All,

This game is quite instructive in that black's most powerful piece is a buried

bishop, a bishop that has tremendous potential.

Enjoy.

[Event "Huntingdon and District League Matches"]

[Site "Peterborough,ENG"]

[Date "2007.02.07"]

[Round "7.1"]

[White "Coop, Brian"]

[Black "Ross, Chris"]

[Result "0-1"]

[ECO "B42"]

[WhiteElo "2130"]

[BlackElo "2135"]

[Annotator "Chris Ross"]

[PlyCount "76"]

[EventDate "2007.02.07"]

[WhiteTeam "St Neots A"]

[BlackTeam "Perkins A"]

{B42: Sicilian: Kan Variation}

1. e4 c5

2. Nf3 e6

3. d4 cxd4

4. Nxd4 a6

5. Bd3 Bc5

6. Nb3 Ba7

7. O-O Ne7

8. Nc3 Nbc6

9. Kh1

{With the idea of launching his F pawn. But, is the king on h1 any safer than

on g1. With the bishops destined to be lined up on the a7-g1 and a8-h1

diagonals now, is white best to throw his pawns forward to attack black?

The standard plan for white is to play Qe2 and Be3 to rid himself of that

annoying dark-squared bishop.}

9... b5

10. f4 b4

11. Ne2 d5

{Forcing white into a decision.}

12. Ng3

{12. e5 is the most testing for black. Black would then play 12... g6 and go

for a blockaded French type of position. The idea would be then to push the H

pawn, probably sack the D pawn with d4 and open up the two long diagonals.}

12... dxe4

13. Nxe4

{White has now taken 3 moves to get his knight to e4. Although nicely placed on e4, the knight is actually standing in the way of the bishop on d3. With the D3 bishop smothered, and more importantly, the C1 dark-squared bishop hemmed in by white's own F pawn, the white set of

bishops don't have much of a future.}

13... Nf5

14. Qe1 O-O

15. a3

{Surprisingly, white is trying to play on both sides of the board. It makes

logical sense to open up the A file, but as long as black avoids all of the

tactics, is the rook that affective down that file?}

15... Rb8

{Taking on a3 would activate the rook and allow it to swing across the 3rd

rank for the king-side attack.

The maintenance of the cramping b4 pawn is more important.}

16. Bd2 a5

17. axb4 axb4

18. Ng5 h6

19. Nf3

{Both players had missed the variation 19. Be4 Qc7 20. Bxc6 Qxc6 21. Rxa7

hxg5 22. Bxb4 Ne3 23. Qxe3 Rxb4

Although the loose nature of the bishop on a7 was constantly in my mind, I

thought I was keeping white occupied enough to avoid any tactics. Naturally,

the knight on c6 is the defender of the bishop and to attack the defender

will therefore make the hanging bishop loose too.

White's rerouting of the knight makes sense, as it clears the way for the d3

bishop to come into the game but also the knight is headed to put pressure

on the black queen-side.}

19... Qc7

{Tidying up all the tactics. Now the knight and bishop are protected and

surprisingly enough, the c2 pawn could now become a target. Once that falls,

the knight on b3 is loose.}

20. Ne5 Bb7

{And now the power of black's bishops are starting to really tell. Black has

eventually obtained the two long diagonals down towards the white king.

Here, 9. Kh1 is starting to come back to haunt white as with the king being

on the h1 square, the black B4 pawn is in fact indirectly defended. If white

ever tries to steal the b4 pawn and after Nxb4 ideas, and rxa7, black has

the sneaky Bxg2+ picking up the rook on a7.}

21. Qe2

{Wanting to keep an eye out on the mating possibilities on g2.}

21... Rfd8

{Now the d4 square is looking quite nice.

The rook moves to an open file and also protects the d4 square to allow a

black piece to drop into there. Annoyingly for white, there could be Rxd3

with Bd5 tactics in the air for black.}

22. Bxf5?

{A serious mistake. White gives up his strongest bishop for the

well-outposted knight to shatter some pawns. Also, white thinks he can go

pawn hunting. White was scared of the variation 22. Qh5 Nxe5 23. fxe5 Rxd3 24. cxd3 Bd5}

22... exf5

23. Nd3

{With pressure on the b4 pawn.

Black neatly illustrates the strength of his position now and defends the

pawn simultaneously.}

23... Ba8!

{And now the black pieces are starting to really work together.

The rook on b8 comes back into play, black has ideas now of Qb7 and mating

white down the long diagonal and the bishop on a7 is no longer a hanging

piece.}

24. Qh5 Rb5

{No, not a bizarre rook move, but one that makes much sense. First, the f5

pawn is defended and secondly, black intends to double on the D file. Also,

if black is wanting to play Qb7, he doesn't want to shut out the rook on b8.}

25. Rae1

{White didn't fancy 25. Rfd1 Nd4 26. Be3 Bxg2+ (26... Qxc2 27. Ne1 Qxb2 28.

Rxa7 Qxb3 29. Rxd4) 27. Kxg2 Nxc2 28. Bxa7 Nxa1 29. Nxa1 Qxa7 which is much

better for black.}

25... Qb7

{And now, mating threats down the long diagonal keep white more than

occupied.

Just check out those two bishops and now the queen in front of them....very

powerful, especially that one on a8, which is buried! Possible was 25... Nd4

26. Nxd4 Bxd4 27. Nxb4

Bxb2}

26. Re2 Kh7

27. Rfe1 g6

28. Qh4 Rd6

{Probably not the strongest, but wanting to illustrate that black’s rooks are

actually doing more than the seemingly strong-looking white rooks. It was

naturally important to prevent Qf6 but 28... Kg7 was probably best.}

29. Qh3

{A clear indication that white has no constructive plan. he's wanting to

move the rook off the 2nd rank, but is worried about mating threats on g2,

which is, naturally, black's idea.}

29... Kg7

{Improving the king and releasing the rook of the duty of guarding the f6

square.}

30. Re8

{White has a threat!

When down on position and positionally struggling, go for tacky tactics. How

many times has that happened to me...and how many times have I allowed it?!

White threatens the dirty 31. Rh8! with the idea of doubling rooks on the

8th rank. Naturally, I can't take the rook due to Qxh6+ and Re8 mating

ideas. So, a slight rerouting of my pieces is required.}

30... Rd8

31. Rxd8 Nxd8

32. Ne5

{Now the idea of moving the knight to d8 was to play Ne6, thereby improving

the knight and clearing the long diagonal.

32... Ne6 is still on and probably should have been played, but I was

wanting to taunt white a bit here and gain some time on the clock and

offered a slight repetition of moves, which, unwisely, he declined to do

so.}

32... Nc6

33. c4 bxc3

34. Bxc3 Nxe5

35. fxe5?

{Big mistake.

White thought the discovered check would be powerful, when in fact, it has

little worth.

Both players did not appreciate that the knight on e5 is actually still

pinned and didn't need immediate recapture. 35. Nd2 Rd5 36. Rxe5 Rxe5 37.

Qf3 was the way to go for white.}

35... Rxb3

36. e6+ Rxc3

37. bxc3?

{White's only try now to cling on was 37. Qxc3+ Kh7 38. Qh3 fxe6 39. Rxe6

but it is looking more and more hopeless.}

37... fxe6

38. Qg3 Bb8

{Wanting black to suffer a bit. The idea was to play Qc7 and pressure h2 as

well as g2. The launching of the F pawn will naturally result in a quick and

easy win for black. Amusing is 38... f4 39. Qg4 h5 40. Qg5 f3 41. Rg1 fxg2+

42. Qxg2 Qb6 43. Rf1 Qc6 44. Rg1 Qc5 45. Rd1 Bxg2+

46. Kxg2 Qf2+ 47. Kh3 Qf3+ 48. Kh4 Qg4#}

39. 0-1

Opening references:

A.

9... O-O 10. f4 d5 11. e5 f6 12. exf6 Rxf6 13. Ne2 Nf5 14. Bxf5 Rxf5 15.

Ned4 Nxd4 16. Nxd4 Bxd4

1/2-1/2 Leko,P-Ehlvest,J/Cap d'Agde 1996/CBM 055 ext (16)}

B.

10. a3 Ne5 11. Bf4 d6 12. Be2 O-O 13. Bg3 Bb7 14. Nd4 Qb6 15. Nf3 N7g6 16.

Nxe5 dxe5 17.

f3 Rad8 18. Qc1 Qe3 19. Bf2 Qxc1 20. Raxc1 Bxf2 21. Rxf2 Rd4 22. Bd3 Rfd8

23.

g3 Ne7 24. Kg2

1-0 Cao Son-Nguyen Anh Tuan/Vung Tau 2004/EXT 2005 (24)

C.  
12. e5 g6 13. c3 Bb7 14. Ned4 h5 15. Be3 bxc3 16. bxc3 Nf5 17. Nxf5 gxf5

18. Bd4 Na5 19. Nxa5 Qxa5 20. Rb1 Bxd4 21. cxd4 Bc6 22.

Qe2 Ke7 23. Rfc1 Bb5 24. Bxb5 axb5 25. Rxb5 Qxa2 26. Qe1 Rhc8

Garcia,H-Soria,A/Zarate 1972/EXT 99/1-0 (42)

Chris Ross

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