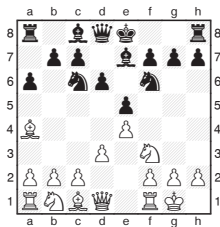


Michael Adams



Things still run hot in Reykjavik

Reykjavik will always have a special place in chess history, as it hosted the 'match of the century' in 1972, when Bobby Fischer captured Boris Spassky's World Championship. It is now the final resting place of the legendary American, and visiting players like to pay their respects at the Laugardalur Church cemetery.



Yu, Yangyi - L. Handler
Reykjavik Open 2013

7.c2-c4

Normally in the Ruy Lopez White plays the routine 7.c2-c3 with the long-term plan of preparing d3-d4, but this idea gains space and it is not easy for Black to utilise the weakened d4 square.

7... O-O

It was better to take the opportunity to develop the bishop with 7...Bc8-g4.

8.h2-h3

Preventing that possibility, now the black forces trip over each other.

8... Bc8-d7

9.Bc1-e3 Rf8-e8

10.Nb1-c3 Be7-f8

11.Ra1-c1 h7-h6

12.Nc3-d5

With a series of simple,

natural moves, White has got a pleasant pull.

12... Nc6-b8

13.b2-b4 Nf6xd5

13...Bd7xa4 14.Qd1xa4

Nb8-d7 was better.

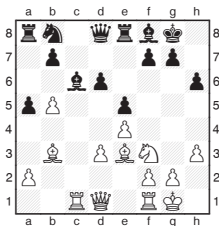
14.c4xd5 c7-c6

15.Ba4-b3 a6-a5

16.d5xc6 Bd7xc6

16...b7xc6 had to be played.

17.b4-b5



17... Bc6-d7

17...Bc6xb5 18.Bb3xf7+ Kg8xf7 19.Qd1-b3+ is also

bad but, unsurprisingly, returning another piece to its starting square doesn't work well.

18.Bb3-d5 Bd7-c8

19.Qd1-b3

A little careless, 19.d3-d4 increasing the pressure was much stronger.

19... Re8-e7

Missing the last chance to play 19...Bc8-e6.

20.Be3-b6 Qd8xb6

20...Qd8-e8 21.Bb6-c7 is not much better, now White's attack plays itself.

21.Rc1xc8 a5-a4

22.Qb3-c4 g7-g6

23.Qc4-c1 Kg8-g7

24.Rc8xf8 Kg7xf8

25.Qc1xh6+ Kf8-e8

26.Qh6-h8+ Ke8-d7

27.Rf1-c1 Qb6-d8

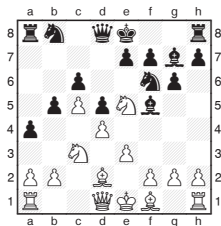
28.Qh8-f6 Kd7-e8

The black pieces are hopelessly entangled. 28...Ra8-a5 29.Bd5xb7 Ra5xb5 30.Bb7-c8+ was no better.

29.Nf3-g5 1-0

An impressive victory by the Ukrainian GM Pavel Eljanov, who won on tie-break. In this game the additional space Black has staked out on the queenside proves very

useful, but first he has to challenge White's central grip:



Ding, Liren - P. Eljanov
Reykjavik Open 2013

11.g2-g4

The tempting 11.Nc3xb5 is well countered by 11...c6xb5 12.Bf1xb5+ Ke8-f8 13.Bb5xa4 Nf6-e4.

11... Bf5-e6

12.Bf1-g2 h7-h5

13.h2-h3

Opening lines on the kingside helps Black, so 13.g4-g5 Nf6-d7 14.f2-f4 looks better.

13... Qd8-c7

14.f2-f4

With a strong sequence of forcing and threatening moves, Black keeps White off balance while undermining his position.

14... h5xg4

15.h3xg4 Rh8xh1+

16.Bg2xh1 Nb8-d7

17.g4-g5 Nd7xe5

18.f4xe5 Nf6-g4

19.Qd1-f3 Ng4xe5

20.d4xe5 Qc7xe5

Giving up a piece is extremely strong. As well as decimating White's pawn chain, the dark-squared bishop becomes a monster.

21.Qf3-f4

21.a2-a3 Qe5xg5 22.Qf3-f2 had to be tried, although Black is better.

21... Qe5xf4

22.e3xf4 b5-b4

23.Nc3-e2

23.Nc3-d1 a4-a3 24.Bd2-c1 Be6-g4 is equally grim.

23... a4-a3

White resigned, as 24.Bd2xb4 a3xb2 25.Ra1-d1 Ra8-b8 26.a2-a3 Be6-f5 wins easily.