

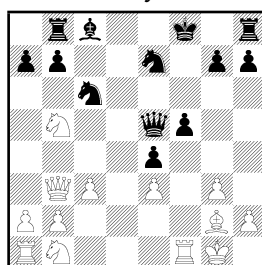
- Garcia, F. (1919)
- Weaver, B. (1949)

Scotch – C45

Typeset by T_EXmate

1. e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♗c6 3. d4 e×d4 4. ♗×d4 ♘c5 5. ♙e3 ♚f6 6. c3 ♗ge7
 7. g3 d5! 8. ♙g2 d×e4 [Here White has a chance to go into complications,
 potentially winning, with: 9. ♗b5!? ♙×e3 10. ♗×c7+ ♚f8 11. 0–0 ♖b8!
 12. f×e3 ♚e5 13. ♚b3 f5 14. ♗b5 (D).

Analysis

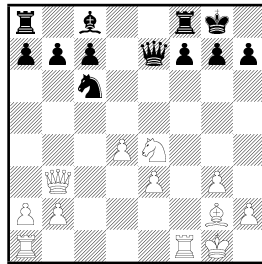


14. ♗b5

This line is dangerous for Black, who must play these and no other moves. But if he finds them (and Ben would probably have) the position now holds an immediate draw (14... ♗a5 15. ♚b4 ♗c6 16. ♚b3=, as in a game Sveshnikov–Geller, Sochi 1976); Black can also choose to develop with 16... ♙e6, and it is White who must be careful now. Ben and I had 2½ points out of 3, and a draw was good for neither. I decided to give the text move a try.] 9. ♗d2!? ♙×d4 10. c×d4 ♗d5!? [I had't seen this before (known to me were 10... ♙f5?! 11. ♗×e4 ♚g6 12. ♗c3! or 10... 0–0 11. ♗×e4 ♚g6 12. 0–0 ♙e6 13. ♗c5 ♙d5 14. ♗×b7!, both leading to a slight White advantage). Ben's is a reasonable move, placing a Knight in front of the isolated pawn, and clearing e7 for the Queen.] 11. ♗×e4 ♚e7 12. 0–0 ♗×e3?! [This opens the f-file, a factor that is quicker than any possible attack on the e-pawn.] 13. f×e3 0–0 14. ♚b3± (D)

The diagrammed position is surprisingly good for White. The Queen has just cleared the way of the Rooks, while protecting e3 (with b2 the only White thing that was hanging), eyeing f7, and keeping the ♙c8 tied to the defense of b7. The Knight can either go to g5 (→f7) or to c5 (→b7) with wonderful prospects. The ♚a1 will go to c1 or to d1, the last to prepare

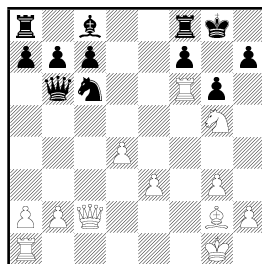
Garcia, F.–Weaver, B.



14. ♖b3±

an advance of the central pawns. On the other hand, Black has still to deal with completing his development, because without connecting the Rooks there is no counterplay on White's central pawns. In view of this, Ben's decision was to molest the White Queen and remove it from the dominating post at b3. 14... ♜b4! 15. ♚c2! But the Queen can go to many other places, c2 among them (looking at the other potential target of the Knight, h7), while the Black one was left badly placed on b4. Black's next move is an attempt to correct this, at the same time making it hard for the pawns to advance, but it is clear that he underestimated the king-side attack that follows, and the fact that the Queen on b6 is cut off from the scene of operations. 15... ♜b6? 16. ♘g5 g6± 17. ♝f6? (D)

Garcia, F.–Weaver, B.

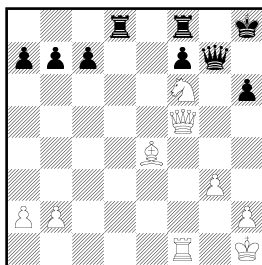


17. ♝f6?

White could have won a pawn by 17. ♘xf7 ♜xf7 18. ♔e5 ♘e8 19. ♔xf7+ (19. ♜c4? ♔e6). I judged, correctly, that the position should yield more than this, and focused on the weakness of the black squares. The text move pins the Knight (making the f7 sacrifice a real threat) and prevents the f-pawn from advancing. But I overlooked Black's tactical possibilities. In view of this, the best was to settle for a clear and solid advantage with 17. ♔xc6! ♜xc6 (17... bxc6? 18. ♜c4+-) 18. ♜xc6 bxc6 19. ♝ac1±.

17... ♕f5??! [A brilliant way out, although mistaken. 17... ♖×d4 18. ♖f2 seems not to work, but it actually does after 18... ♗e2+! 19. ♖h1 ♖b5∞] 18. ♖×f5? [△18. ♖f2] 18... ♗×d4 [The point of Black's combination (of course not 18... g×f5?? 19. ♖×f5 and mate), but there was something even better! 18... ♗b4!! 19. ♖f2 g×f5 20. a3 ♖h6! (better than the alternatives: 20... ♗c6?? 21. ♖×f5+-; 20... ♗a6? 21. ♖×f5 ♖g6 22. ♖×g6 f×g6 23. ♕×b7+-; 20... ♗d3?! 21. ♖×f5 ♖g6 22. ♖×g6 h×g6 23. ♕f1 ♗×b2 24. ♖b1 ♗a4 25. ♖×b7 ♗b6±) 21. ♖f4 ♗c6, with compensation for the exchange, but nothing more. Move 18 was played immediately by both opponents, both of which saw their plans being realized, and neglected to look more deeply.] 19. e×d4 g×f5 20. ♖×f5 ♖×d4+ 21. ♖h1 ♖g7 22. ♖f1± [All prospects of an endgame favor White (the b7 hangs, and an attack on f7 after taking it gains tempo to defend b2), but I have some time to try to win in the middle game, where my well-coordinated minor pieces and his imprisoned Queen give me a vast advantage.] 22... h6 23. ♗e4 ♖ad8 24. ♗f6+ ♖h8 25. ♕e4 (D)

Garcia, F.–Weaver, B.

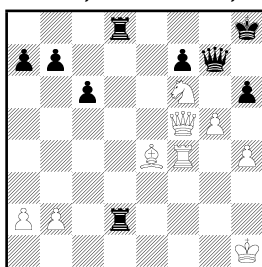


25. ♕e4

This position defines the remainder of the game. White threatens to win immediately with 25... ♗h5 26. ♖g6 ♖e5+, and Black's next move stops this threat. 25... ♖g6 [Now the White Queen is forced to go to the long diagonal (threatening the discovery check), because otherwise the Black one can escape via g5. Ben's return to g7 was too rushed (27... ♖g5 was still better), but it proves one thing: White has to bring something new into the mix to force resignation. The rest of the game is an exciting conversation on this topic.] 26. ♖e5 ♖g7 27. h4!? [First attempt: to prevent the Queen's escape through g5. Now, were the white Queen on f4, the threat of ♗h5 would be renewed (the black Queen cannot leave h6 unattended, but has nowhere to defend it from). Of course, the move entails a risk, since g3

is now hanging. Ben now takes care of the new threat by overprotecting h6. He is low on time by this point.] 27... ♖d6 28. ♔c3 [I was afraid of 28... ♗e6, and decided to place my Queen on a square that the Knight, on retaking e4, would protect. I am (half-consciously) renouncing the simple win of a pawn (b7, c7), in the belief that the attack should win before the endgame.] 28... c6 29. ♗f4? [Unsure of how to proceed, I decide I'll bring the Rook. My reasoning is that the essence of a threat like the one at move 25 (in the diagram) is that the Queen cannot move from g7, due to several mates. So, if anything attacks it (for example, the Rook from g4!), White will win in the spot. The shortcoming of moving my Rook is that my King is open to checks. But there is, apparently, no problem, since my wonderfully placed Bishop takes the all-important d3 and h1, and Black is doomed to run out of checks.] 29... ♗fd8 30. g4 [Now I realized that the Rook cannot leave the f-file, where it protects the Knight! As long as Black does not move his ♗d6, a different plan is needed. For this, only the pawns (imagine one on h6) are left.] 30... ♗d4! [closing the long diagonal] 31. ♔c5!? [Under time pressure, I decide to leave my King to the sole protection of my Bishop. My Queen has to be able to go to e5 or f5 for the necessary mate threats.] 31... ♗8d6?! [A trap, but in the end a mere waste of time. The Rook is needed on the back rank, because any check there wins immediately for White.] 32. g5! [32. ♔f5?? ♗x6! The text move is the right way of defending the Knight, and continues the plan of attacking the Queen with the pawns. Black cannot open the h-file due to ♗h4+] 32... ♗d8?! 33. ♔f5 ♗d2 (D)

Garcia, F.-Weaver, B.



33... ♗d2

Is everything set up? My pawn is ready to take on h6, finally attacking the Queen, and there is no mate on g2. (I assumed that Ben played his last under the impression that there was a mate, but my wonderful Bishop prevents it.) However, if 34. g×h6 there is 34... ♗d1+ 35. ♔h2 ♔g1+ 36. ♔h3

♖e3+ 37. ♜f3, and my Rook gets in the way of my Bishop. On the other hand, the original way, 34. ♘h5+, looked to risky because the Queen gets to b2 with check (I had long ago abandoned the idea moving the Knight, to make sure the Queen did not have all those escape squares on the long diagonal). It turns out this way of attacking the Queen was correct (34... ♜d1+ 35. ♖h2 ♜×b2+ 36. ♖h3 ♜c3+ 37. ♜f3 ♜h1+ 38. ♖g2 ♜d2+ 39. ♖g3 (39. ♖×h1?? ♜c1+--+) 39... ♜g1+ 40. ♖f4), but I thought that I had a safer way of finishing. After having waited for so long, what's one more move? **34. ♜g4 ♜d1+?** [Black finally tries the checks. But here he lost his last chance to complicate: as I had also overlooked, 34... ♜×b2! stops 35. h×g6?? ♜d1+ 36. ♜g1 ♜×g1#, and actually threatens a very powerful check on d1. If then 35. ♜g1?! ♜b5!∞. It is true that 35. ♜g2! still wins (after trading Rooks and getting my King to f4, the threat of g×h6 wins it all; trading the pawns only gives my one more threat, ♜h3+), but would I have found this move? I don't know... I was worryingly low on time, and the surprise of the two-rook mate would have scared me to death. Certainly, nobody saw it in the postmortem...] **35. ♖h2 ♜8d2+ 36. ♜g2!** [Ben had hoped to distract my Bishop after 36. ♖h3 ♜h1+! 37. ♙×h1, when his Queen can hope to escape.] **36... ♜×g2+ 37. ♖×g2! ♜d2+ 38. ♖f1!** [Again, 38. ♖f3 ♜d3+ 39. ♙×d3 ♜×d3+ is less safe.] **1:0**