

# Instructive Computer Games of Chess:

## Stoofvlees II a11 – Gull 3

July 29, 2019

TCEC S16 League 2 (3015), Round 2.4  
C02 - FRENCH: ADVANCE, EUWE VARIATION

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August 13, 2019

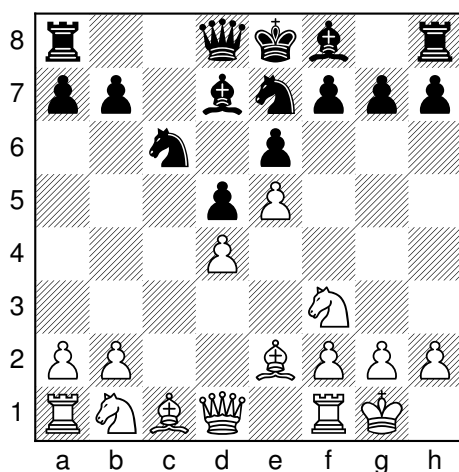
1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	♙d7

End of book

5	♘f3	♘c6
6	♙e2	♘ge7
7	O-O	cxd4!?
8	cxd4	

down the center and white gets a free attack with king-side pawn pushes. Maybe it was better not to release the tension too early and play moves such as ... ♖b6, for instance. Usually, black wants to keep 2 pawn break options in French (well-timed cxd4 and f6), but now there's only the ... f6 break available after the unfavorable break.

8	...	♙f5
9	♘c3	a6
10	a3!	



Prophylaxis. This is to prepare ♙d3. Without a3, ♙d3 would be met with ... ♘g4. Also, ... ♙g4 is now prevented.

10	...	♖c8
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Rooks belong in open files.

11	♔h1!N	
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Makes room for ♖g1 or possibly even ♘g1 in some lines, preparing for an all-out attack. This is a deep strategic attacking idea.

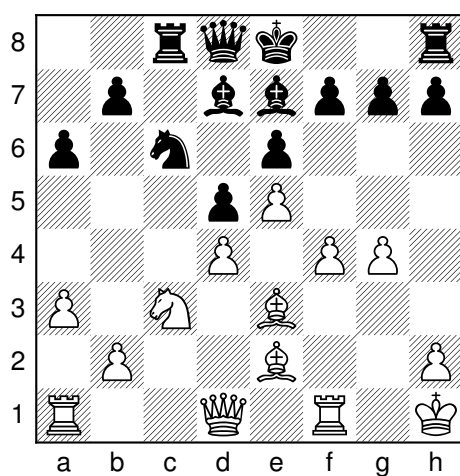
The more common moves were 7... ♘g6 and 7... ♙f5. The problem with 7... cxd4 is that it locks

11	...	♙e7
12	g4	♘h4

After exchanges, white gets free f4 with tempo. However, the damage was already done and this was the best move for black.

13      ♖xh4    ♗xh4  
14      f4      ♗e7  
15      ♗e3

Now protecting the pawn on d4 by the dark square bishop, enabling ♗d3.



15      ...      O-O?!

This is not a pretty move to make: castling straight into attack. Both Leela and Stockfish preferred 15... ♖a5 with a follow-up ... ♖c4, instead. For example: 15... ♖a5 16. f5 ♖c4 17. ♗xc4 ♗xc4 with play for both sides.

16      ♗d3

The point of a3 is now made: ... ♖b4 is not possible here.

16      ...      ♖a5?

The time for the thematic ... f6 break was now to undermine white's attack. But here, a critical tempo is lost and the knight is where the action is not. The fact that black has castled makes all the difference

for white's attack, and white does not give black time to play ... ♖c4 until the position is beyond repair.

16... f6! 17 ♗c2 fxe5 18 fxe5 ♗xf1+ 19 ♗xf1 ♖xe5 20 dxe5 d4 21 ♗xh7+ ♖h8 22 ♗xd4 ♗c4 23 ♗e4. White has to give the piece back with 23... ♗xd4. Black is pawn down but should be able to hold the draw. Note that trying to keep the extra piece would lose the queen: 23. ♗e3?? ♗c6+ 24. ♖g1 ♗xg4+ 25. ♖f2 ♗g2+

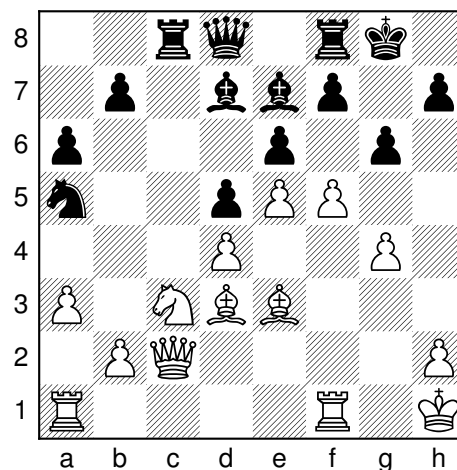
17      ♗c2

Asking black to weaken the king pawns.

17      ...      g6?!

Pawn to h6 was better, as the pawn move g6 weakens the dark squares.

18      f5



18      ...      ♗g5

Only move. Other moves would have trapped the bishop or lost the queen to stop the mating threat.

(a) 18... ♗e8 19 f6 ♗d8 20 ♗f2 ♗c6 21 ♗h4. Now ... ♗xf6 is the only move avoiding the immediate mate.

(b) 18... ♖e8 19 f×g6 f×g6 20 ♙×g6 h×g6 21 ♚×g6+ with mate in 2.

21 ... ♜c4

(c) 18... e×f5 19 g×f5 ♙g5 20 ♚e2 ♙×e3 21 ♚×e3 ♚h4 22 ♖f4 ♚h6 23 f×g6 f×g6 24 ♖×f8+ ♚×f8 25 ♖f1 ♚g7 26 e6 ♙e8 27 ♖f3 ♙h8 28 ♜×d5 ♙c6 29 ♖f7. White simply has too many threats and overruns black in this line.

Trying to make room for the queen on f8 would have been a terrible idea: 21... ♖fd8?? 22 f×g6 f×g6 23 ♙×g6 h×g6 24 ♚×g6+ and the attack is unstoppable.

(d) 18... g×f5? 19 g×f5 e×f5 20 ♖g1+ ♙h8 21 ♙h6 ♖g8 22 ♖×g8+ ♚×g8 23 ♖g1 Any attempt to save the queen will result in quick mate. For example 23... ♚d8 24. ♚g2 and black can only delay the mate.

22 ♚e2 b5  
23 ♜d1 ♚h6

The queen is being forced towards her prison on h8.

19 ♙f4

The point here is to get the rook to f4 with tempo.

19 ... ♙×f4

24 b3 ♜a5

Black could not have realistically prevented ♖×f4. If black played something else, pawn to f6 would have soon followed cutting the support to the bishop and then ... ♙×f4 was forced.

Taking the pawn instead with 24... ♜×a3 would not have changed anything, since black will not have time to enjoy the extra pawns. Now white forces the black queen to the corner where it will sit as the saddest piece of the board.

20 ♖×f4 ♚h4

Black had to play the queen to h4 to parry mating ideas and crash-through threats. For example: 20... ♜c4 21 ♚f2 f6 22 f×e6 ♙×e6 23 e×f6

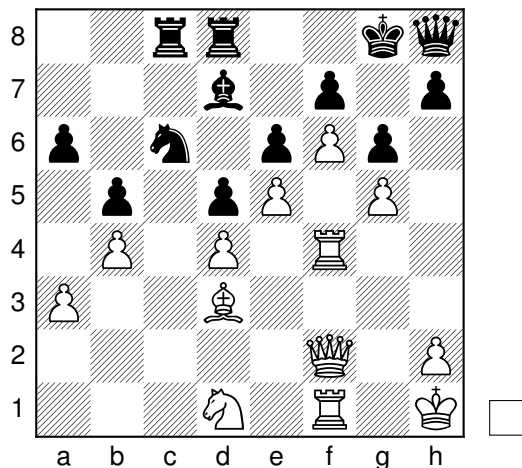
25 ♚f2 ♚g7

21 ♖af1!

Supporting the rook on f4, preparing now the pawn moves f6 and g5. Black does not have time to make room for the queen on f8, as would be the case with the premature 21. f6? This would close black's king-side and slow down the attack. White is still better and black has to maintain keeping an eye on g7. However, here black has time to interfere the attack and start some counter-play on the queen-side, and the most important of all, play the queen to f8: 21... ♜c4 22. ♖g1 ♖c7 23. ♚e2 ♚g5 24. ♖gf1 ♖fc8 25. ♙×c4 ♖×c4 26. ♚f2 ♚h6 27. g5 ♚f8. The queen on f8 makes all the difference compared to the game continuation.

Black had to add protection to the f7 square to prevent white crashing through with ♖×f7 after f×g6. An interesting try was to take the pawn on f5 with the e-pawn: 25... e×f5 26 g×f5 g5 27 ♖f3 f6 28 ♚g2 ♚g7 29 ♜e3 ♙h8 30 ♜g4 ♖c6 31 ♖g3 ♖g8 32 ♚×d5, but this does not work out for black, either.

26 f6 ♚h8  
27 b4 ♜c6  
28 g5 ♖fd8



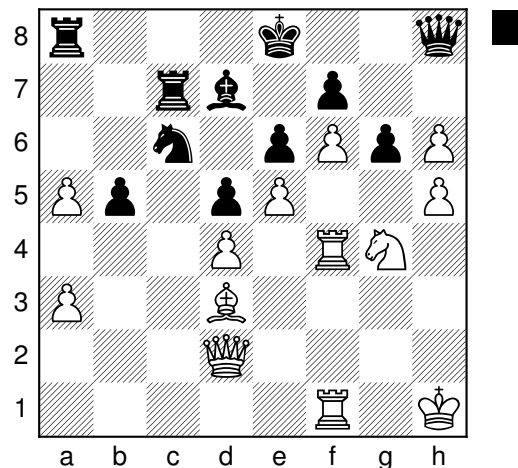
The black rook side-steps to prevent 29. ♖×g6! crashing through. If the bishop is taken, then either 30. f7+ or 30. ♖h4, both winning decisively.

White now brings the knight and the h-pawn into attack to force a break through black's defenses.

29	♖e3	♖c7
30	♖g4	♖dc8
31	h4	♖f8
32	♖h2	h5

Black tries to close the pawn structure, but white of course will not allow that.

33	g×h6	♖e8
34	♖d2	a5
35	b×a5	♖a8
36	h5!	



White is now opening the g-file forcibly. The plan after that is simple: Rook to g8 to win the queen and/or to support promotion of the more advanced h-pawn. There is no feasible way to stop white's plan.

36	...	g5
37	h7!	g×f4
38	♖h6	



Now the Rg1-g8 plan can only be stopped by sacrificing material. Nxg7 attacking the promotion square could also be played given an opportunity.

38	...	♖×e5
39	d×e5	


















This is now forced mate in 15 with best play. Both sides made some small inaccuracies here which would not change the outcome.

39	...	♖c6
40	♖g1	♖×h7

The most resilient defense: 40...d4+ 41 ♖h2 ♖d7 42 ♖×f7 ♖f8 43 ♖g7 ♖c8 44 ♖d6+ ♖d8 45 ♖c1 ♖b8 46 ♖c5 ♖d7 47 ♖b7+ ♖c8 48 ♖×f8+ ♖×b7 49 ♖d6 ♖a7 50 ♖×c7+ ♖b7 51 ♖c5+ ♖a6 52 ♖×d7 ♖×a5 53 ♖×b7 ♖a6 54 ♖b6#

41	 xh7	 d8
42	 h2	 c8
43	 xf7	 xf7
44	 g8	 b8

Desperate moves, as black was already facing a forced mate.

45	 xf7	 b7
46	 xe6	 h8
47	 g7+	 a8
48	 d4	 b7
49	 b6	 xh5+
50	 g2	 g5+
51	 xg5	d4+
52	 f2	d3
53	 g8+	 c8
54	 xc8#	

White wins.