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Note by the editor

This book is a compilation of two earlier books published by New In Chess: *Botvinnik-Smyslov* (2009) and *Botvinnik-Petrosian* (2010).

We have tried to stay as close to possible to Botvinnik's original texts.

However, in our computer age, sometimes an analytical comment needs modification or explanation. In his short chapter 'The triple crown', Igor Botvinnik explains that the original Russian editions of these books already contained various instructive comments by Ken Neat, a regular translator of other Botvinnik books. In the English editions of 2009 and 2010, we presented these in the footnotes as opposed to the 'Translator's notes' which are later comments added by the translator of these two books, Steve Giddins, and to the notes by the New In Chess editorial staff, indicated with 'Editors' note'. We have followed the same procedure here.

The combination of the two books necessitated a few changes in the structure – for example, we have put the general part of Igor's Botvinnik's introduction to Mikhail Botvinnik's notebooks before the first notebook, before the second match with Smyslov.

The Foreword by famous chess historian Andrew Soltis has been specially written for this edition, and we think it is a wonderful and highly informative addition to the match material.

Peter Boel

Alkmaar, July 2023

Foreword by Andrew Soltis

In the Magnus era, why do the matches of Mikhail Botvinnik still matter? Of course, we can appreciate them as history. They were the most prestigious, the most intensely watched chess events of their time. But it was a time that seems ancient, a time of Cold War crises, Elvis Presley and hula hoops.

It was a time when world championship matches were played under conditions that seem bizarre today. The prize money was the equivalent of a few thousand dollars. The rules, such as adjudication, were antique. The format was the old-school, best of 24 games. With games scheduled every other day and three optional timeouts per player, matches dragged on and on. The third Botvinnik-Smyslov match lasted 66 days, three times as long as the 2023 Ding Liren-Nepomniachtchi match.

Perhaps the greatest difference between today's matches and those of 60-plus years ago is the contrast between Botvinnik and a modern champion, Magnus Carlsen. In many ways, they are diametric opposites: Botvinnik hated speed chess. Carlsen revels in it. The classical time control should 'be phased out,' he said. Botvinnik said the best control is forty moves in two and a half hours. That is the one that was phased out, 40 years ago.

Carlsen plays constantly. He logged nearly 400 clocked games in 2022. Botvinnik felt playing more than 40 games a year was harmful. A master needs to spend as many weeks thinking about chess as he does playing, he said. In some years, Botvinnik played no public chess at all.

He was suspicious, if not contemptuous, of many of the features we take for granted, like Elo ratings, Swiss System pairings and the appearance of dozens of new grandmasters every year. He would be appalled by speed tiebreakers and would find Armageddon a barbaric way to decide who won a tournament. Walking away from the world title without a fight, as Carlsen did in 2023, would have seemed insane to him.

And yet Botvinnik's legacy is deeply imprinted in the DNA of every grandmaster today. He was the first to emphasize preparation: what a player does before a game plays an enormous, if not decisive, role in what happens during a game.

Before him, preparation was something the greatest players paid only lip service to. 'Botvinnik made us all study the openings,' as Emanuel

Lasker put it. Lasker said this in the 1930s, when ‘nobody worked on the openings as thoroughly as Botvinnik,’ according to Yuri Averbakh. At that time, preparing opening innovations was a personal training habit. But it became a national, then international, regimen when Botvinnik set down his views, in a 1939 tournament book, about ‘my method for preparation for competition’.

There is a curious contrast between Botvinnik’s method and that of his countryman Konstantin Stanislavski. The great acting teacher’s book, *An Actor Prepares*, appeared three years earlier and popularized what became known simply as ‘the Method’. He encouraged actors to use improvisation to bring out emotions they could use when they followed a script on stage. Botvinnik, on the other hand, sought to discourage improvisation: preparation meant overcoming the urge to act without a script.

It is hard to imagine today why Botvinnik’s view was so controversial and original. But there was a rival theory that said opening preparation cripples ‘the creative element in chess’, as his old rival Grigory Levenfish put it. This view survived into the golden age of Soviet chess. Boris Spassky, a fan of Levenfish, credited an open mind, uncluttered with opening theory, for many of his successes.

‘But a fact remains a fact,’ Botvinnik said in one of his last interviews. ‘A chess player’s preparation, his investigative work, leads to a rise in practical results.’ The best evidence of this, he said, was the post-World War II dominance of Soviet players. Their superiority became obvious after the stunning 15½-4½ rout of the Americans in the 1945 USSR-US radio match. ‘You know why we won? We began to study the starting position,’ David Bronstein, a member of the winning team, recalled in a 2003 interview. ‘And to not allow the Americans out of the opening.’

Bronstein, it should be noted, cherished improvisation. In the 1951 World Championship Match he tried to neutralize Botvinnik’s opening supremacy by seeking a new, anti-theoretical move in every game. Today Bronstein’s approach has disappeared. Botvinnik won the debate.

And many fans believe his method created a monster. They watch online games in which grandmasters reel off their computer-aided analysis. The real struggle begins at move 30 – if it is not already drawn by then.

This would not have troubled Botvinnik. In one of his last interviews, with *New In Chess*, he scoffed at the notion that preparation would ‘kill over-the-board chess’. Asked if there was a danger that ‘the real battle will take place at home and the player who has done his homework best will be champion,’ he replied, ‘I do not see this as a problem.’ And he added, ‘This is the way it should be.’

The first half of this book is Botvinnik's view of three world championship matches and how he prepared for them. In contrast, Vasily Smyslov had astonishingly little to say about what he called the most important chess events of his life. While Botvinnik annotated all of the games in the 1954 and 1958 matches, Smyslov gave a total of five games from them in his best-game collections. His general comments about the matches were often terse and opaque. How did he lose the championship title? 'It seems to me I was not at my best in this [1958] match,' he wrote.

Bobby Fischer sparked controversy, six years after that match, when he composed a list of the ten greatest players in history. He left both Botvinnik and Tigran Petrosian out. Few people noticed when Fischer included them in a second top-ten list that he gave later in a Yugoslav radio talk. And fewer noticed that Fischer failed to mention Smyslov on either list. Yet Smyslov was a top-20 player longer than any world champion except Lasker.

Why has he become the least well-known of the 20th century champions? The best explanation is his short reign and his few words. Smyslov guarded his thoughts, about chess and anything else, until the end of his life. Fans could be forgiven for mistaking his relative silence for a lack of conviction. Only in his final years did they learn he was deeply religious, regarded chess computers as the work of Satan, believed in the predictions of Nostradamus and suggested chess had been brought to earth by UFO aliens.

If Smyslov's fans wanted an alternative, non-Botvinnik view of their matches, what they read was often disappointing. The outcome of the games seemed to depend solely on whether Botvinnik played enough good moves. Levenfish, a friend of Smyslov and a bitter enemy of Botvinnik, reviewed the first match in detail in the 1954 Soviet Chess Yearbook. He heaped praise on Botvinnik for his 'colossal theoretical knowledge, exceptional opening intuition, exact positional understanding (and) deep strategic plans.' As for Smyslov, Levenfish said he failed to become World Champion because of a continuing weakness in the opening. Readers might have thought Botvinnik had won a crushing victory, rather than limped to a 12-12 draw. They might have been surprised to learn that the cumulative score of their three matches was 35-34 in Smyslov's favor.

In a way, the first three matches in this book were as great a clash of personalities as in any world championship, as much as Karpov versus Kasparov. While Botvinnik played the role of a stern father, Smyslov was like the smiling, easy-going uncle. Botvinnik was proud of what he called his 'hard character' that easily offended. Smyslov seemed to get along with

everyone. His attitude was to try to do his best and let fate decide. ‘What will be, will be,’ as his singing instructor said. Smyslov’s motto was, ‘I will make 40 good moves and if you are able to do the same, the game will be a draw.’

Botvinnik’s personality was best remembered by graduates of his celebrated school for talented Soviet adolescents. Some, like Vladimir Kramnik and Vasily Ivanchuk, spoke glowingly of what they had learned. ‘As Mikhail Botvinnik used to say, if you want to play chess strongly then you should study your entire life,’ Ivanchuk recalled. ‘I agree with him fully.’

Botvinnik repaid the loyalty of his prize pupils. Anna Akhsharumova was his ‘favorite female student,’ her husband Boris Gulko recalled. When the couple declared their intention to emigrate, they became outcasts in Soviet chess culture. But Botvinnik went to the Communist Party’s powerful Central Committee to plead. ‘She can become the World Women’s Champion,’ he told the party leaders. ‘Under no circumstances’ should the Soviet Union lose her talent, he said, in vain.

Botvinnik’s doctrinaire approach to chess was not welcomed by all of his students. Alexander Beliavsky said each of the lessons he got as a teenager ended when ‘I left Botvinnik in tears with the thought that I understand nothing about the game and will never learn to play chess well.’ Lev Psakhis, another future star, recalled how Botvinnik watched him play a training game that began 1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♗xe5 d6. Psakhis chose 4.♗xf7. ‘If it had not been the Botvinnik School but the Tal [School] this would have been met with understanding,’ he said. But it ‘signed my death sentence and they stopped inviting me to sessions.’

Botvinnik’s austere aura fueled a reverence that bordered on awe. Petrosian, Averbakh and others had strong recollections of sitting down at a chessboard and realizing it was the legendary Botvinnik facing them on the other side. Colleagues concluded Smyslov simply could not play well against him. Reuben Fine was giving up chess for a second career, as a psychologist, when he offered an Adlerian diagnosis. Smyslov has ‘a strong inferiority complex about Botvinnik which he will have to overcome if he is to make further progress,’ Fine wrote before the 1948 World Championship match-tournament.

Botvinnik sensed this lack of confidence. In 1947 he told a friend about ‘a very important game’ with Smyslov. He had a favorable position but realized he had blundered. Smyslov could make a powerful reply. ‘But Vasya trusted me,’ Botvinnik said. ‘He believed I could not be mistaken.’ Smyslov made a weak reply and lost. (Botvinnik was apparently referring to their game at Groningen 1946, when Smyslov quickly played 21...♗h6? after talking himself out of playing 21...♗h6!.)

Foreword

My first chessboard encounter with Mikhail Moiseevich Botvinnik came at the final of the 12th USSR Championship in 1940. This was followed by various tournament games, the most important of which were at the match-tournaments of 1941 and 1948. But of course, our rivalry reached its zenith in our series of matches in the years 1954-58. In those days, the chess world had a well-organised system, under which world championship matches were played every three years. I should point out that, whilst we had differing views on certain aspects of chess, we both looked on the game not merely as a sporting competition, but also as an art, and tried at the board to create finished works of art.

This book, containing the annotated games of all three matches, breaks new historical ground: until now, no book on the 1957 match has ever been published, at least not in Russian. Now the reader has the games of all three matches between one set of covers, and can get a full impression of the nature of our rivalry.

Despite the nervous tension that accompanies any match for the World Championship, these matches gave the chess world many moments of great creative achievement. Of course, these were accompanied by some serious mistakes, but these only serve to underline the extreme pressure of such matches. I remain convinced that these three matches played a significant role in the history of chess.

I believe that this book will be of interest both to lovers of chess history, and to those who are seeking to improve their own play.

Vasily Smyslov, *ex World Champion*
Moscow, January 2003

The triple crown

If one is being strictly accurate, one should say that Botvinnik and Smyslov actually played five matches against one another. However, the first two were played in the form of match-tournaments, one for the Absolute Championship of the USSR (Leningrad-Moscow 1941) and one for the World Championship (The Hague-Moscow 1948). Although the number of games played in these first two matches was small (four and five respectively), these short matches serve as a prelude to the subsequent main encounters. Botvinnik won two games in the first event, and one in the second, with the remaining games being drawn. It should be pointed out that in 1941, Smyslov was still a young and developing player, whilst starting from 1948, he proved himself a genuine contender for the World Championship. There was also the match-tournament at Sverdlovsk 1943, where they played two games, with a similar result – Botvinnik won one and the other was drawn.

Without doubt, the three World Championship matches represent some of the high points of the two players' careers, and are an important part of chess history. Without exaggeration, one can say that the whole country followed these matches, since chess occupied a major place in the nation's consciousness. Radio reports were given by the renowned football commentator Vadim Siniavsky, and in every location one could find out the chess news and obtain the scores of the games, or write down the adjourned position soon after the playing session was finished. The following day, all the national newspapers would publish the game, with expert commentary, whilst special bulletins, dedicated to the match, were also published.

The three World Championship matches all developed differently. The 1954 and 1958 matches were both marked by an outstanding start by Botvinnik: 3½ out of four! Although Mikhail Moiseevich's task in these two matches was a little different (in the first match, a 12-12 draw was sufficient, whereas in the last match, only a win would do), it is noteworthy that he stumbled at the finish both times, losing two games, alternating with draws. This may suggest a possible premature relaxation, thinking that the aim was already achieved, although more likely, it was simply the result of tiredness – it is well-known that Botvinnik claimed it was only possible to play at full strength in a World Championship match for a maximum of 16-18 games. Botvinnik usually based such opinions on

his own personal experiences. In the 1954 match, for example, he suffered a catastrophe, losing three successive games, after which Smyslov assumed the lead in the match. One can only marvel at the strength of will needed to come back from this, and in the next five games, to win four, with one defeat, and so preserve the status quo! This section of the match ended with Game 16, which only serves to underline the maximum number of games one can possibly play at full strength, when competing for the highest title.

The 1957 match, which brought Smyslov the title, followed a different scenario. Botvinnik did not manage to establish the lead at the start, and the match remained balanced, but from Game 8 onwards, Smyslov took the lead, and despite his opponent's great efforts, he conducted the match to a successful conclusion. At the very end of the match, Botvinnik even gave up trying to change the inevitable outcome, and made several short draws. A similar situation arose in his 1963 match against Petrosian, in which Botvinnik also went down with a number of short draws, effectively acknowledging defeat. What is the mystery here? Botvinnik was a fighter to his very bones, but he was also a realist. Once he understood that there was no chance of saving the match, he simply, in his own words, wanted 'to get the thing over with'.

But in the return match of 1958, Vasily Vasilievich found himself facing the Botvinnik of old, with his fierce will to win, armed to the teeth and, most importantly of all, full of energy and motivation.

Mind you, even in the return match, there was one unfortunate episode, resulting from a diminished sense of danger and premature relaxation. Botvinnik never forgot this incident, and was reminded of it whenever he entered the White Hall in the Moscow Central Chess Club, where the incident occurred. Before the 15th game, his lead was 4 points, and the game was adjourned in a winning position for him. His first mistake was to remain in Moscow, rather than going to his country dacha, where he usually analysed adjourned positions. The second mistake was to analyse the position sloppily; even so experienced a fighter as he allowed himself to be sucked into a false sense of security, starting with the breaching of his usual competitive regime. And thirdly, Botvinnik simply forgot about the clock, during the adjournment session, and failed to make his 56th move at the second time-control. As a result, the game was lost, and the lead shrunk to three points, instead of the 'rightful' five.

There is no book on the 1957 match in our Russian chess literature. The other two matches were the subject of books by Botvinnik, but with the passage of time, these have become bibliographical rarities. On the other hand, there are obvious benefits in having within one cover the

games of all three matches between these two great rivals. The majority of games are given with notes by Botvinnik, whilst in other cases, where the commentaries are by Smyslov or other well-known masters, this is indicated in the text.

Botvinnik's original notebooks, containing analysis of opening variations, are especially valuable. Of course, since that time, theory has taken giant steps forward, but even so, there is no doubt that in these notebooks there is still much interesting material to be found. In addition, the contents of these little books show just how diligently and systematically Botvinnik worked on chess, even for somebody who was acknowledged as the world's leading player. The quantity of his analytical work shows that Botvinnik significantly strengthened the whole system of preparing for World Championship matches.

That the chess world was so well organised in those days is due in no small measure to Botvinnik, who first suggested to FIDE the system for running World Championship matches. This system was still proving its worth when Botvinnik himself had already been out of competitive chess for some 20 years. What a striking contrast it all is to the way these events are organised nowadays! It is interesting that many grandmasters were opposed in general to the idea of return matches, and these have now disappeared from practice. The metamorphosis of Garry Kasparov in this regard is highly interesting – having been fiercely opposed to return matches at one time, he became their most passionate advocate. However, because there were no proper rules by then, and his match with Kramnik was played outside the auspices of FIDE, there was no documented right to a return match.

In his last years, there was much that Botvinnik disliked in the way chess was run. When he could no longer influence such affairs, and his published articles did not help, he fell back on what was for him the saving argument: 'And what if I were dead? Would I have any influence then?'

Now Mikhail Moiseevich is no longer with us, but his classical creative heritage remains, including his contribution to organising the World Championship. A return to its basis might not be such a bad thing for those now running world chess, and for those still fighting for the world title.

During work on another Botvinnik project, Botvinnik's regular translator Ken Neat began sending in comments on Botvinnik's annotations. At first it was hard to understand how a translator could find mistakes in the analysis of a great player. Soon we realised that the English specialist was using the help of a computer. These computer comments were added at the end of each volume. There were not a huge number

of them, and in the main they related to secondary variations. Even so, I believe that Mikhail Moiseevich himself, had he lived to see this day, would not have objected to these inaccuracies being pointed out, since his greatest concern in chess was always the search for the truth. We have therefore also presented the translator's comments on those games played in these matches.

Igor Botvinnik, Editor-compiler
1 December 2003

Match Botvinnik-Smyslov 1954

No.	Date	Opening	No. of moves	Result		Match score	
				Botvinnik	Smyslov	Botvinnik	Smyslov
1.	16-17 March	French Defence	58	1	0	1	0
2.	18 March	Nimzo-Indian Defence	30	1	0	2	0
3.	20 March	French Defence	41	½	½	2½	½
4.	23-24 March	Queen's Gambit Accepted	61	1	0	3½	½
5.	25 March	Queen's Gambit: Semi-Slav	41	½	½	4	1
6.	27 March	Grünfeld Indian Defence	34	½	½	4½	1½
7.	30-31 March	French Defence	50	0	1	4½	2½
8.	1-2 April	Queen's Gambit Declined	50	½	½	5	3
9.	3 April	French Defence	25	0	1	5	4
10.	6 April	Queen's Gambit Accepted	37	0	1	5	5
11.	8 April	Ruy Lopez	41	0	1	5	6
12.	10 April	Slav Defence	38	1	0	6	6
13.	13 April	Sicilian Defence	41	1	0	7	6
14.	15 April	King's Indian Defence	33	0	1	7	7
15.	17 April	Sicilian Defence	36	1	0	8	7
16.	20-21 April	King's Indian Defence	45	1	0	9	7
17.	22 April	King's Indian Attack	31	½	½	9½	7½
18.	24-25 April	King's Indian Defence	58	½	½	10	8
19.	29 April	French Defence	41	½	½	10½	8½
20.	4-5 May	King's Indian Defence	72	0	1	10½	9½
21.	6 May	French Defence	40	½	½	11	10
22.	8-9 May	Grünfeld Indian Defence	45	½	½	11½	10½
23.	11 May	King's Indian Attack	28	0	1	11½	11½
24.	12 May	King's Indian Defence	22	½	½	12	12

French Defence

Vasily Smyslov**Mikhail Botvinnik**

Moscow 16 and 17 March 1954 (1)

In all, I played three World Championship matches with Smyslov, in which we met a total of 69 times.

This was Smyslov's best period, and overall, he emerged with the smallest of advantages (18 wins, 17 losses and 34 draws). However, when it came to World Championship laurels, I was ahead (2:1), because in the event of a drawn match, the World Champion retained his title.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3

Smyslov almost always chooses this move. It seems to me that in the event of 3.♘d2, it is more difficult for Black to obtain counterplay.

3...♗b4

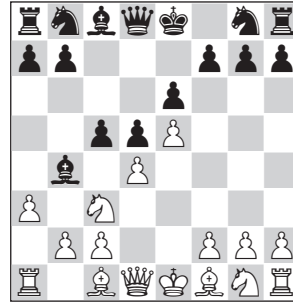
This sharp continuation has been popular for several decades. Black often ends up in a relatively difficult position, but he obtains active counterchances.

4.e5

White has many other, far from unfavourable, possibilities (4.a3, 4.♗d2, 4.♘e2), but unfortunately, one can only play one of these in a single game!

In the present match, Smyslov chose only the moves 4.e5 (Games 1, 3 and 9) and 4.a3 (Games 7, 19 and 21).

4...c5 5.a3



5...♗a5

The more common continuation 5...♗xc3+ lost many of its supporters after the well-known game Alexander-Botvinnik (radio match 1946), but later it again became the main line. The retreat of the bishop, if I am not mistaken, became popular after a game Reshevsky-Botvinnik, in which White chose the sub-optimal continuation 6.♖g4.

6.b4

A pawn sacrifice, recommended by Alekhine in his book on the New York 1924 tournament. Soon after, it was tested in a similar position (with the inclusion of the moves ♘g1-f3 and ...f7-f6) in the game Botvinnik-Ragozin (Leningrad 1926).

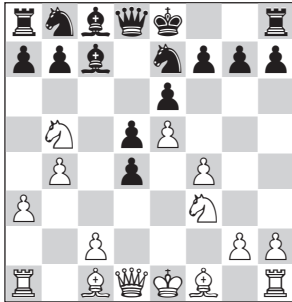
Alekhine only considered the reply 6...cxb4 after which White obtains strong pressure by 7.♘b5 bxa3+ 8.c3 etc. This idea I also managed to test out, in a game against Pavlov-Pianov.

6...cxd4 7.♘b5

In the 9th game of the match, Smyslov played the stronger 7.♖g4, obtained the advantage, and the

game concluded in his favour. The move 7.♘b5 had been played in a game Makogonov-Aramanovich (1949). Given that around this time, Smyslov occasionally worked with Makogonov, such 'shared tastes' were only to be expected. It should be added that the variation with 7.♙g4 (as opposed to 7.♙g4) leads to quieter play.

7...♙c7 8.f4 ♘e7 9.♘f3



9...♘bc6

Aramanovich played the weaker 9...a6, but simplest of all here is 9...♙d7 10.♘bxd4 ♘bc6 11.c3 ♘xd4 12.cxd4 (as played in the 3rd game of the match), and now I should have continued 12...♘c8 followed by ...♘c8-b6 and, when appropriate, ...♘b6-c4.

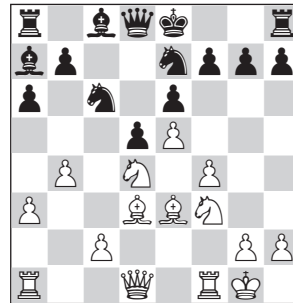
10.♙d3 ♙b8

Of course, this manoeuvre uses up a lot of time, but the dark-squared bishop is worth having!

11.♘bxd4 a6 12.♙e3 ♙a7 13.0-0

White aims at the exchange of dark-squared bishops, whilst retaining the outpost on d4 and, consequently, a pleasant endgame. More dangerous for Black was 13.c3, so as to recapture with the

pawn in the event of an exchange on d4. Then White would have more chances of attacking on the kingside. Smyslov carried out an analogous plan in the 3rd game of the match. Now, however, the resulting exchanges allow Black to relieve the opponent's pressure and complete his development satisfactorily.



13...♘xd4 14.♙xd4

14.♘xd4, followed by c2-c3, deserved attention.

14...♙xd4+ 15.♘xd4 ♙b6 16.♙h1 ♙d7

Of course, not 16...♙xd4 because of 17.♙b5+.

17.c3 ♙c8 18.♙e1 h6

With his last move, White prevented his opponent from castling; on 18...0-0 there could follow 19.♙h4 ♘g6 20.♙xg6 fxg6 21.♙f3 with a dangerous initiative. Now castling is again possible, but since White is ready for it, and prepared to begin active operations on the kingside, Black for the time being refrains from castling.

19.a4

White dreams of being able to pressurize his opponent on the

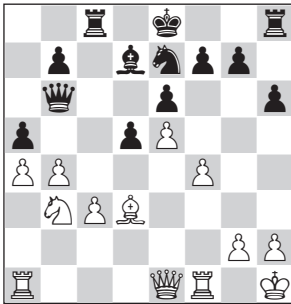
queenside by means of a4-a5, but he overestimates his chances. It should be noted that after 19. ♖c1 a5 (followed by ... ♗c8-a8), Black retains counterplay; the weakness created by the advance b2-b4 begins to have its say.

19...a5

The only reply, which White had expected, of course.

20. ♘b3

It was on this move that White had placed his hopes, when he began the manoeuvre with a3-a4. After 20...axb4 21.cxb4 he would have a clear advantage on the queenside. However, Smyslov had overlooked his opponent's cunning retort.



20... ♖c7!

The turning point of the game, since now Black takes over the initiative. Since the continuation 21. ♘xa5 b6 22. ♘b3 ♖xc3 is far from favourable to White, he is forced to put the knight on c5, where it is badly placed.

21. ♘c5 ♙c6

A sensible precaution. After 21...0-0 22. ♘xd7 ♖xd7 23.bxa5 Black would still have to find a way to recover the pawn. For example, 23... ♖a8

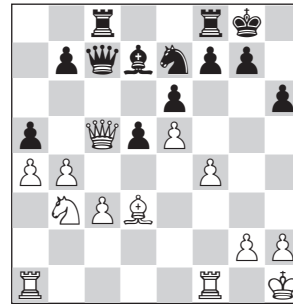
24.c4 dxc4 25. ♙xc4 ♖c7, and the chances are equal.

22. ♖f2

There is no danger for Black in the line 22.f5 ♘xf5 23. ♙xf5 exf5 24. ♖xf5 0-0 and White has many weaknesses.

22...0-0 23. ♘b3 ♙d7 24. ♖c5

Smyslov almost always tries to exchange queens, if it does not worsen his position. Here too, he chooses this strategy, hoping to hold the ending. It must be admitted that this was the right decision – after 24. ♖fc1 f6 25. ♖g3 fxe5 26.fxe5 ♘f5, White has a difficult position, on account of his pawn weaknesses.



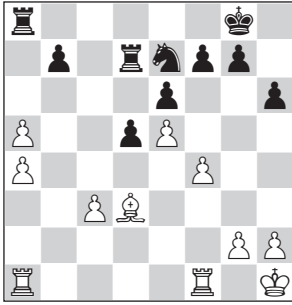
24... ♖xc5

The exchange of queens was forced, since after 24... ♖d8 there would have followed 25. ♖e3! (but not 25. ♖xa5 b6 26. ♖a6 ♖a8 27. ♖b7 ♙c6), and White wins an important tempo, since his bishop is now defended.

25. ♘xc5 ♖c7 26. ♘xd7

This is also logical. The knight cannot maintain the c5-square anyway.

26... ♖xd7 27.bxa5 ♖a8

**28.a6**

But this is a stereotyped decision. White tries to close the a-file, but the pawn on b7 was an object of attack. Once it is transferred to a6, it restricts the activity of White's bishop, by controlling the square b5, whilst the white pawn on a4 can prove vulnerable.

He should have played the immediate 28.c4 or, as suggested by Averbakh, 28.♖b5 ♖c7 29.♗fc1 and 30.c4 with almost equal chances.

28...bxa6 29.c4

White eliminates his weak c-pawn, but in the process, opens lines for the black rooks.

Maybe, therefore, he should have preferred Romanovsky's recommendation 29.♗ab1.

29...dxc4 30.♗xc4 ♗d4!

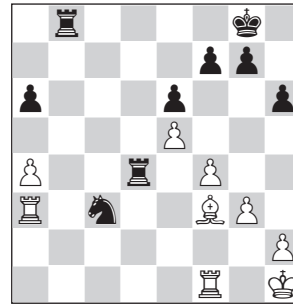
Now it becomes obvious that the position of the pawn on a6 is very useful to Black.

31.♗e2

On 31.♗ac1, the reply 31...♗f5 was unpleasant.

31...♗d5 32.g3 ♗c3 33.♗f3 ♗b8**34.♗a3**

If White had allowed the move 34...♗b3, he would have been in a very difficult position, since the knight on c3 would have been invulnerable. White meets this threat in the only possible way.

**34...♗b1**

Possibly Black's first real error in the whole game.

He should have quietly taken the pawn with 34...♗xa4. On 35.♗fa1 there is the reply 35...♗bb4 (36.♗d1 ♗c5 37.♗c3 ♗bc4 38.♗xc4 ♗xc4 39.♗e2 ♗e4 40.♗xa6 g5), whilst on 35.♗c6 there is 35...♗c5.

After 34...♗xa4 White would only have a few chances of saving the position.

35.♗a2 ♗d2 36.♗f2 ♗c4 37.h4

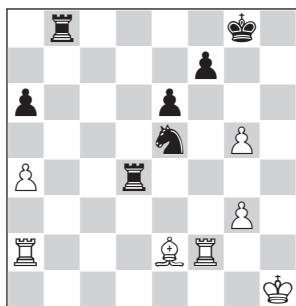
Anticipating the move ...g7-g5, White tries to exchange as many pawns as possible.

On 37.♗e2 there could have followed 37...♗e3.

37...g5 38.hxg5 hxg5 39.fxg5

Also after 39.♗e2 a5 40.♗xc4 ♗xc4 Black retains the advantage in the double rook ending.

39...♗xe5 40.♗e2

**40...♖b1+**

A second mistake and, as often happens, it comes on the last move of the time control.

The continuation 40...a5 41.♙b5 ♖g4! was in Black's favour, whereas after the pointless check in the game, White gains an important tempo for the defence.

41.♗g2

The sealed move. Despite everything, Black's position remains significantly better, thanks to the weakness of the enemy pawns.

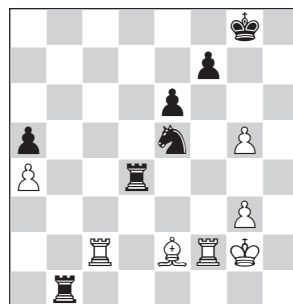
41...a5

The pawn must be moved from under attack. For example, the variation 41...♖b3 42.♖f4 ♖xf4 43.gxf4 ♜g6 44.f5 ♜h4+ 45.♗f2 ♜xf5 leads to a draw because of 46.♙xa6. If instead 43...♜d3, then White can probably save the rook ending after 44.♙xd3 ♖xd3 45.♖e2 ♖d4 46.f5 exf5 47.♖e5 ♖xa4 48.♖xf5.

42.♖c2

One of the strongest continuations. Even after 42.♙h5 ♗g7 43.♖f4 ♖d5! 44.♖af2 ♖b7 followed by ...♖b7-e7,

Black, with the threat of ...♜e5-g6, would retain some advantage.

**42...♖b3**

A curious episode! When I began analysing the adjourned position, I immediately found the best plan in the diagrammed position (although possibly it is still not enough to win): 42...♖xa4 43.♖c5 ♖e4!. Now after 44.♙h5 ♖b3 45.♙xf7+ ♜xf7 46.♖c8+ ♗g7 47.♖c7 ♗g6 Black retains the extra pawn, and if 44.♖xa5 ♖b3 (or 44...♖e3), then the pawns on g3 and g5 are weak. Not only did I find these variations, I even wrote them down. The following morning, I concentrated on analysing 42.♙h5, and only returned to the move 42.♖c2 shortly before the adjournment session started. When I did so, I completely forgot not just the results of the previous evening's analysis, but even the fact that I had written those results down! Such absent-mindedness! As a result, I hurriedly looked at 42...♖b3.

During the adjournment session itself, I had the feeling that I was not playing in the best way, but

I could not restrain myself from following the 'prepared' path.

43. ♖f4

The decisive mistake. Clearly, during his adjournment analysis, Smyslov had failed to spot the manoeuvre pointed out in the note to White's 42nd move, and as a result either missed or underestimated Black's reply to the text. He should have played 43. ♖c5, immediately creating threats. Then after 43... ♗d3 44. ♕xd3 ♜dxd3 45. ♖xa5 ♖xg3+ 46. ♖h2 the draw is pretty much obvious, just as it is after 43... ♗d5 44. ♖xd5 exd5 45. ♖f5 ♖e3 46. ♖f2 d4 47. ♖f4.

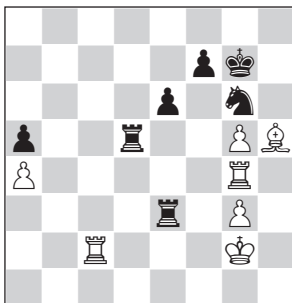
43... ♗d5!

Now this manoeuvre is even stronger than in the variation 42. ♕h5 ♖g7 43. ♖f4 ♗d5 (see the note to White's 42nd move), since White has to lose time in order to put his bishop on h5, by first playing the rook to e4 (he cannot play the immediate 44. ♕h5 because of 44... ♗dd3). In this position, with the 5th rank inaccessible, there are no advantages to having the rook on c2.

44. ♖e4 ♖g7 45. ♕h5 ♗g6

Sooner or later, White will have to go into a bad rook ending.

46. ♜g4 ♖e3!



The threats are 47... ♗e5 followed by ... ♗d5-d3, and also 47... ♖ee5, when the g5 pawn falls. White cannot avoid the exchange of minor pieces.

47. ♕xg6 ♖xg6 48. ♖f2 ♖f5

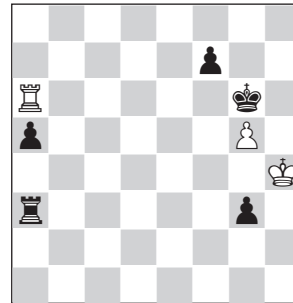
The simplest, although possibly 48... ♖xg5 49. ♖xg5+ ♖xg5 50. ♖xf7 ♖e4 also leads to victory.

49. ♖xf5 exf5! 50. ♖c4 ♖e4 51. ♖c7 ♖xa4 52. ♖a7 ♖a3 53. ♖h3

Ingenious, but insufficient.

However, even after 53. ♖h2 ♖a2+ or after 53. ♖f2! a4 54. ♖g2 ♖xg5 55. ♖xf7 ♖b3! White loses.

53...f4 54. ♖h4 fxg3 55. ♖a6+



55... ♖f5

The only way! If 55... ♖g7 56. ♖h3!, we reach an endgame which was already assessed as drawn in the notes to White's 41st move. The extra pawn on g3 makes no difference.

56. ♖f6+ ♖e4 57. ♖h3 ♖f3 58. ♖a6 ♖f5

White resigned.

Score: Botvinnik 1 Smyslov 0

speeds up the job of collecting and arranging the information, which always took up the lion's share of the time in the old days.

Botvinnik promoted his method in two ways – by his personal example, and in his school for talented young players.

A combination of great mastery with a rare degree of pedagogic talent allowed his method to go on being used (via his pupils) for many years after the end of his own playing career.

His great authority, and the laconic manner of his discussions with his pupils, gave the Master's recommendations a unique character. Such aphorisms tend to remain with one forever, changing one's view of chess. Here are a few of the observations made by Botvinnik during the meetings of his school in the second half of the 1980s:

- A superior pawn position is a long-term advantage.
- Opposite-coloured bishops always favour the side whose bishop is more active, and are unfavourable to the side with the passive bishop.
- General considerations should be supported by concrete calculation.
- It is bad to refuse simple play – mistakes tend to result.
- If in the Maroczy Bind, Black manages to play ...a6 and ...b5, then he is not worse.
- In order to study the Catalan System, one should look at the games of Smyslov.
- There is a weak pawn on d5, so why not occupy d4 with a knight?
- Why expose one's king in a completely winning position?
- The opponent's pieces are scattered, so one should open the centre.
- It is better to play a technical ending with an extra pawn, than to sacrifice the exchange for an unclear position.
- Chess is not just a game of pieces, but also of people – psychology is important.
- It is necessary to play in tournaments where the opponents are just a little stronger than oneself, else it is possible to collapse and suffer psychological trauma.

One particular point in Botvinnik's method is that the opening is of great importance. He himself prepared with this in mind, preferring systems where the connection between opening and middlegame could be worked out in advance, during analysis of the opening. In this respect, it is not unusual to see one and the same basic structure arise from different openings. Preparation of this type can really be called the preparation of opening systems.

Igor Botvinnik

Plan of preparation starting 25 November

1. Collect all Smyslov games played since 1 March 1954.
2. Make a card index of openings.
3. Draw up overall characteristics, after studying games and card index.
4. Look at Olympiad, Alekhine Memorial, theoretical bulletins, semifinals and finals (of Soviet Championships – translator’s note), etc, and pick out anything valuable.
5. Prepare openings for 12 Black and 12 White games.
6. Test these in two sets of training games – 1-15 January, 6 games, 1-15 February, 6 games. Total 12 games. Check the rest in home analysis.
7. Physical preparation:
 - a) Spend not less than 4 days each week at the dacha, except for the periods 1-15 January and 1-15 February, when no. of days at the dacha should be no less than 6 per week.
 - b) Skiing, showers, salt-baths, ice-skating, walking, sleeping with window ajar, see dentist, exercises.

Botvinnik's 1957 notebook

Sicilian Defence

1.e4 c5 2.f4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♗c3 a6
4...♗f6 5.e5 ♗fd7 6.d4 ♗c6 7.♙e3
cxd4 8.♗xd4 ♙b4 9.♙e2 need to
find something 9.a3!!

5.♚e2!

followed by g2-g3 or the
preliminary e4xd5.

Queen's Gambit

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.cxd5
exd5 5.♙g5 ♙e7 6.e3 ♗bd7 7.♙d3
♗f8 8.♗ge2 ♗e6 9.♙h4 g6 10.0-0
♗g7 11.f3!!

Not 11...♗f5 12.♙xf5 ♙xf5 13.♚b3.

Queen's Gambit

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 c6 4.♗f3 ♗f6
5.cxd5 exd5 6.♙g5



Interesting is

6...h6

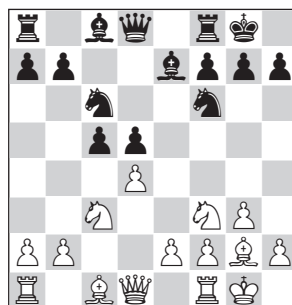
Also not bad Stahlberg-Saigin

6...♙e7 7.♚c2 ♗a6 8.♖c1 (a3) 8...g6
(9.e3 ♙f5 10.♚b3 ♚b6).

7.♙h4 g5 8.♙g3 ♗e4 (9.♗xe4 dxe4
10.♗d2 ♚xd4 11.e3 ♚xb2).

Tarrasch Defence

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 c5 4.cxd5
exd5 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.g3 ♗f6 7.♙g2
♙e7 8.0-0 0-0



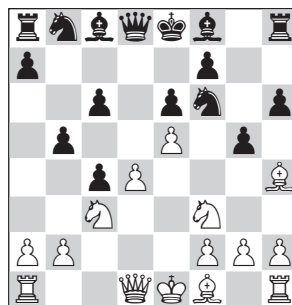
Two ways:

A) 9.dxc5 d4 10.♗a4 ♙f5 11.e3! d3
12.a3 and b4;

B) 9.♙g5 c4 10.♗e5 and on
10...♙e6 (and on 10...h6 11.♙xf6
♙xf6 12.♙xd5 – check the books)
11.♗xc4.

The Semi-Slav

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.♗f3 e6
5.♙g5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.♙h4 g5



9.exf6

Eigler's try against Negyesy (1952)
 9. ♖xg5 hxg5 10. ♕xg5 ♜bd7 11.exf6
 ♚b6 12. ♕e2 ♕b7 13. 0-0 0-0-0
 14. ♚d2 ♜e5 15. ♜fd1 c5 16. ♚f4
 was no good because of 16... ♜xd4!
 17. ♜xd4 cxd4 18. ♚xe5 ♕d6 19. ♚xb5
 ♕xh2+ 20. ♜f1 ♕c7 21. ♕xc4 dxc3
 and Black has the initiative.

9...gxf6 10. ♜e5 ♚xf6 11.g3 ♜d7
 12. ♚e2

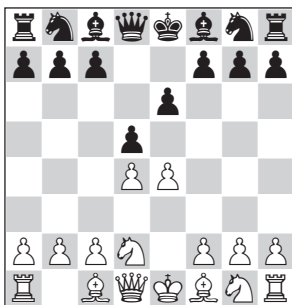
Or – which I feared at the board –
 12. ♜xc6 ♕b7 13. ♕g2 ♜c8 14.d5 h3
 15. ♕e4 ♕xc6 16.dxc6 ♜c5 17. ♜xb5!
 ♚e5 18. ♜c3 ♜xc6 19.f4 ♚d6♞.

12... ♜xe5 13.dxe5 ♚e7 14. ♕g2 ♕b7
 15. 0-0-0 ♕g7 16.f4 0-0 17. ♜d6 ♜ad8
 18. ♜hd1 ♜xd6 19.exd6 ♚d8 20. ♜e4
 ♚a5 21. ♜b1

Here I failed to find 21...h3!
 22. ♕xh3 (22. ♕h1 or 22. ♕f3 c5!) 22...
 b4! 23. ♚xc4 ♚h5 24. ♜f2 c5 25.g4
 ♚g6+♞.

French Defence

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♜d2



It appears

3...a6

is obligatory. It's not!!! After 3...
 c5 4.exd5 exd5 5. ♕b5+ ♜c6
 6. ♜gf3 ♕d6 7.0-0 cxd4 8. ♜b3 ♜e7

Averbakh's move 9. ♕xc6+ is a bluff,
 since one can play 9...bxc6 10. ♚xd4
 ♜f5!! 11. ♜e1+ ♕e6 and neither
 12. ♚c3 ♚b6 nor 12. ♚a4 ♚c7 gives
 White anything!!

Aronin's line is weak.

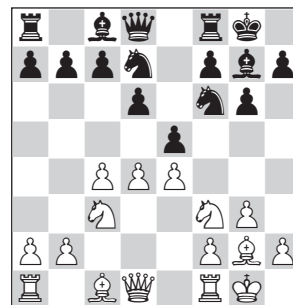
4.e5 c5 5.c3 ♜c6 6. ♜df3 ♚b6! (but
 not 6... ♕d7) 7. ♕d3 cxd4 8.cxd4
 ♕b4+ 9. ♕d2 ♜xd4!

King's Indian Defence

The system with 3...e5 is correct,
 since after 1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 d6 3. ♜c3
 e5 4.d5 ♕f5 5.f3 e4 6.g4 Black
 plays not 6... ♕g6 (7.h4 and either
 ♜h3-f4 or ♜e2-g3), but 6... ♜xg4!
 7.fxg4 ♚h4+ 8. ♜d2 e3+ 9. ♜xe3
 ♚g5+, and a draw by perpetual,
 when it suits one, is very
 convenient.

Simpler is the usual system, Geller-
 style.

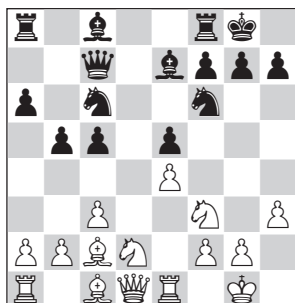
1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 g6 3. ♜c3 ♕g7 4.e4
 d6 5.g3 0-0 6. ♕g2 e5 7. ♜f3 ♜bd7
 8.0-0



If 8...c6 Smyslov (8...exd4 9. ♜xd4
 ♜c5! 10.h3 ♜e8 11. ♜e1 a5 12. ♚c2!
 (Petrosian) and then ♕e3 – ♜ad1,
 a3!, f4 (♚f2) – White has no
 problems), then 9. ♜e1!

Ruy Lopez – Rauzer

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4
 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♞e1 b5 7.♙b3 d6
 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4
 ♞c7 12.♘bd2 ♘c6 13.dxc5 dxc5

**14.a4**

Or 14.♘f1 ♙e6! 15.♘e3 (weak is
 15.♘g5 ♞ad8!) 15...♞ad8 16.♞e2 g6
 17.♘h2 c4 18.♘hg4 ♘xg4 19.hxg4
 ♞c8!

14...♙e6! 15.♘g5

15.♞e2 c4 16.♘f1 b4

15...♙d7 16.♘f1 h6 17.♘f3 ♙e6**18.♘e3 c4 19.♘f5 ♙c5=**

19.♘h4 ♘xe4 or 19.g4 ♞ad8 20.♞e2
 ♙c5 21.g5 ♘h5 22.♘d5 ♙xd5
 23.exd5 ♘g3.

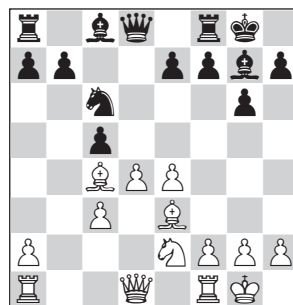
To be tested!

Nimzo-Indian Defence

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3
 b6 5.♘e2 ♘e4 6.♙d2! ♘xd2 7.♞xd2
 ♙b7 8.a3 ♙e7 9.d5 e5 10.g3 c5!
 11.♙g2 d6 12.0-0 ♘d7 13.f4 exf4

Grünfeld Indian Defence

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5
 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙c4
 c5 8.♘e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♙e3

**10...♞c7 11.♞c1**

11.dxc5 ♘e5 12.♙b3 ♘g4 13.♙f4
 ♞xc5 14.♞d5 ♞xd5 15.exd5 ♘e5=
11...b6 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.♙xc5
 or 13.♞d5 ♘e5 14.♞xa8 ♙e6=
13...♞d8 14.♞b3 ♘a5!

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.cxd5
 ♘xd5 5.e4 ♘xc3 6.bxc3 ♙g7 7.♙c4
 c5 8.♘e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♘c6 10.♙e3
 cxd4 11.cxd4 ♙g4 12.f3 ♘a5 13.♞c1
 ♘xc4 14.♞xc4 ♙d7 15.♞b3 ♞a5
 16.♘c3 b6 17.♞c1 ♞fc8 18.♘d5
 ♞xc4 19.♞xc4 e6 20.♘e7+ ♘f8
 21.♘c6 ♙xc6 22.♞xc6 ♞d8 23.♞c7
 and if Trifunovic's 23...♙e8, then
 24.d5! and 25.♙g5.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.♙g2 d5
 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.♘c3 ♙g7 7.♘f3

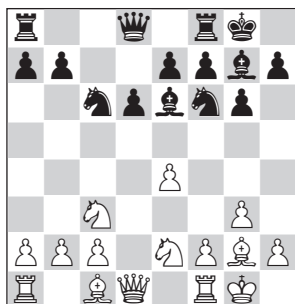
Now if castling 7...0-0 or 7...♘c6
 then 8.♘e5!

And if 7...♘e4 8.♞b3 (Rabinovich!,
 but before castling!) 8...♘xc3 9.bxc3
 ♘c6 (or 9...0-0 10.♙a3! b6 11.c4)
 10.♘d2 e6 11.♙a3! Simple and nice!

Sicilian – Boleslavsky

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.g3
 or 6.♘de2

6...g6 7.♗g2 ♗g7 8.♘de2 0-0 9.0-0
♗e6!!



Threat 10...♗c4; must force 10.♘d5
10.♘d5 ♗d7!

now 11...♘xd5 is possible, and after:

- A) 11.c3 ♘xd5 12.exd5 ♘e5 13.h3 a5! 14.a4 ♖c8 15.♖h2 b5;
- B) 11.♘e3 b5;
- C) 11.♗g5 ♘xd5 12.exd5 ♘e5 13.b3 ♗h3! – an important manoeuvre.

Black has a decent game.

Sicilian from Bondarevsky

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♗f6 5.♘c3 d6 – Rauzer – 6.♗g5 e6 7.♖d2 h6 8.♗xf6 gxf6 9.0-0 a6 10.f4 ♗d7 11.♗e2 ♖b6 12.♗h5 ♘xd4 13.♖xd4 ♖xd4 14.♖xd4 ♗g8 15.g3 ♗e7 16.♖f1 ♗c6 17.f5 ♗g5 18.♗e2

Here I didn't find the correct line: 18...♖d7!! 19.♘d5 (19.♖fd1 h5) 19...♗d8!! 20.c4 (20.fxe6+ fxe6 21.♘xf6+ ♖c7) 20...♖e8!! 21.♘b4 ♖e7 22.♖fd1 ♗c7. Bluff 23.c5!!

Closed

Training game with Smyslov

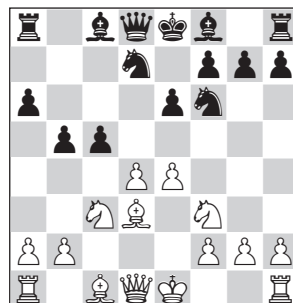
1.e4 c5 2.♘c3 ♘c6 3.g3 g6 4.♗g2 ♗g7 5.d3 e6 6.♗e3 d6 7.♖d2

and here simply 7...h6!, ...♘e7, ...♘d4 – Black has a reasonable game.

Meran

Simagin

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.♘c3 ♗f6 4.e3 e6 5.♗f3 ♘bd7 6.♗d3 dxc4 7.♗xc4 b5 8.♗d3 a6 9.e4 c5



10.e5

Zagoriansky's idea (?) 10.d5 e5 11.b3 is pure nonsense, since 11...♗d6 12.a4 c4 13.bxc4 b4 14.♘e2 ♘c5 15.♘g3 a5, and Black has good counterchances (g6, ♗f6-d7-b6, ♗d7, ♖e7).

10...cxd4 11.♘xb5 axb5

Check the card index.

The newest Meran. 11...♘g4 12.♘bxd4 ♗b7!! 13.♖a4 ♖b6 14.0-0 ♗c5 15.♗e3!! and because of the threats ♘xe6 or ♘g5, it is not easy for Black.

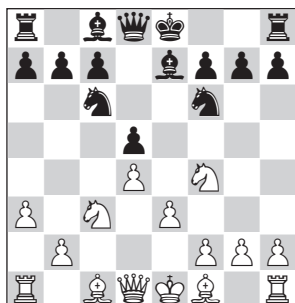
12.exf6 ♗b7 13.fxg7 ♗xg7 14.0-0!

and Black has nothing better than 14...♖b6, since neither 14...b4 15.♖e1, nor after 14...0-0 15.♖e1 does he achieve anything any good.

Nimzo-Indian Defence

Taimanov

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♘b4 4.e3
♗c6 5.♗e2 d5 6.a3 ♘e7 7.cxd5 exd5
8.♗f4!**



– then ♘d3, h3 and ♖f3!

The queen defends the knight on f4!!!

Two positional threats: g4 and (if h5) – e4. Rubbish. Correct is 8...0-0 9.♘e2!! ♗a5! (9...♗b8 10.f3!!)

10.f3!! It's important to threaten e4 before c6 and ♖b6 – e.g. 10...c6 11.e4 ♖b6 12.b4 ♗c4 13.e5 and ♗xd5!

Nonsense. Correct is 10.0-0 and on 11...c6 – 11.e4!

Nimzo-Indian Defence

Rabinovich-Alekhine

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♘b4 4.e3
b6 5.♗f3 ♘b7 6.♘d3 ♗e4 7.0-0 f5
8.♖c2 ♗xc3!**

Dubious is 8...♘xc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.♗e1!

**9.bxc3 ♘xf3 10.gxf3 ♘d6 11.e4 ♖h4
12.e5 ♘e7**

and the threat of ♘g5 gives Black equality.

Nimzo-Indian Defence

Novotelnov

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♘b4 4.e3
b6 5.♗e2 ♘a6 6.a3 ♘e7 7.♗f4 d5
8.cxd5 ♘xf1 9.♗xf1!**

9.dxe6 ♘a6 10.exf7+ ♗xf7 11.♖b3+ ♗e8 12.♗e6 ♖d7 13.♗xg7+ ♗d8 14.♗e6+ ♗c8.

9...exd5 10.g4!

Fine's opponent lost a tempo with 10.♖f3.

10...c6 11.g5

Important to kick the knight to d7. After 11...♗e4 12.♗xe4 dxe4 13.♖c2 ♘xg5 14.♖xe4+ White is better.

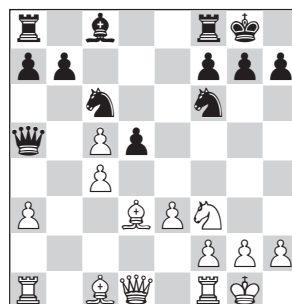
11...♗fd7 12.h4 0-0 (or 12...♘d6)

13.e4!! and Black faces problems.

The game Reshevsky-Levenfish 1939

**1.d4 e6 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 ♘b4 4.e3
0-0 5.♘d3 d5 6.♗f3 c5 7.0-0 ♗c6
8.a3 ♘a5 9.cxd5 exd5 10.dxc5 ♘xc3
11.bxc3 ♖a5 12.c4?!**

(Novotelnov)



12...dxc4 13.♘xc4 ♖c3 14.♖b3 ♖xa1 15.♘b2 ♗a5 16.♖c3 ♖xb2! 17.♖xb2 ♗xc4 18.♖b4 ♘e6 19.♗g5 ♗e5 (or first a5?) – this Suetin has found!!! And Bronstein, too!! But correct is 15.♘d2.

Nimzo-Indian Defence

Geller-Lipnitsky

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 ♖b4 4.a3 ♙xc3+ 5.bxc3 c5 6.e3 ♘c6 7.♙d3 b6 8.e4

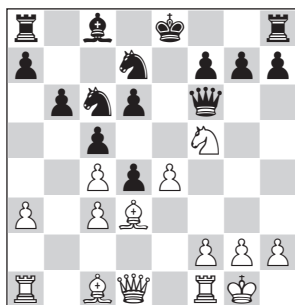
If White doesn't play 8.e4, then after 8.♗e2 d6 9.0-0 e5 10.♗g3 0-0 he has trouble with the d4 pawn.

8...d6 9.♗e2 e5 10.0-0 ♗d7 11.♗g3 exd4

Bad is 11...0-0 12.♗f5 ♖f6 13.f4 exd4 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 ♖xe5 (or 15...♖e6 16.♙h6 g6 17.♙xf8 ♗xf8 18.♗h6 ♗dxe5 19.♙e4) 16.♙f4 ♖e6 17.♖f3 ♙b7 18.♞ae1 ♖f6 19.♖h3±

Also bad is 11...g6 12.dxe5 ♗dxe5 13.♙e2 ♖e7 14.f4 ♗d7 15.e5 (or 15.♞e1 and ♗g3-f1-e3-d5) 15...dxe5 16.♙f3 ♙b7 17.♗e4±

12.♗f5 ♖f6



13.f4

13.g4 gives a dangerous attack – then the following doesn't work – 13...♙b7 14.f4 0-0-0 15.g5 ♖g6 16.cxd4 cxd4 17.e5 dxe5 18.♗e7+ ♗xe7 19.♙xg6 ♗xg6 20.fxe5 ♗dxe5 21.c5!!±;

but not bad is 13...♞g8! 14.f4 ♙b7 15.cxd4 cxd4 16.♙b2 ♗c5 17.g5 (or 17.♗h1 0-0-0 18.♗e3 ♗xd3 19.♖xd3 ♖h4) 17...♖e6 18.♙xd4 ♗xd4

19.♗xd4 ♖h3 20.♖f3 ♖xf3 21.♞xf3 ♗d7! and Black is doing well.

13...♙b7 14.e5

Or 14.cxd4 cxd4 15.♙b2 0-0-0 (maybe, 15...♗c5 16.♗e3 0-0-0 17.♗d5 ♖e6 and h6 and g5?) 16.♗e3 g5! 17.♗d5 ♖g7 18.fxg5 h6 – not bad! (for Black!).

14...dxe5 15.fxe5 (or 15.♙e4 0-0-0 16.fxe5 ♗cxe5) **15...♗cxe5**±

Staunton Gambit

Seems inadequate, since

1.d4 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.♗c3 ♗f6 4.♙g5 4.g4 h6! 5.f3 (5.h4 d5 6.♙h3 ♗c6 7.g5 hxg5 8.hxg5 ♗g4 and e5) 5...d5 6.h3 ♗c6 7.♙g2 e5 gives nothing. 4...♗c6! 5.f3 d5! leads to equality.

Dutch

Keres-Simagin, following Ilyin-Zhenevsky

1.d4 f5 2.g3 e6 3.♙g2 ♗f6 4.♗f3 ♙e7 5.0-0 0-0 6.c4 d6 7.♗c3 ♖e8 8.♞e1 ♖h5 9.e4 fxe4 10.♗xe4

(Winter-Miki, Lodz 1935). Here he should simply play 10...e5 11.dxe5 dxe5 12.♗xf6+ gxf6 13.♗h4 ♖xd1 14.♞xd1 ♗c6 15.♙h6 ♞e8 with a defensible position (Miki = Mikenas - Editor)

Kopylov

1.d4 f5 2.g3 ♗f6 3.♙g2 g6

– interesting is ♗g1-h3-f4 and h2-h4-h5-h6. If Black answers 4.♗h3 with immediate 4...d6 5.d5 c6 6.c4 e5 7.dxe6ep ♙xe6, then 8.♖c2 ♙g7 9.♗f4 ♙f7 10.h4 with a dangerous attack.

b3 would be highly unpleasant for Black.

By incorrectly refraining from this variation, White allows his opponent full equality.

**17...b6 18.c4 ♖f6 19.♗e3 ♜he8
20.♘e5 ♜ad8 21.♜ad1 ♗e7**



Here already, refraining from simplification by means of 22.f4 f6 23.♘f3 ♗d6 would lead to a double-edged position. Therefore White wisely decides to force a draw.

22.c5 ♘xe5

Black must exchange on e5, in view of the threat ♘e5-c4-d6.

23.♗xe5+ ♗f6 24.cxb6 axb6

Draw.

Score: Botvinnik 2½ Petrosian 1½

Grünfeld Indian Defence

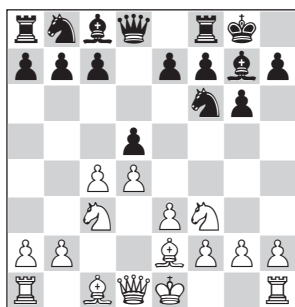
Tigran Petrosian**Mikhail Botvinnik**

Moscow 1 April 1963 (5)

Notes by T. Petrosian.

Every chess player has games which he remembers especially well. One such for me is the fifth game of our match, and not only because it was my first victory over Botvinnik in official competitions. The game also saw a successful opening experiment, which overturned the verdict of theory.

**1.c4 g6 2.d4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 d5 4.♗f3
♙g7 5.e3 0-0 6.♙e2**



This modest move does not have a very good reputation. Opening books quote the game Sokolsky-Botvinnik (Leningrad 1938) as the model, demonstrating the best plan for Black, by which he obtains an excellent position.

However, the present example shows the fundamental weakness of many such opening books. Their authors do not seek new paths in well-known variations, they do not pay attention to the characteristic modern device of transplanting

ideas from one opening to another, but simply dole out unjustified exclamation and question marks to extracts from old – often very old – games. On the basis of such ‘analyses’, they then announce categorical conclusions about the worth of this or that continuation. The variation 6.♙e2 is condemned by theory because of the system beginning with 6...e6, as played by Botvinnik in the above-mentioned game.

Many years have passed since that time. In the Grünfeld Defence, new ideas have been found and new lines worked out, which can appeal to the most varied chess tastes. V. Makogonov, for example, invented the system with 6.b4, in which White tries to prevent the standard break ...c7-c5. But both practical and theoretical researches have shown that White’s idea has serious drawbacks: the delay in development and the weakness of the long diagonal. Black can obtain a good game by either 6...♗e4 or 6...b6.

During my pre-match preparation, I devoted considerable attention to the Grünfeld Defence, realizing that it would play an important part in our match. One day, I had an idea: after 6.♙e2, and the (to my mind) somewhat passive reply 6...e6, why not take the game along the lines of the Makogonov System? After detailed discussions with my trainer, we came to the conclusion that we were onto something.

This assessment was confirmed during the World Championship Match itself, by the game Simagin-Osmanagic (Sarajevo 1963), in which White achieved excellent chances.¹²

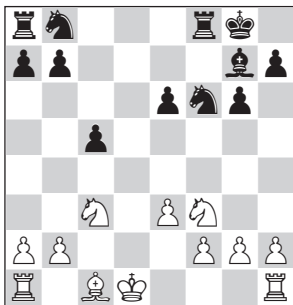
6...dxc4 7. ♖xc4 c5 8.d5 e6

If he wishes to obtain a more complicated position, Black could play either 7... ♖fd7, taking the game into a Smyslov treatment of the Queen's Gambit Accepted, or 8... ♖e8 followed by ... ♖e8-d6. I think that later in the match, Botvinnik would have chosen one of these continuations, but at this stage, he was happy to seek simplifications, especially when playing Black.

9.dxe6

White cannot maintain the pawn on d5, as after 9.e4 exd5 10.exd5 the check 10... ♖e8+ is unpleasant.

9... ♖xd1+ 10. ♔xd1 ♖xe6 11. ♖xe6 fxe6



It is said that some of the more impatient members of the press corps were already starting to

pack up, ready to go home. After all, those magical figures, the queens, have disappeared from the board, and how can there be any interesting play after that...? But in fact, the endgame which has arisen is very complicated. True, it is hard to point to any definite advantage for either side, and it is quite likely that this endgame would end in another draw.

But it seems to me that much depends on a player's mood. If there is the will to fight, then the position is full of life. In the absence of such will, even the sharpest position can quickly be dried up.

To be quite honest, deep down I was not all that happy about this early simplification. But what could I do? The opponent has his ideas too, and one must deal with them as one can.

I should add that in the press, there appeared stories to the effect that I had announced even at home beforehand that I would win this ending. Of course, this is not true. To have said such a thing would have been immodest at best, and would have indicated a significant over-estimation of my abilities and a corresponding under-estimation of my opponent's. At this stage of the match, there were no grounds for such a feeling. All that actually happened was that, when we analysed this position in our

¹² Translator's note: this game continued 6. ♖e2 e6 7.0-0 b6 8.cxd5 exd5 9.b4 c6 10.a4 ♖e8 11. ♖a3 ♖bd7 12.b5 c5 13.dxc5 ♖xc5 14. ♖d4 with advantage to White. Nowadays, the move 6...c5 is considered the best equalizer.

preparation, I told Boleslavsky that the prospect of this ending arising on the board should not be a reason to avoid the whole variation with 6.♙e2.

So how should one assess the position itself? White's pawn structure presents a rather better appearance, thanks primarily to the isolated black pawn on e6. Of course, it is hard to imagine that White will ever be able to create a serious threat to win this pawn. But the weakness of an isolated pawn is not only the danger of the pawn itself becoming an object of attack, but also that the square or squares in front of it can become stable outposts for the opponent's pieces. These considerations justify one in considering White's position slightly the more pleasant.

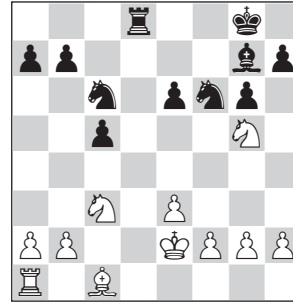
12.♙e2 ♘c6

If one were to remove all the knights from the board, then it is not hard to come to the conclusion that White's hopes of an advantage would soon be liquidated. In reality, though, it is precisely the knight on e4 that will occupy an ideal position. For this reason, some commentators recommended that Black should play 12...♘d5 13.♘e4 ♘d7, although even here, 14.♘fg5 or 14.♙d1 would retain some initiative in White's hands.

13.♙d1 ♙ad8

One of several small inaccuracies, committed by my opponent in this game. Simpler was 13...♙f7.

14.♙xd8 ♙xd8 15.♘g5



15...♙e8

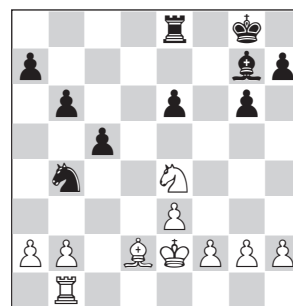
One must also reckon with the fact that there are bishops on the board. Thus, the move 15...e5 would make the bishop on g7, if not outright 'bad', then at least 'not very good'.

16.♘ge4 ♘xe4

He should have preferred the immediate 16...b6. Then after 17.♘xf6+ ♙xf6 18.♘e4 Black would have the choice between retreating the bishop to g7 or e7.

17.♘xe4 b6 18.♙b1 ♘b4 19.♙d2

19.a4 was also possible; this would probably have transposed into the game.



19...♘d5

It is obvious that the variation 19...♘xa2 20.♙a1 ♘b4 21.♙xb4 cxb4 22.♙xa7 ♙xb2 23.♙b7 suits White, despite the paucity of material

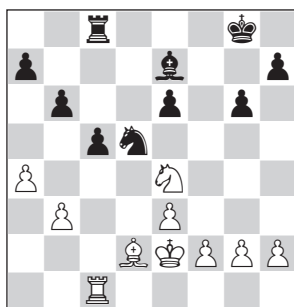
remaining on the board; White would have retained some winning chances, whilst the opponent would have been condemned to a prolonged defence.

20.a4 ♖c8 21.b3 ♙f8

Over the last few moves, Black's choices have been largely forced, and so cannot be bad. Even so, it seems to me that White has achieved rather more over the period. He has completed the mobilization of his forces and improved the position of his queenside pawns. Black, meanwhile, has come to the conclusion that the bishop belongs on the a3-f8 diagonal.

22.♖c1 ♙e7

The commentators were unanimous in their condemnation of this move. But after 22...♖c7 23.♘g5, it is not easy for Black to defend, whereas after the text, he could subsequently have achieved approximate equality.



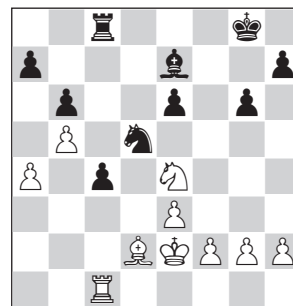
23.b4!

Undoubtedly the best move, sharpening up a position which appears totally calm. I decided on the move only after considerable

thought. Of course, if Black had chosen the natural 23...♙f7, then 24.bxc5 bxc5 would have given him a passed pawn on c5 – an isolated pawn, it is true, but at first sight quite an active one. However, the sample continuation 25.♙d3 ♖b6 26.a5 c4+ 27.♙d4 ♖d8+ 28.♙c3 ♖d3+ 29.♙c2 ♖d5 30.♖b1 looked sufficiently convincing to persuade me to play the move. On the other hand, I did not at first manage to assess the position arising after 23...c4.

23...c4 24.b5

Depriving Black of the possibility of supporting the passed pawn by means of ...a7-a6 and ...b6-b5.



24...♙f7

After this, Black will sooner or later lose the c-pawn, whereas he had several ways to obtain more or less satisfactory play.

For example:

A) 24...♙a3 25.♖c2 c3! 26.♙xc3 ♙b4 27.♙d2 ♖c4 28.♙xb4 ♖xe4 29.♙d6 ♖xa4, which was recommended by Averbakh, and which I examined during the game. I was planning to continue the struggle with 30.f3;

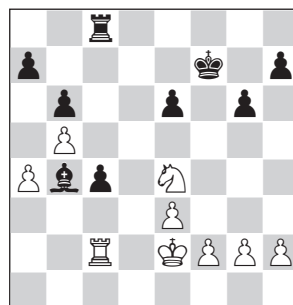


B) 24...c3 25. ♖xc3 ♜c4 (25... ♖a3 26. ♜c2 ♜c4¹³ 27. ♔d3 ♜xa4 28. ♜a2 ♜xe4 29. ♜xa3 ♔xc3 30. ♜xa7 ♜e5 31. ♔xc3 ♜xb5) 26. ♔d3 ♜xa4 27. ♖d4 or 27. ♖e5.

In all of these variations White retains the advantage, albeit only a minimal one.

Black instead did not wish to force the play. Probably Botvinnik had not yet seen the regrouping of the white pieces, which I had to find before playing the committal move 23.b4. The bishop comes to c3, blockading the passed pawn, then the knight from d2 attacks the pawn. Then White plays g3, to take the f4-square away from the enemy knight, and then drives it away by advancing the e-pawn.

25. ♖c3 ♖a3 26. ♜c2 ♔xc3+ 27. ♜xc3 ♖b4 28. ♜c2



28... ♔e7

More chances were offered by 28... e5, trying to bring the king towards the d5-square more rapidly. In the event of 29. ♔d2 c3 30. ♔e4 ♔e6 31.f3 the winning line given by Tal is not entirely convincing: 31...h6 32. ♔d3 ♜d8+ 33. ♔c4 ♜d2 34. ♔b3 ♜xc2

13 Editors' note: 26... ♖b4 transposes to line A.

35.♔xc2 ♕d5 36.♔d3 c2 37.♔xc2 ♔c4 38.♗d2+ ♕xd2 39.♔xd2, and when Black takes the pawn on a4, the white king will come to c4 and the game will be decided by the passed pawns on the kingside. However, by retaining all pieces on the board, Black can still resist, for example: 31.f3 ♕a5 32.♔d3 ♖d8+ 33.♔c4 ♖d2 34.♔b3 ♖d3.

29.♗d2 c3

The rook endgame after 29...♕xd2 30.♔xd2 ♖d8+ (30...♔d6 31.♔c3 ♔c5 32.♖d2) 31.♔c3 ♖d1 would have allowed Black to put up a stubborn resistance.

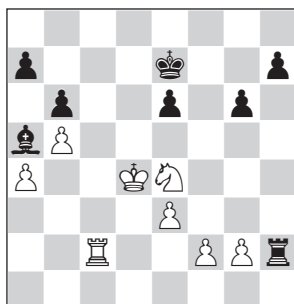
30.♗e4 ♕a5 31.♔d3 ♖d8+ 32.♔c4 ♖d1

The spectacular 32...♖d2 is refuted by the prosaic reply 33.♔b3.

33.♗xc3 ♖h1?

Now Black's position is completely lost. It is interesting to note that I feared the exchange most of all, considering that the rook ending, although it does not look very good, actually offers Black the best chance of saving the game.

34.♗e4! ♖xh2 35.♔d4!



White's centralized army presents a stark contrast to Black's scattered

forces. The rook in the corner, and the bishop on the empty diagonal a5-e1, both seem to have abandoned their monarch to its fate.

35...♔d7

Of course, he cannot allow the rook onto the 7th rank.

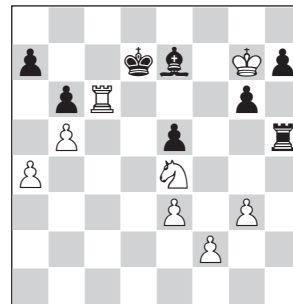
36.g3

The safest route to victory. Although only a few moves remained to the time control, I also had little time, and consequently there was no sense in allowing complications, in which everything would depend on exact calculation. Even so, in the event of 36.g4 h5 37.g5 h4 or 37.♔e5 hxg4 38.♗f6+ ♔e7 39.♗xg4 ♖h5+ 40.♔e4 White should win.

36...♕b4

Rushing to the aid of the king!

37.♔e5 ♖h5+ 38.♔f6 ♕e7+ 39.♔g7 e5 40.♖c6!



Limiting to the utmost the mobility of the black king.

40...♖h1 41.♔f7!

The sealed move, and the start of the shortest way of realizing the advantage. From the square e7, the bishop defends a number of important squares: d6, f6, and g5.