



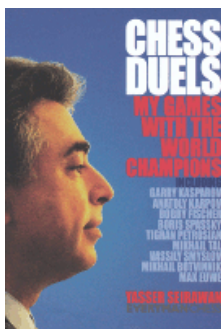
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Inside Chess, 1988/4

Two Knights Defense, Part Three and Four Steinitz-Fischer Variation [C59]

by Nikolay Minev

Part Three

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.
Be2 h6 9.Nh3

9...g5



[FEN "r1bqkb1r/p4p2/2p2n1p/n3p1p1/8/7N/PPPPBPPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq g6 0 10"]

10.d3

Other continuations are as follows:

a) **Veinger - V.Ivanov**, Leningrad 1972: 10.a3? g4 11.Ng1 Bc5! 12.d4 Bxd4 13.c3 Bxf2+! 14.Kxf2 Ne4+ 15.Kf1 Qf6+ 16.Nf3 gxf3 17.Bxf3 Ba6+ 18.Kg1 Rd8 19.Qe1 Qxf3! 20.Nd2 Rxd2! 0-1

b) **A.Markov - Chigorin**, corr. 1890 (Until a short time ago an unknown game of Chigorin, probably played as a training game before the second match with Steinitz): 10.c3 Qd5 11.Bf3 e4 12.Be2 Bd6 13.b4 Nc4 14.Qb3 Ne5 15.c4 Qe6 16.c5 Bc7 17.Qxe6+ Bxe6 18.Nc3 Nd3+ 19.Bxd3 exd3 20.Bb2 0-0 21.f3 Bxh3 22.gxh3 Rfe8+ 23.Kd1 Re6?! (23...Nh5!? 24.Ne4 f5 or 23...Rab8!? 24.a3 a5) 24.a4 Rae8 25.Ra3 Bxh2 26.Na2 Nd5 27.Rxd3 Bg3 28.Bc3 Bf2 29.Kc2 a6 30.Rf1 Bg3 31.Rxd5! cxd5 32.b5 axb5 33.axb5 Rd8 34.Bd4 Kh7 35.Nb4 Kg6 36.b6 Kh5 37.Kd3 Rc8 38.Nxd5 Kh4 39.Rh1 1-0 It is interesting that after this game Chigorin generally rejected the immediate 9...g5, but, in my opinion, in the opening Black has at least adequate counterplay.

10...g4

Consistent and established as the main line, but pay attention to 10...Bc5 and if 11.Nc3 Bf5, which transposes into "1B" (Ernst-Kluger) and can be the second choice for Black.

11.Ng1 Bc5 12.Nc3

The theory condemned 12.Be3 Bxe3 13.fxe3 Qb6 14.Qc1 Nd5 15.e4 Ne3 16.Bf1 f5 (an advantage for Black, according to Florian and ECO) on the base of Czerna-Pulay, Hungary 1971 (Inf. 11/210). Let's see this game further: 17.Nc3 (17.exf5? 0-0) 17...0-0 18.Na4 Qb4+ 19.c3 Qxa4 20.Qxe3 f4 21.Qc1 (21.

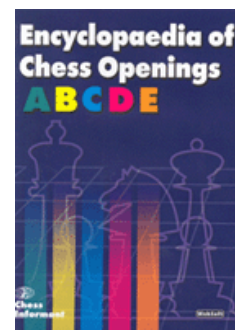
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ECO A - E CD
 by Chess Informant

Qc5!? Nb3 22.Qd6! with the idea 23.Qg6 = Florian. What is this? The draw is almost forced, if 21...Be6, White can play 22.Qb4!) 21...c5 22.h3 h5 23.Be2 Qe8 24.hxg4 hxg4 25.Qd2 Be6 26.Bd1 Rd8 27.g3 (Maybe 27.Qf2) 27...Kg7 28.gxf4 exf4 29.Bb3 c4! 30.Qf2 Nxb3! 31.axb3 cxd3 32.Rxa7+ Rf7 33.Qh4? (33.Kd2!? - Florian) 33...d2+ 34.Kf2 g3+ 35.Kg2 Bh3+!! 0-1. A thrilling fight. I think that instead of 17...0-0 Black should play 17...f4, keeping the knight on e3, with a very promising attacking position.

After 12.Nc3, the key position is reached and still there is not a theoretical answer how Black can maintain equal chances.



[FEN"r1bqk2r/p4p2/2p2n1p/n1b1p3/6p1/2NP4/PPPIBPPP/R1BQK1NR b KQkq - 0 12"]

a) **12...Nb7 Kiselev-Genin**, USSR 1975/76: 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.fxe3 Qb6 15.Qd2 Qxb2 16.Rb1 Qa3 17.h3 Nd6 18.hxg4 Bxg4 19.Nf3 e4 20.Ne5 Bxe2 21.Nxe2 Qxa2 22.0-0 (Black is lost) 22...Qe6 23.Nxc6 Nh5 (Or 23...0-0 24.Ned4) 24.Ned4 Qd5 25.Qb4 Rg8



[FEN"r3k1r1/p4p2/2Nn3p/3q3n/1Q1Np3/3PP3/2P3P1/1R3RK1 w q - 0 26"]

26.Nf5! 1-0

b) **12...Qb6** 13.Na4 =, Florian in *Informant 11*. After 13...Bxf2+ 14.Kf1 Qd8 15.Kxf2, we are in the next continuation "c," assessed by *ECO* as slightly better for White.

c) **12...Qd6** 13.Na4, slightly better for White according to Gligoric in *ECO*. After 13...Bb6 14.Nxb6 axb6 15.h3 g3 16.fxg3 e4 17.Bf4 Qb4+ 18.c3 Qxb2 19.Be5, Black is in trouble.; 13...Bxf2+ 14.Kxf2 Qd4+ 15.Be3 Qxa4 16.c4 seems to be slightly better for White. Of interest is also 13.Be3!?.

Part Four

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nh3

Here we shall consider six rarely used continuations for Black. Some of them probably are worthy of more attention and independent analysis.

4A) **9...Bxh3** 10.gxh3 Now 10...Bc5 or 10...Bd6 can transpose in the parts one or two. An independent idea is 10...Qd5, but according to Steinitz, after 11.Bf3 e4 12.Nc3 Qe5 13.Bg2 Bd6 14.Qe2 0-0 15.d3 exd3 16.Qxe5 Bxe5 17.cxd3, White has better game.

4B) **9...Bf5?!** (Too crude - Fischer) 10.0-0 Qd7 11.Re1 Bxh3 12.gxh3 Qxh3 13.Bf1 with an advantage for White; for instance, 13...Qg4+ 14.Qxg4 Nxg4 15.h3 - Steinitz (but not Fischer, as claims *ECO*).

4C) **9...Be6**



[FEN"r2qkb1r/p4pp1/2p1bn1p/n3p3/8/7N/PPPPBPPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 10"]

Bednarski - Adamski, Poland (ch) 1964: 10.d3 g5 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Ne4 c5 13. Nxf6 Bxf6 14.Bg4 Qd7 15.Qf3! Ke7 16.Bxe6 Qxe6 17.Qe3 Rhe8 18.f3 c4 19.0-0 Qb6 20.Nf2 Qxe3 21.Bxe3 cxd3 22.cxd3 Ke6 23.Rac1 Nc6 24.Rc4 Ne7 25.Rfc1 Rcb8 26.b3 Nd5 27.Bc5 Rd8 28.g3 Be7 29.Bxe7 Nxe7 30.Re1 a5 31.d4 Rd5 32.Nd3 f6 33.f4 and White won in fifty-nine moves.

4D) **9...Be7**



[FEN"r1bqk2r/p3bpp1/2p2n1p/n3p3/8/7N/PPPPBPPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 10"]

Perhaps the most puzzling continuation. In the following game it was successful for the second player, but 9...Be7 was never repeated in practice! Klamann- Faibisovich, USSR 1979 (*Inf.* 28/259): 10.0-0 0-0 11.d3 Rb8 12.Kh1 c5 13.Ng1 (The books omit the original note by Faibisovich: 13.f4!? Nc6 14. Bf3 Qc7 with a compensation for Black. Maybe White should try 14.Nc3!? or 14.fxe5 Nxe5 15.Nf2.) 13...Nc6 14.Nf3?! (14.f4!? - Faibisovich, assessed by *ECO* as unclear. Again 14.Nc3 and if 14...Qc7, 15.f4 looks more thematic.) 14...Qc7 15.Nbd2 Rd8 16.Qe1 Bf5 17.Bd1 Re8 18.b3 c4!! 19.Nxc4 (19. bxc4?! Bb4!) 19...e4 20.dxe4 Nxe4 21.Bb2 Bb4 22.Qe3 (22.Qe2 Nc3 23.Qd2 Nxa2 and now 24.Qd5 Be4 25.Qh5 Nc3 or 24.c3 Rbd8 25.Rxa2 Rxd2 give White some defensive chances - Faibisovich) 22...Bc5 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.Bxd4 Bxd4 25.Qxd4 Rbd8 0-1

4E) **9...Qd4** 10.d3 Qh4



[FEN"r1b1kb1r/p4pp1/2p2n1p/n3p3/7q/3P3N/PPPP1BPPP/RNBQK2R w KQkq - 0 11"]

Recommended by Maróczy almost hundred years ago with the following analysis: 11.Bf1 Bg4 12.Qd2 Nd5 13.a3 (Barcza gives in *ECO* 13.c4 Bb4 14.Nc3 Nxc3 15.bxc3 Nxc4 16.dxc4 Rd8 17.cxb4 Rxd2 18.Bxd2 Bxh3 and Black wins, but 16.Qc2 is at least unclear. Exact is first 14...Nxc4! 15.dxc4 Nxc3, etc.) 13...Nb7 14.c4 Nb6 15.b4 0-0-0 16.c5 Nxc5! and Black has very strong, probably decisive attack. I will not investigate this analysis because a defensive move such as 11.Bf1?! is not the idea behind the Steinitz-Fischer variation. The right way is shown in next game.

Dolmatov - Fernandez, Barcelona 1983: 11.0-0 (Returns the extra pawn, but White has faith in his two bishops, as mentioned by Fischer) 11...Bxh3 12.gxh3 Bd6 (If 12...Qxh3 13.Bf3 and 14.Bg2) 13.Bf3 0-0 14.Bg2 Rad8 15.Qe1 Nb7 16.Nd2 Nd5 17.Nc4 Rfe8?! (17...Bc7!?) 18.Nxd6 Nxd6 19.f4! Qxe1 20.Rxe1 Nb4 (Or 20...exf4 21.Rxe8+ Rxe8 22.Bxd5 cxd5 23.Bxf4 with an advantage for White.) 21.Rxe5 Nxc2 22.Rb1 Nb4 23.Be3 Nxd3 24.Rxe8+ Rxe8 25.Bxa7 Ra8 26.Be3 Nc4 (If 26...Rxa2? 27.Rd1!) 27.Bf1 Ncxb2 (Or 27...Nxe3 28.Bxd3 Rxa2 29.Re1!) 28.Bxd3 Nxd3 29.Rb3 Ne1 30.a3 Nc2 31.Bc5 Ra4 32.Rb2 Ne1 33.Rb4 Ra6 34.Rb3 Ra5?? 35.Rb8+ Kh7 36.Bb4 Ra4 37.Bxe1 1-0

4F) **9...Rb8**



[FEN"r1bqkb1r/p4pp1/2p2n1p/n3p3/8/7N/PPPPBPPP/RNBQK2R w KQk - 0 10"]

A continuation that holds in reserve Black's opportunities for transposition into all previous variations! It is possible that here is the best future for Black, but the only game that we have does not give enough moves for any conclusion.

Psakhis-Belyavsky, USSR (ch) 1983: 10.Nc3 Nd5 11.Bg4 Ba6 12.Be2 Bc8 13.Bg4 Ba6 ½-½

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