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London ol (Men) (8)

[Beardsworth,Allan]

23.07.1927

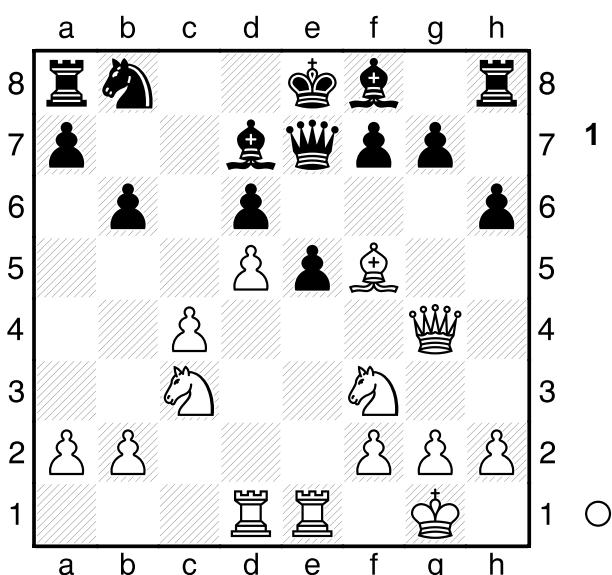
1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 Bb4 4.e5 Ng8 5.Qg4 Bf8 6.d4 d6 7.Bg5 Qd7 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Rd1 Nge7 10.Bd3 b6 11.0-0 h6 12.Bxe7 Qxe7+- 13.exd6 [□13.Be4 Bb7 14.exd6 cxd6 15.d5]

13...cxd6 14.Rfe1 Bd7 15.d5 e5

16.Bf5

[□16.Qg3 Na5 17.Nxe5+-
i.e. the same idea as in the game,
without complexity.]

16...Nb8 Diagram

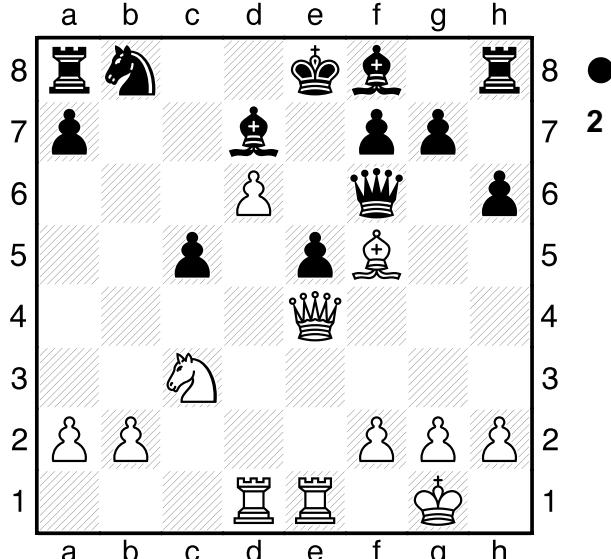


17.Nxe5

[17.c5!! is assessed as best by Houdini after a lot of thinking. When I play the move though, its evaluation goes down initially to leave, after 17...bc, but after a minute jumps up and up. bxc5 18.Nxe5 dxe5 19.d6 Qf6 20.Qe4 Diagram

The reason why Houdini prefers 17c5!! first was very hard for me to see. It was only by a 'method of

A18



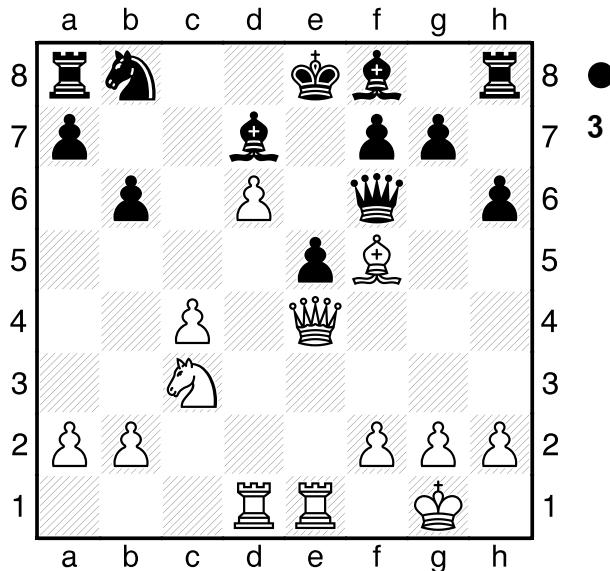
comparison' between this position and the equivalent one after the immediate 17 Ne5 that I eventually saw the reason. Nc6 21.Bxd7+ Kxd7 22.Qa4!! Exclamation marks for the concept, not the move itself. Because of the move 17 c5, which (i) clears the fourth rank -what a line clearance!- and (ii) creates a weakness on c5, it is game over. -- Δ23.Ne4 -- Δ24.Nxc5+ Brilliant and profound] [17.Nb5 Bxf5 18.Qxf5 Qd7 19.Qh5 a6 20.Nxd6+ Bxd6 21.Nxe5 Bxe5 22.Rxe5+ Kf8 23.Rde1+- g6 24.Re8+ Kg7 25.Qe5+] [17.Bxd7+ Nxd7 18.Nd4 is a very natural continuation, which is also good, though doesn't lead to a dramatic win.]

17...dxe5 18.d6 Bxf5

[□18...Qf6! was one of the defences I looked at 19.Bxd7+?! (□19.Rd5! ; □19.Qe4! Diagram

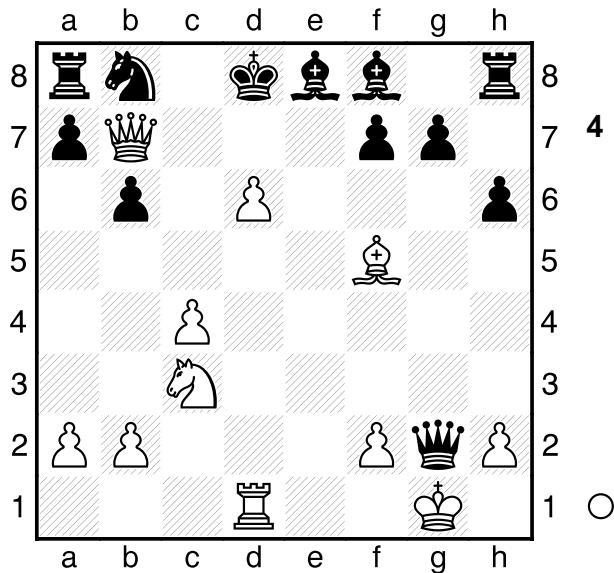
(Diagram 3)

The comparison position I refer to above. Here, white has some advantage, but the machine only



assesses it as +1.2 after black's best defence, $Nc6$. $Nc6$ $20.Bxd7+$ $Kxd7$ and here, Houdini assesses 21 $c5$ as its preference, with the same line opening/weakness creation idea, but black is not obliged to capture. I suspect in practice white's advantage is large, by expanding on the queen side whilst black is cramped and underdeveloped.) 19... $Nxd7$ 20. $Nd5??$ was the line I foresaw, planning $Nc7+$, but (20. $Nb5\pm$) 20... $Qxd6=$ 21. $Nxb6$ $axb6$ 22. $Rxd6$ $Bxd6$ which Houdini says is equal, but I would prefer black.] [18... $Qg5$ 19. $Rxe5+$ (19. $Qf3$ is also +5 per Houdini, though it prefers $Re5+$, after which the evaluations are 15+.) 19... $Kd8$ 20. $Qe4$ (20. $Qf3$ almost as good as $Qe4$) 20... $Bc6$ 21. $Re8+$ $Bxe8$ A) 22. $Qb7!!$ beautiful! I wonder if Houdini smiled when he saw this move? No, probably, so I still have one advantage over it. The rook sac blocks $e8$, so threatening $Qc7$ mate, which is even better than merely taking the rook. $Qxg2+!$ Diagram (22... $Bd7$ 23. $Qc7+$ $Ke8$

24. $Re1++-$)



exclamation mark for its prettiness.

23. $Qxg2$;

B) 22. $Qxa8$ $Qxf5$ 23. $d7$

was the line I saw; thinking I had done well to envision this far; and also appreciating that the $Nc3$ controlled $b1$, so that if $Bd6$, I could capture it. My line is fine- Houdini assesses the positon as +3, with the evaluation going higher, the longer it thinks. But Houdini finds some even better lines after 18... $Qg5$.]

[18... $h5$ 19. $Qf3+-$]

19. $Qxf5$ $Qd7$ 20. $Qxe5+$

[20. $Rxe5+$ was my preference, and indeed it is +7; for some reason Houdini prefers keeping the rook on $e1$ $Kd8$ 21. $Qe4$ I guess the reason is that white now has something to calculate; namely what to play after 21... $Nc6$. $Nc6$ 22. $Re7+-$ (22. $Nb5+-$)]

20... $Kd8+-$ The rest is easy **21. $b4$**

[21. $Qd5$ is Houdini's preference $\Delta Nc6$ (21... $Bxd6$ 22. $Qxa8$) 22. $Re7!!$]

21... $Nc6$ 22. $Qe4$ $Rb8$ 23. $c5$ $bxc5$

**24.bxc5 g6 25.Nd5 f5 26.Qa4 Qb7
27.Nc7 Rh7 28.Qc4
1-0**