the white one at a4, and threatening a discovered check on the white king). Black soon won.

14...h4 15.g4 hxg3 16.Qxg3 Rh7 17.h4

In such positions everything depends on the counting of tempi. h4–h5–h6 is threatened.

17...c5



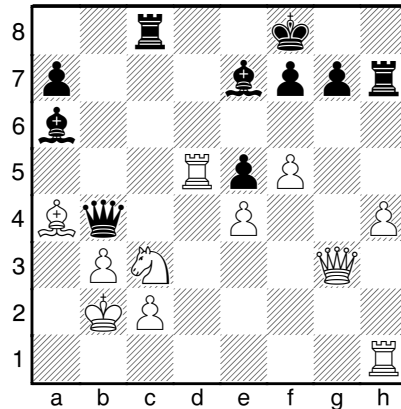
18.Bg5!

Now I began to play for the acquisition of the key d5–square. The reader may like a variation that I will present (without pleasure!): 18.h5 c4 19.Ba4+ Kf8 20.h6 Qb4 21.hxg7+ Kg8 22.Rxh7 Qxb2+ 23.Kd2 Qxc3+!! 24.Kxc3 Nxe4#.

18...c4 19.Ba4+ Kf8 20.Bxf6 Bxf6 21.Rxd6 Be7!

Instead of this, tempting appears 21...Qb4. But my opponent, mainly by intuition, sensed what this would have led to: 22.Rxa6 Qxb2+ 23.Kd2 Rd8+ 24.Ke2 (24.Nd5? Qd4+) 24...Rd3! 25.Qe1!! (25.Rb1? Qxb1 26.cxd3 Qb2+) 25...Rxc3 26.Qb1! Qxb1 27.Rxb1 g5 (27...Rxh4 28.Rb8+ Ke7 29.Re8#) 28.Rxf6 Rxh4 29.Rb7, and White wins.

22.Rd5 Qb4 23.b3 cxb3 24.axb3 Rc8 25.Kb2



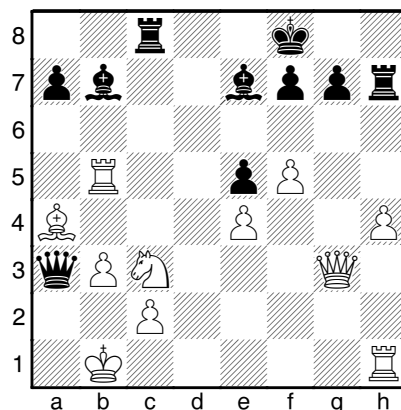
25...Bb7!

25...Qa3+ 26.Kb1 Bb4 will not do in view of 27.Rhd1! Bxc3 28.Rd8+ Rxd8 29.Rxd8+ Ke7 30.Re8+ and 31.Qxc3.

26.Rb5 Qa3+

I did not fear the variation 26...Qd4 27.Rxb7! Rxc3 28.Qxc3 Ba3+ 29.Kxa3 Qxc3 30.Rd1 - White has a decisive attack.

27.Kb1



Here I had in the main examined 27...Bb4! and prepared 28.Rxe5!. Black does not have a great

choice: 28...Bxc3 29.Qxc3! f6 (29...Rxc3 30.Re8#) 30.Qxc8+ Bxc8 31.Re8+ Kf7 32.Rxc8 - White has a large advantage; or 28...Bd6 29.Rd1! Bxe5 30.Qxe5, and again Black stands badly.

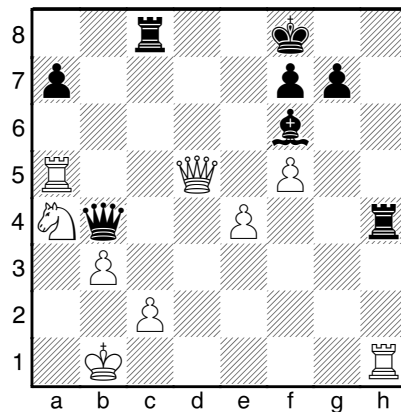
27...Bc6 28.Ra5 Qb4 29.Qxe5

Here I pondered a great deal over 29.Rxa7: 29...Bc5 30.Rxf7+ (30.Ra6? Bb7) 30...Kxf7 31.Qg6+ Kf8 32.Qxh7 Qxc3 33.Qh8+ Kf7 34.Qxc8 Bd4 35.Qe6+ Kf8. I understood that, besides perpetual check, nothing good for White is evident.

29...Bxa4!

Amusingly, if the white pawn stood not at h4, but at h5, then Black would win: 29...Bd6 30.Na2 Bxe5 31.Nxb4 Bxe4 32.Re1 Bc3! 33.Rxe4 Rxh5!. But this, naturally, is imaginary: the pawn stands at h4, while in the variation 32...Bxc2+ 33.Nxc2 Bc3 White dots the 'i' with the move 34.Rc5!.

30.Nxa4 Bf6 31.Qd5 Rxh4



32.Rc1!

Naturally, not 32.Rxh4 - 32...Qe1+, while in the case of 32.e5 Bxe5 33.Rxa7 Rxh1+ 34.Qxh1 Kg8 White, clearly, does not have anything better than to force perpetual check with 35.Ra8 Rxa8 36.Qxa8+ Kh7 37.Qh1+.

32...Qxe4 33.Qxe4 Rxe4 34.Rxa7

The flags on the clocks of both players were threatening to fall. Therefore I will give only 'blitz' commentary.

34...Rce8 35.c4!?

But suddenly the pawn advances to promote!

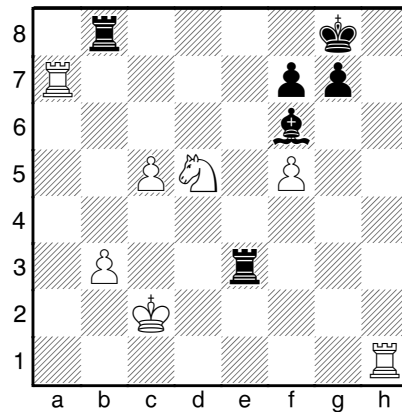
35...Bg5 36.Rh1 Kg8 37.c5 Rb8 38.Nb6 Re3 39.Kc2

A little later it became clear that simpler is 39.Ka2.

39...Bf6

I had only 30 seconds remaining. I grabbed the knight, played

40.Nd5



and quickly said "draw". Peace was immediately concluded.

Having cooled down a little, I saw the simple 40.b4 and then 40...Rc3+ 41.Kd2 Rb3 42.Nd5 Rd8 43.Kc2 Rb2+ 44.Kc1, and Black stands badly (44...Rxd5 45.Ra8+).

But, it must be said, I (or more accurately, both of us) was satisfied with the game: it was necessary to give a lot of rein to fantasy and to calculate to a still greater extent.