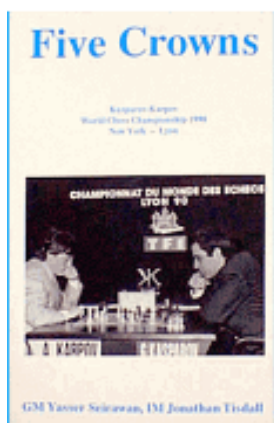


## Inside Chess

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## Yasser Annotates:

### Seirawan - Kasparov, Skelleftea 1989

Every now and then a GM plays a game so complicated that he doesn't know what's going on. The GM is forced to rely upon intuition, to play by the seat of the pants (soon I may have to change that to *dress*!). Only months later does the GM discover new ideas of attack and defense. How nice it would be to have the World Champion participate in the post-mortem! My sincere thanks to Garry Kasparov for his graciousness in analyzing the following game with me. For every hour we spent playing the game, we spent three hours looking at it! Two very long post-mortems, several meals, and a four-hour plane ride haven't exhausted the game.

*Yasser Seirawan - Garry Kasparov*  
Skelleftea World Cup VI 1989  
King's Indian Averbakh (E74)

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6**

The last time I played this position, Garry was white and I was black.

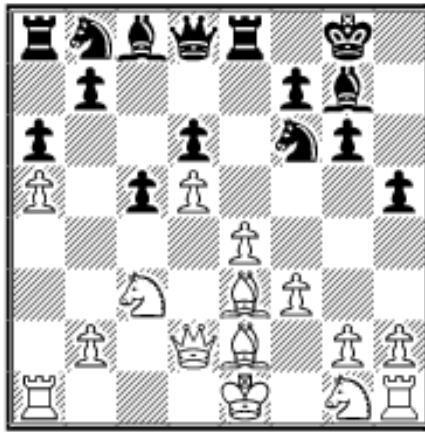
**5.Be2 O-O 6.Bg5 c5 7.d5 h6 8.Be3**

The alternative is 8.Bf4 e6! 9.dxe6 Bxe6 10.Bxd6 Re8 with massive complications for the sacrificed pawn.

**8...e6 9.Qd2 exd5 10.cxd5 Re8! 11.f3 h5!**

An important move. Black uses his h-pawn to gain space on the kingside. White has won some fine games by playing g2-g4 and h2-h4. In the 1982 Toluca Interzonal, GM Amador Rodriguez played 11...a6? against me. My elbow-jerk reaction was 12.a4?. An exchange of blunders. After 11...a6? 12.Bxh6! Nxe4 13.Nxe4 Qh4+ 14.g3 Qxh6 15.Nf6+! snares an exchange.

**12.a4 (:16) a6 (:25) 13.a5? (:35)**



Both players are waiting. White wants to play Ng1-h3-f2. Of course, Black is waiting for the opportunity to play Bc8xh3. The question is: who will benefit more from the waiting game? Kasparov's next move answers that question, Black will. White should have played 13.h4 to capture on h3 with his rook. 13...Nh7! 14.g3 b6! 15.Nh3 Bxh3!? 16.Rxh3 Ra7 intending Rae7 with a better game for Black. All this means that players who

employ the Averbakh system will have to look for another job.

### 13...Nh7! (:29)

An important new idea in the position. Black intends f7-f5, attacking White's trump, his powerful center. If Black succeeds in destroying the center, he wins. White's position will be ruined. I now had to undertake a major rethink of the position.

### 14.Bd1 (:45)

Not pretty, but necessary. If 14.Bd3 Nd7 15.b3 Ne5 16.Bc2 b5 17.axb6 Qxb6 with good play for Black. Or 14.Na4? f5! 15.Nb6 Ra7 and, in spite of his temporary discomfort, Black is on the attack.

### 14...Nbd7 (:33)

The waiting is over. Black has won the first battle. White has been forced into an ugly scheme of development.

### 15.Nge2 (:47) Ne5 (:33) 16.b3 (:48) Qh4+?! (1:04)

More natural is 16...f5 17.Bc2 fxe4 18.Bxe4. Black now has a happy choice between 18...Nf6 and 18...c4. In either case, I prefer Black.

### 17.Bf2 (:50) Qf6 18.Qe3? (:58)

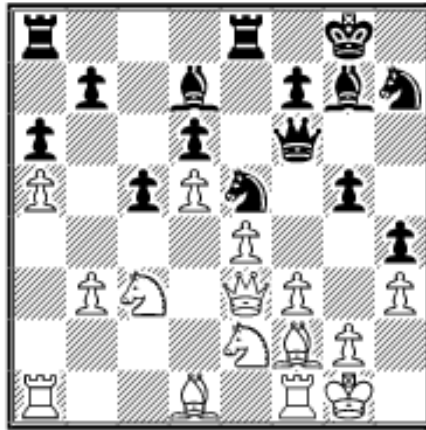
Continuing to misuse *all* my pieces, while only a *couple* of Black's are clumsily placed (Qf6, Nh7). I rejected 18.O-O Ng5! (18...Qxf3 19.Bxc5 (19.Nf4 Nc4! wins for Black.) 19...Qd3 20.Qxd3 Nxd3 21.Bxd6 is a speculative sacrifice.) 19.Kh1 Nexf3! and White is busted. With the text, I shore up f3 in order to prevent the threat of 18...Qxf3 19.gxf3 Nxf3+ 20.Kf1 Bh3 mate. The best way to meet that threat was 18.Be3!, inviting a repetition. If Black declines to repeat, then he has misplaced his queen. The only way to take advantage of the free tempo – 18...Nxf3+?! 19.gxf3 Qxf3 20.Rf1 – favors White. With 18.Qe3? I justify Black's queen sally

and help him increase his advantage.

**18...h4!** (1:10)

Another benefit of 11...h5; White can't allow h4-h3 but, by playing h2-h3 myself, my kingside becomes a rigid target. Black will also keep the mighty outpost on e5.

**19.h3** (1:04) **g5!** (1:11) **20.O-O** (1:12) **Bd7** (1:21)



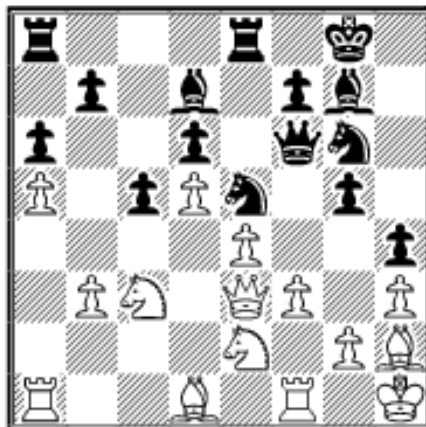
I ain't happy. How often do you see a bishop voluntarily "developed" at d1? My knights are particularly sad. The knight on e2 is an object of ridicule. Look at those black pawns! (Kasparov is a genius at limiting the scope of his opponent's pieces. See *Inside Chess* Vol. #2, Issue 12 for my notes to the game Kasparov - Spassky, Barcelona World Cup 1989.) My king is the object of Black's attentions. My bishops are wondering what to do,

while my rooks have no clue! In short, if I were the World Champion, with White's position, I'd offer a draw and excuse myself. Since that tactic wouldn't work here, some repairing is in order. Before all else, my king needs protection!

**21.Kh1!** (1:17) **Nf8!**

Declining the opportunity for a direct assault; I had hoped for 21...Bh6 22.Bg1 g4? 23.f4 gxh3 24.gxh3 Ng5 25.fxg5 Qxf1 26.gxh6 Bxh3 27.Nf4 favoring White.

**22.Bg1!** (1:20) **Nfg6** **23.Bh2** (1:22)



Good defensive play has brought me back into the game. While still devoid of counterplay, I should be able to avoid immediate loss. Black should now play 23...Bh6 intending Ng6-f4 and a doubling on the g-file in case of an exchange on f4. Another plan would be to reach "the Zuk point" by playing 23...Bb5, Re8-e7, and Ra8-e8, preparing to punish White for any active moves. The concept of the "Zuk point" needs elaboration. Robert Zuk

was a strong Senior Master, now mostly retired from chess. The "winter of Zuk" (1970-71) still evokes awed memories. Bob came down from

British Columbia and dealt the top players of the Pacific Northwest over 120 consecutive games without a win. That included a streak of over 40 consecutive victories (no draws) for Bob. Zuk was famous for building up his position to an absolute maximum before attempting to find a winning plan. Garry should have used that method here. Instead, he uncorked a strategic howler of major proportions.

### **23...c4?? (1:28)**

When making this move, Garry literally screwed the pawn into the c4-square, then he rubbed the pawn on the square hard enough to rock the table. I was so delighted by this move and its accompanying motions that I couldn't repress a smile. I wanted to tip-toe around the board; give Garry a peck on the cheek, let out a small, "thank you," and then tip-toe back. The TV cameras were too intimidating. (The event was broadcast to fifteen nations.) When I told Garry later, he burst into laughter ("I deserve it!" he exclaimed.)

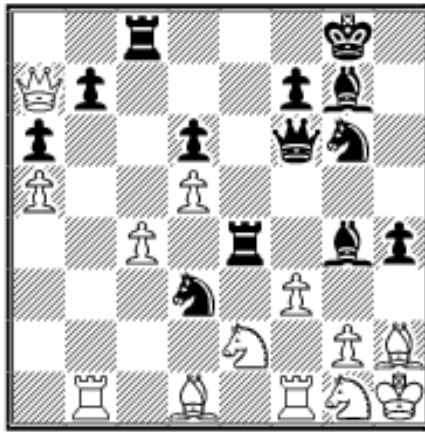
Review my summation after the last diagram. In an instant, my rooks know where to play. The knight on e2 is offered the d4-square, while my queen is unleashed on the g1-a7 diagonal. Stunned by the new-found promise my position offered, I spent several minutes readjusting my thoughts. I was going to win this game!

### **24.Rb1 (1:25)**

The suddenness of White's advantage can be explained as follows. Think of the position as a King's Indian. White is about to break through on the queenside with killing effect. Black's attack on the white king has a long, long way to go. The bishop on h2 offers fantastic security.

### **24...Rac8 (1:30) 25.Qa7! (1:36)**

Same move faster was better. I was tormented by the memory of a recent loss to Karpov in Rotterdam. There I had moved my queen far away from the protection of my king. I spent eleven crucial minutes analyzing possible desperation sacrifices with 25...Bxh3 as well as the more fearsome 25...g4?! 26.hxg4 Bxg4 (26...Nxg4 27.Bg1 h3 28.g3 N4e5 (28...h2? 29.Bd4 wins.) 29.Nd4 (29.Qxb7!? ; 29.Qe3!?) when Black is about to be routed.) 27.Ng1!! (If 27.Nd4, then Nd3 28.Nce2 h3! 29.g3 Rxe4! allows Black a powerful attack. White's knight on d4 is a juicy target, which makes the f3-pawn vulnerable.) 27...Nd3 28.N3e2 (28.e5!?) 27...Rxe4 (28...c3? 29.Bc2 protects the rook on f1.) 29.bxc4



This is the picture I saw when I finally decided on 25.Qa7. Make no mistake; Black is on the critical list. Too many of his units are *en prise*.

Kasparov grew increasingly agitated. The game was slipping away. Launching himself into the position with increased determination, he began to search for ways to save the game.

#### 25...Nf4 (1:40)

As good as anything else; Black is impaling himself on White's defenses.

#### 26.bxc4? (1:42)

As Kasparov indicated afterwards, after the simple 26.Bxf4! gxf4 27.Qxb7, Black is in real trouble. At first, we couldn't find a way for Black to continue, e.g. 27...Ra8 28.bxc4 with two pawns and an attack for White! GM Roman Dzindzichashvili might have said, "White has compensation for Black's two pawns." After considerable consternation, we found 27...Qd8!. Hardly a crowning achievement to Black's attack. Although best, I doubt it could save Black. After 28.Qxa6 (26.b4!?) 28...Ra8 29.Qxd6 Qxa5 30.bxc4, Black is done.

The reason I didn't capture on f4 is that I felt it was unnecessary. It *felt good* to keep the bishop on h2! My capture with the rook on b7 would *force* Black to play his entrapped bishop on d7 to b5. That would allow me to exchange the accursed knight on c3.

#### 26...Nxc4! (1:40)

Played in an instant! That should have been a warning. I had expected 26...Rxc4 27.Rxb7 Bc8 (saving the bishop!) 28.Rc7, when Black is merely lost.

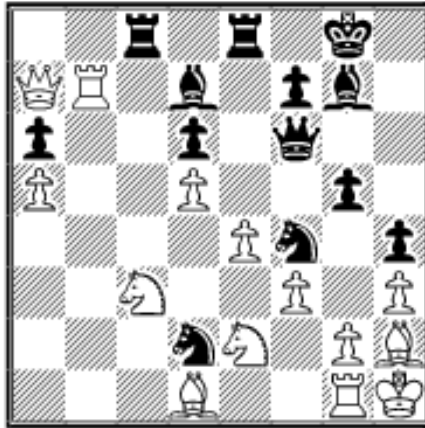
#### 27.Rxb7? (1:45)

A capture made with high hopes. I'm amazed that I could play such a bad move. Once again, I was too sure of my king's defenses. Now was the last opportunity to take on f4. Forced was 27.Bxf4 gxf4 28.Rxb7 Ra8 (28...Ne3 29.Rg1 Bb5 30.Nxb5 axb5 31.Rxb5 Qa1, as indicated by Kasparov, is also possible.) 29.Qf2 Bb5 30.Nxb5 axb5 31.Rxb5 Rxa5 32.Rxa5 Nxa5 with good compensation according to Kasparov.

After I failed to capture on f4, Black has a ferocious attack against my

king.

**27...Nd2 (1:43) 28.Rg1 (1:51)**



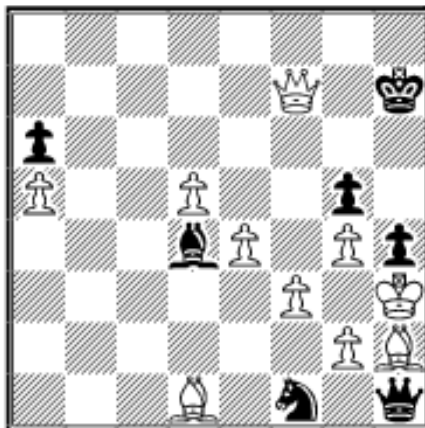
Here, my confidence in victory was absolute! After all, isn't Black's bishop simply trapped? In fact, the position is harrowingly complicated.

**28...Nxh3!! (1:53)**

Expected! I had long dismissed the faint hope of 28...Bb5?? 29.Nxb5 axb5 30.Nxf4 winning. The problem was that I thought I had the answer! After several hours of analysis, we came to

the conclusion that 28...Nxh3 is the best move. The central theme is the smothered mate on f2. As strange as it sounds, the drawback of the move is that it puts the knight *en prise*! That is, White can always deal with the problem of mate by capturing the knight. My real scare was 28...Nd3!? I have two defenses: 29.Rxd7 and 29.Bc2.

When you are defending, you grab as many of your opponent's pieces as quickly as you can! My first reaction was 29.Rxd7 Rxc3 30.Nxc3 (30.Rxd6? Nxe4!! – a recurring nightmare!) 30...Qxc3 31.Bxd6 Bd4 (the d-file is everyone's favorite.) 32.Qc7 (32.Qxa6? Bxg1 33.Kxg1 Qd4+ wins.) 32...Nf2+ 33.Kh2 Qe3 34.Rd8! (34.Rxf7? Ng4+ 35.hxg4 Qxg1+ 36.Kh3 Qh1+ 37.Bh2 Be5 wins.) 34...Rxd8 35.Qxd8+ Kh7 36.Qf8 Ng4+ 37.hxg4 Qxg1+ 38.Kh3 Qh1+ 39.Bh2 Nf1 (39...Kg6? 40.Qg8+ Bg7 41.Bc2 is good for White.) 40.Qxf7+



– and after dodging all the bullets, the game ends with a perpetual.

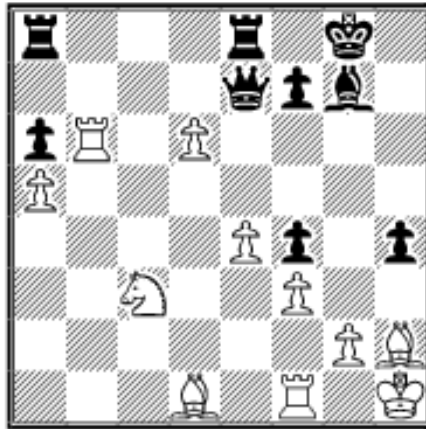
My intended defense was the quiet killer 29.Bc2!! Rxc3 30.Nxc3 Qxc3 31.Bxd3 and, funnily enough, Black is just dead: 31...Bd4 32.Qxa6 Bc8 33.Qc6! is a quick trip to the dugout. Meanwhile, the bishop desperado 31...Bxh3? rebounds with fatal consequences(: 32.gxh3 Qxd3 33.Rxf7, with a decisive attack.

Garry calculated a lot of these variations, but, without enough time to form judgments, he relied on instinct to guide him to 28...Nxh3 and not 28...Nd3.

## 29.e5?

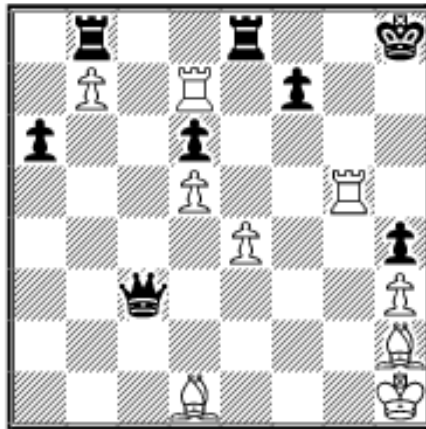
My intended resource; the structure g2-f3-e4-d5 was supposed to corral Black's knights. They've jumped the fence! I therefore had no reluctance to open the gate. By interfering with Black's attack on c3, I figured to pick up a piece or two. My best chance to save the game now is 29.Rxd7 Ra8 30.Qb6 Nc4! The point. My queen cannot protect f2.

Now the best move is 31.Rf1!, when we arrive at some unusual middlegame positions: 31...Nxb6 32.Rxd6!? (32.axb6!?) 32...Qe7 33.Rxb6 Nf4 34.Nxf4 gxf4 35.d6



Although Black has won a queen for two minor pieces, the situation is completely unclear. Lack of time prohibits exhaustive analysis.

But we spent most of our analysis time on 31.gxh3 Nxb6 32.axb6 Qxf3+ 33.Rg2 Bxc3 34.b7!? (Later it was suggested the pawn might be better left on b6.) 34...Rab8 35.Nxc3 Qxc3 36.Rxg5+ Kh8 (see next diagram)



An amazing position. For the queen, White has two bishops and a powerful passed pawn on the seventh. If my king were safer (the h3-pawn on, say, g2), then the position is no doubt a win. But that's the rub. My king is as badly exposed as Black's. Victor Kortchnoi, Garry Kasparov, Alexander Nikitin and I spent the plane ride from Skelleftea to Antwerp analyzing these positions. The inescapable conclusion was that, with

precise play, Black has good chances to win. Playing *precisely* in this position is no easy task.

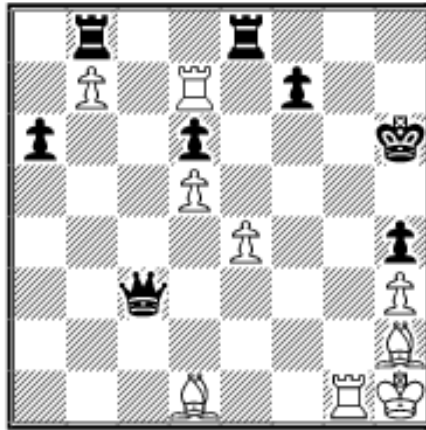
From the last diagram, White has three moves: 37.Rxf7, 37.Rxd6, and 37.Rh5+.

37.Rxf7 looks good, but Black is quicker to the punch: 37...Rxe4! 38.Bf3 (38.Rf3 Re1+ 39.Bg1 Qc1 -+) Qc1+ 39.Rg1 Re1 40.Bg4 Rxg1+ 41.Bxg1 a5 and Black wins in both cases.

37.Rxd6 threatens mate in one! But after 37...f6 38.Rg1 Rxb7 39.e5 fxe5 40.Rh6+ Rh7 41.Rhg6 Qxh3 42.Bg4 Qd3 43.Be6 Rh5 wins again.

These two variations quickly taught me that the moment Black activates his rooks, it means instant death. I have to keep the files for a moment to get my bishops going.

37.Rh5+ Kg7 38.Rg5+ Kh6 39.Rg1



White is on the verge of an instant win with Bh2-f4+, Kh6-h7, and Bd1-g4-f5. For example: 39...Qxh3? 40.Rxd6+ Kh7 41.Bg4 intending Bf5+ winning; or 39...Rxe4 40.Rxd6+ Kh7 41.Rd7 Re1 42.Rxf7+ Kh8 43.Bxb8 wins again. Unfortunately, it's Black's move. With 39...Rg8! he dodges a few bullets. Now it's White's turn to panic: 40.Rf1 (40.Bg4 Rxc4! 41.Rxc4 Qxh3 42.Rxd6+ Kh7, or 40.Bf4+ Kh7 41.Rxf7+ Kh8 42.Bg4 Rxc4! 43.hxc4

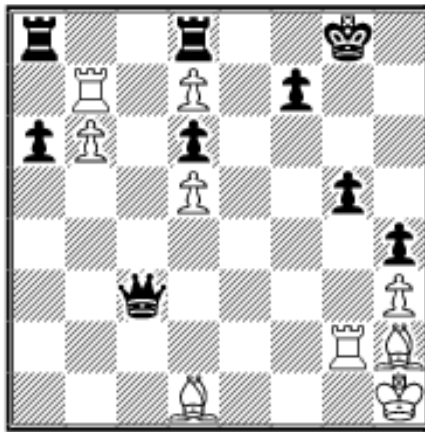
Kg8! and Black wins either way.) 40...Qxh3! (Not a bad move. Black attacks both of White's rooks and threatens mate in one!) 41.Rxd6+ Kh7! (41...Rg6? 42.Rxc6+ fxc6 43.Rf3 wins.) 42.Rxf7+ Rg7 and Black is about to win.

There is a lot of room for either player to go wrong in this variation. Equally clear is that if both sides avoid all the various pitfalls, Black has the better chances. Therefore, White should play – not 31.gxh3 – but 31.Rf1!, after which the game is simply unclear.

### 29...Rxe5? (1:53)

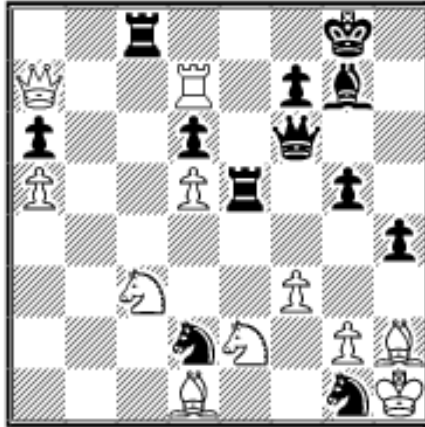
Played with a slight pause for reflection. It was here that both Garry and I missed the crucial point. Nikitin's move 29...Qf5! causes White real problems. Black simply defends his bishop – 30.Rxd7? Qxd7 wins. Black now threatens 30...Ra8 when White's queen is short of squares that protect f2. Both players "noticed" this move but rejected it by reflex because of 30.e6!. Black can't play 30...fxe6? as 31.Rxd7 gains a tempo against the bishop on g7, winning. Nor is 30...Bxe6? 31.dxe6 good for Black. Thus 29...Rxe5 is *natural*. It is also a mistake. Black had a hidden possibility, namely: 29...Qf5! 30.e6 Ra8! 31.exd7 Rd8! (It would be interesting to test a computer to see if it would "think and choose" this variation. What level of "thought depth" would be necessary?) 32.Qb6 Nc4 33.gxh3 (33.Rf1!? Nxb6 34.axb6 Nf4 35.Bxf4 gxf4 36.Ba4 with an interesting position that should favor Black.) 33...Nxb6 34.axb6 Qxf3+ 35.Rg2 Bxc3 36.Nxc3 Qxc3 with positions similar to the previous variation.





White's problem here is that the rook on b7 is dreadfully misplaced. As in the previous variation, I'm convinced that White should avoid capturing on h3 and instead try the positions after Rg1-f1.

**30.Rxd7 (1:54) Nxd1 (1:54)** (see next diagram)



**31.Qxg1! (1:55)**

In making this move, I was once again fully confident of victory. Most of the little horrors hovering around my king have disappeared. I'm ahead in material. Things never appeared so rosy; the only drawback was the time control. At least that was mutual.

Unfortunately, my confidence was not fully warranted. White's knights on c3 and e2 step on each other's hooves. My queen is passive. And the f3-pawn can easily be undermined by h4-h3. Both players were beginning to tense up. I felt my mind had slipped into high gear and was speeding at 100 miles per hour!

**31...Ree8?**

Unexpected. I hadn't imagined that Garry would jettison his d6-pawn. My calculations had rejected 31...Ree7 32.Rxd6 Qf5 33.Rc6! Rce8 34.d6 Re3 35.Rc7! intending d6-d7. If there is no good sacrifice on f3, the whole variation becomes a rout.

Therefore, at the time it seemed that Black had only one chance: sacrifice the rook on e5 by trying 31...h3! 32.Bxe5 Qxe5, when Black has good compensation for his piece. I didn't doubt that White had the edge, but I did fear that time pressure would decide the game.

**32.Rxd6 Qf5 33.Ba4! (1:57)**

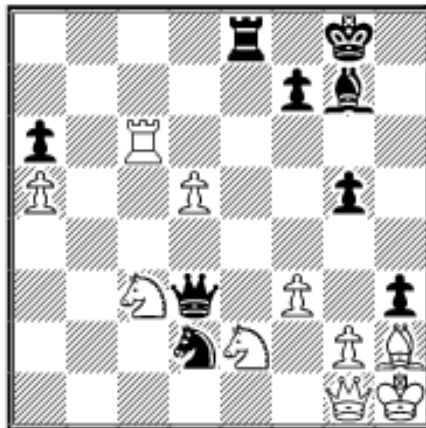
Garry overlooked this grab from the crypt when playing 33...Ree8. I had been dreaming of such a moment ever since 14.Bd1. Black is forced to part with a rook for the septic cleric on d1. As Garry exclaimed afterwards, "I can't believe it. This bishop," he said, holding it up and shaking it at me, "It-it took a *whole rook!*" Black has no choice. If 33...Red8?, then 34.Rxd8 Rxd8 35.Qe3 Nc4 36.Qe4 is an absolute

slaughter.

### 33...Qd3!

A tremendous reaction to the shock of 33.Ba4. Black's queen is omnipresent on d3. My knights are in concrete shoes. The bum's rush d5-d6-d7 is nigh impossible, as the queen stands behind the d-pawn.

### 34.Bxe8 Rxe8 35.Rc6 h3 (1:56)



Using his only chance. I've no doubts the position is won for White. Am I not a *full piece* up? Proving the matter, however, is not easy.

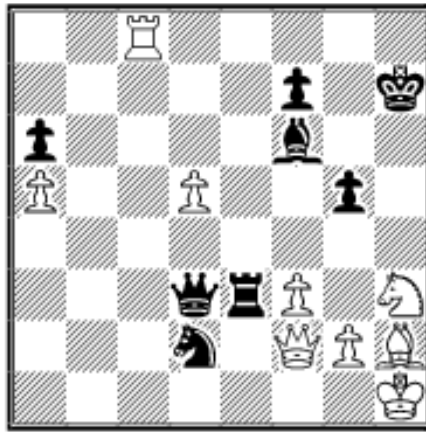
### 36.Bg3?

A strange move. I had calculated a few variations that Black wins with Re8-e1+, and anxiously covered the e1-square. Instead, 36.Qf2 begs to be played. White shores up f3 while planning to recapture on g2 with the king. The line that finally motivated 36.Bg3 was 36.gxh3? Bxc3 37.Nxc3 Nxf3 38.Qf2 Re1+ 39.Kg2 Nh4+, and Black wins. The question is, after 36.Qf2 Re3! does White win?

White, despite his extra piece, is being smothered! Truly an amazing occurrence; I spent a morose evening in the *Etage Disco* believing 37.Qg3 to be an immediate killer. Not true. The game remains complicated. For example: 37...hxg2+ 38.Kxg2 Nxf3 39.Rc8+ Kh7 40.Qh3+ Nh4+!. Whoops. Let's list the options first: 37.Nc1; 37.Rc8+, intending Ne2-g1; 37.Bg1; or 37.Rc8+, intending Qf2-g3.

At first sight, 37.Nc1 seems to refute Black's position. However, he has a tactical resource: 37...Re1+ 38.Qxe1 hxg2+ 39.Kxg2 Qxf3+ 40.Kg1 Bd4+ with mate to follow. Such variations led me to 36.Bg3.

The last variation brings up 37.Rc8+. If Black interposes with his bishop, then Ne2-c1 or Bh2-d6 works. So, 37...Kh7 38.Ng1 was my first thought. White returns his extra piece in order to win a pawn and cement his king. But Black retains his initiative: 38...Bxc3 39.Nxh3 Bf6.

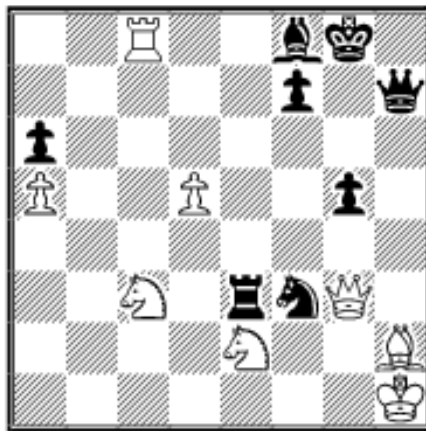


During analysis, we were joined by many GMs, including Nigel Short. Both Nigel and I took White's position. Between us, we lost twenty Swedish kroner to Garry. Black does get plenty of counterplay.

Another seductive variation is 37.Bg1!?, attempting to kick Black back. He is forced to clarify matters: 37...hxg2+ 38.Qxg2. Black can now capture on f3 in two ways: 38...Nxf3

and 38...Rxf3!.

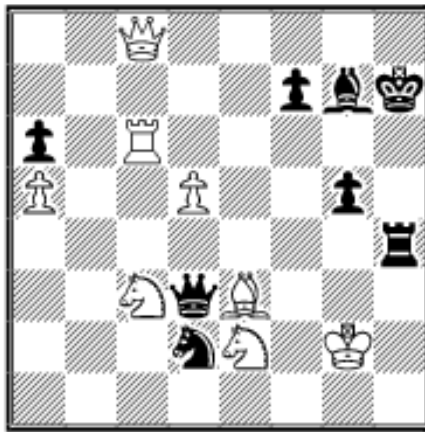
If 38...Nxf3 39.Rc8+ Bf8 (39...Kh7? 40.Qh3+ and Bg1xe3.) 40.Qg3 (In order to vacate g2 for the king and deal with the pseudo-threat of Qd3-h7+.) 40...Qh7+ (40...Rxe2? 41.Nxe2 Qxe2 42.Qd6 wins, as does 40...Nxxg1? 41.Qxxg5+, winning the house.) 41.Bh2.



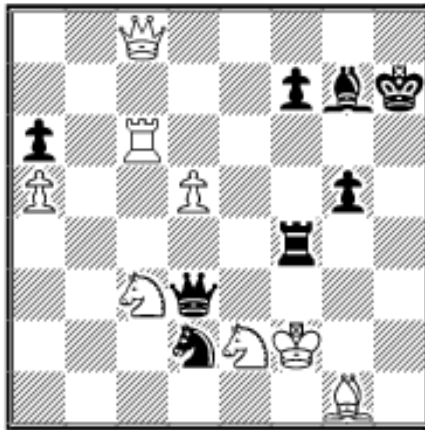
Black is in big trouble because of the threats of Ne2-g1, Qg3-d6, and Qg3-b8. An important feature of the position is that Black has been forced to interpose his bishop on f8 to block the check. When Black is forced into this passivity, it usually spells the end.

Best is 38...Rxf3! Now comes 39.Qg4, threatening Rc6-c8+; and after Kg8-h7 then Qg4-h5+ winning. (White can't be tricky and try 39.Nc1? Qf5

40.Qxd2 Rh3+ 41.Bh2 Qf1 checkmate.) In these positions, Black's knight on d2 is a little too far from the battle. But, as usual, Kasparov has his resources! Best is 39...Rh3+ 40.Kg2 (40.Bh2 Nf1 41.Kg2 Ne3+, forking my king and queen.) 40...Rh4! 41.Qc8+ (White's queen is forced to disappear: 41.Qg3 Qf5 with the twin threats of Qf5-f1 checkmate and Rh4-g4 winning my queen.) 41...Kh7 (Once again, bad is 41...Bf8? 42.Rf6 and White is suddenly winning.) 42.Kf2 (White's king is forced to scurry. If 42.Be3



42...Bxc3!! (This move is so rare that after a time I didn't even realize it was legal! Greedily capturing the piece is bad: 42...Qxe3? 43.Qf5+ Kg8 44.Rc7 ends the game.) 43.Nxc3 Qf1+ 44.Kg3 Qf3 checkmate!) 42...Rf4+!! (see next diagram)



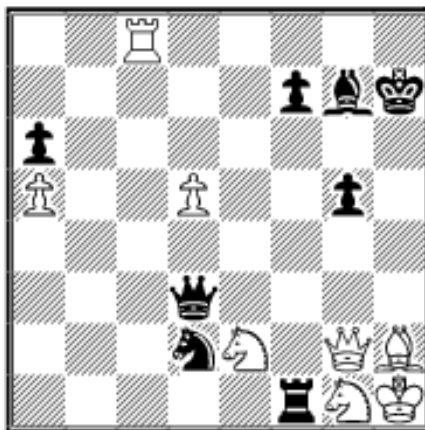
An amusing twin mate arises after 43.Nxf4 Bd4+ 44.Kg2 (44.Ke1 Nf3 checkmate.) 44...Qf3+ 45.Kh2 Nf1 checkmate! So much for the knight on d2 being far from the battle!

All of that proved highly annoying. However, my sense of outrage didn't betray me. Black is lost! How? After many hours of analysis following the World Cup closing ceremonies in

Brussels, I found the elusive win. This last variation taught me that White's bishop should stay on h2. Too often, Black has the saving resource Re3-h3+. After a short walk around the block, the pieces began to talk to me!

Best is 36.Qf2! Re3 37.Rc8+ Kh7 (37...Bf8? 38.Nc1 wins.) 38.Qg3! hxg2+ 39.Qxg2!. Once again, Black has the dual captures on f3: 39...Rxf3 and 39...Nxf3.

39...Rxf3 40.Ng1! Rf1 (The rook is not as dangerous on f1 as on h3!) 41.Nce2!



White has finally succeeded in bringing his knights into the battle. The knight is now tied to d2 to protect the rook at f1. White threatens the simple Ne2-g3 followed by Qg2-h3+, or Qg2xg5. Black is lost.

White has an important option with 41.Qxg5 (instead of 41.Ne2). Both kings are under the hammer, but despite White's extra material, Black has tactical resources: 41...Qh3! (Not

41...Bxc3? 42.Qh5+ Kg7 43.Qh8+ Kg6 44.Rg8+ Kf5 45.Qh7+ which skewers Black's queen.) 42.Qxd2 Qxc8 43.Qd3+ Qf5, when Black is still kicking. The analysis might continue: 44.Ne4 Re1! 45.Ng5+ (45.Nf6+ Kg6 46.Qg3+ Kxf6 47.Qxe1 Qxd5+) 45...Kg6 46.Qg3 Rxg1+ 47.Bxg1 Qxg5 48.Qxg5+ Kxg5 49.d6 and, although White wins a piece, he doesn't win the game!

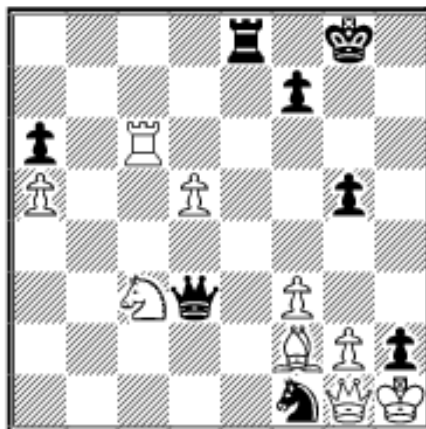
39...Nxf3 40.Qg4! (Angling for Qg4-h5+ leading to mate.) 40...Qg6 (40...Kg6? 41.Nf4+, or 40...Rxe2? 41.Qh5 and White wins both times.) 41.Qh3+! (Just so. With Black's rook unprotected, Black is forced to interpose his bishop.) 41...Bh6 42.Rc6! f6 (Once again forced. If 42...g4 43.Qxh6+! wins.) 43.Rc7+ Kg8 44.Qd7. Suddenly White's pieces create too many threats. *And* he is a piece up.

I hope your patience hasn't been exhausted by this lengthy analysis. Of course, I could merely have shown the winning variation and stopped. Then, however, I wouldn't have been able to share my agony. Normally I'm content to explain the important strategic and tactical themes of a game. This time I felt an obligation to prove that Garry was busted and that another win had slipped through my fingers.

Back to the game! I was still happily convincing myself that Black was as lost as ever. The goal was simply to reach time control and bag the game.

### 36...hxc2+!

A tough decision to make when your opponent is in time trouble. I had hoped for (even expected.) 36...Rxe2 (while winning back material it helps solve my defensive problems and cures the headache of activating the knight on c3!) 37.Nxe2 Qxe2 38.Rc8+! Kh7 39.Rc1!. White plans Qg1-h2 with a likely win. By keeping the position as complicated as possible, Kasparov hopes for a mistake to keep him afloat. In the post-mortem, Garry indicated an amusing possibility: 36...Bxc3? 37.Nxc3 Nf1 38.Bf2? h2!, winning.



Funny, to be sure; when Garry first pointed this shot out, 38.Bf2 looked like such a sensible move!

**37.Qxg2 (1:59) Nxf3 (1:57) 38.d6**

Played in order to prevent variations such as 38...Qh7+ 39.Bh2 Be5? 40.d7 Rd8 41.Rc8, winning. The move, however, has a drawback that Garry swiftly exploits. The winning try with 38.Qf2!? g4 39.Nf4 Qh7+ 40.Kg2

Ne1+ 41.Qxe1 Rxe1 42.Bxe1 Be5 looked too dangerous.

### **38...Re6! (1:58)**

An unpleasant surprise. I hadn't reckoned on being mated on the h-file.

### **39.Qf2 g4 40.Rc8+? (1:59)**

The normal last-move-of-time-control mistake. If White has a win, this move makes it more difficult. The primary feature is the sudden threat of queening the d-pawn. For this threat to retain all the airs of a decisive blow, queening has to come with check. While happily making time control, I was blissfully unaware that I was helping Black save the game. If another win exists, it must be 40.Kg2!. Among Black's many possible replies are 40...Ne1+ and 40...Bxc3.

One move that isn't as good as it looks is 40...Ne1+ 41.Kf1! (If 41.Qxe1, Qf3+ and Qxc6. While White is better, I see no reason to give up the exchange.) 41...Rh6!? 42.Rc8+ Kh7 43.Qxf7 Rf6+ 44.Qxf6 Bxf6 45.Kxe1 winning.

The next try is 40...Bxc3 41.Rxc3! (Not 41.Nxc3 Ne1+ 42.Qxe1 Rxe1 43.Rc8+ (escaping the double attack from f3) 43...Kg7 44.Bxe1 Qh3+! 45.Kg1 g3 and Black wins due to the double threat of Qh2+ and Qxc8) 41...Qxe2 (41...Qd5 42.Nf4! Nh4+ 43.Kh2 Nf3+ 44.Rxf3 Rh6+ 45.Kg1 Qxf3 46.Qxf3 gxf3 47.Ne6! winning.) 42.d7, winning for White.

While those two defenses may not be Black's best, the point is that 40.Kg2! makes Black fight for the draw.

### **40...Kh7 (1:58)**

Now that the time control had been reached, I sank into deep thought and couldn't believe my eyes. My mind had stopped working. I couldn't find a win. After a thirty-seven minute tank, I decided to force a repetition.

### **41.Nf4? (2:37)**

I spent most of the time looking at 41.Bf4!? Be5. Black now threatens 42...Bxf4 43.Nxf4 Rh6+ 44.Kg2 Ne1+ with at least a perpetual. Also, the d6-pawn is now *en prise*. Unable to find a promising line, I returned to 41.Kg2 and began to appreciate why I should have left Black's king on g8. Kasparov thought the position after 41.Kg2 now equal after either 41...Bh6 or 41...Rh6. I disagree. Comments?

### **41...Rh6+ (1:58) 42.Kg2 Ne1+ 43.Kg1 Nf3+ Draw**

A game of enormous complexity. Once again, thanks to Garry for his graciousness in sharing so much time to analyze the game together.



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