

♖f6 29.d5 ♗d7 30.h4 ♜d6 31.♞d4 ♜f4
32.♞e3! [≤ **32.♜e4 ♘h7 33.♙g3**] **32...♙e6**
33.de6 ♜f8 34.e7 ♜e8 35.♜e6 1-0

Caro-Kann Defence Mikhail Botvinnik Max Euwe

Hastings 1934/35

1.c4 c6 2.e4

Via transposition of moves a Caro-Kann opening has arisen.

2...d5 3.ed5 cd5 4.d4

The so-called Panov variation, the most commonly played variation of the Caro-Kann.

4...♗f6 5.♗c3 ♘c6 6.♙g5

Less strong for Black now is 6...dc4 7.d5! ♘e5 8.♞d4, as witness several games of the match Botvinnik-Flohr.

6...e6 7.♗f3

In his game against Kmochn (Leningrad 1934), Botvinnik played c4-c5 here, resulting in a very strong position. Apparently, Botvinnik thought that his opponent had prepared for this move, so he decided to go for another continuation which, as he said afterwards, would do as well.

7...dc4 8.♙c4 ♙e7 9.0-0 0-0

Now a kind of Queen's Gambit Accepted has arisen, with the difference that White has played the unusual move 6.♙g5. Because in this variation the bishop should be on e3 in order for White to be able to continue with ♞e2 and ♜fd1.

10.♜c1

With ♞e2 out of the question (because of ♘d4), it is not easy for White to come up with a good attacking plan.

10...a6

In preparation for b5 and ♙b7, after which Black will have completed his development satisfactorily.

11.♙d3

Preventing 11...b5 (which would be followed by 12.♘b5).

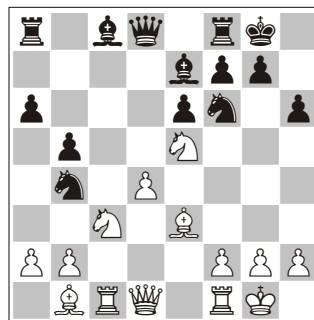
11...h6

Forcing ♙g5 to show its hand. If Black plays 11...♘b4 at once, a possible continuation is 11...♘b4 12.♙b1 ♙d7 13.a3 ♘bd5 14.♞d3 g6 15.♙h6 ♜e8, with difficult play.

12.♙e3

Better was 12...♙h4. It is true that Black then has the move 15...♘f4 after 12...♘b4 13.♙b1 b5 14.a3 ♘bd5 15.♞d3, but after 15.♞c2 (instead of 15.♞d3) 15...g5 or 15...g6 will still have to follow.

12...♘b4 13.♙b1 b5 14.♗e5



Now Black is better. The white attack is faltering; Black controls the important d5 square, and pawn d4 remains weak.

14...♙b7 15.♞d2 ♜e8

Parrying the threat 16.♙h6, as after 16...gh6 17.♞h6 Black can adequately defend with 17...♙f8.

16.f4

In order to open the f-file with f5. But the text-move leads to further weak spots, which Black will soon happily exploit. The best move was 16.f3

16...♘bd5 17.♘d5

It is very hard to decide whether other moves would be better here. However that may be, White remains slightly worse.

17...♞d5 18.f5 ♙d6

6 Alekhine-Euwe ~ 1935 ~

Alekhine came to Holland as the big favourite: Euwe confirmed this in an interview shortly before the event, and could only assure his fans that he would do his best to make a real fight of it. Alekhine himself didn't exaggerate either, when he told a journalist in Riga just before his departure for Holland: "I am certain of victory over Euwe. At this moment I do not see a player able to compete with me." The first part of the match proved both players right: Alekhine steamrolled Euwe at a murderous pace and with a fervour and self-confidence never seen previously in matches of this calibre. It started in the first game (played in the Amsterdam Carlton Hotel on October 3rd), which the French Russian claimed in 30 moves as White. In his review, Alekhine's second, Salo Landau, relates that when Alekhine had taken a last look at the opening played in this game (the Slav Defence to the Queen's Gambit, the undisputed favourite in this match) a few hours before the start of the match, he happened to get the variation that actually arose in the game on his analysis board.

This must have been a distressing experience for Euwe, after his painstaking preparation. In Game 2 (October 6th, Militia Hall, Amsterdam), however, he nailed his fighting colours to the mast by equalising on the white side of a curious kind of Grünfeld after a sharp fight characterised by commentator Tartakower (who made himself quite a reputation with his flowery reports in the Dutch morning paper *De Telegraaf*) as "the fight with the yataghans". After this exciting opening, interest in the match grew by leaps and bounds, all the more so because the Dutch and international press tended to describe the actions of combatants and their supporters in quite hysterical terms, a tendency which only grew worse as the match unfolded and the tension increased. In the third game (October 8th, Carlton Hotel, Amsterdam) Alekhine decided that the time had come to switch openings, although 1.d4 had served him very well in Game 1. Maybe he was curious to see what Euwe had prepared for 1.e4: this turns out to be the French defence, proof that Euwe is at any rate not afraid. Remarkably, Alekhine again succeeds in establishing a decisive advantage in the opening, where Euwe had after all hoped to create some balance with his unremitting studies. The game is adjourned and subsequently resigned by Euwe before play is resumed. A heavy blow to Euwe's morale was dealt by Game 4 (Witte Brug Hotel, The Hague, October 10th), which he loses as White against a devilishly combinative Alekhine, who drastically illustrates the difference in tactical nous between himself and Euwe. Still no draws after four games: score 3-1 for the World Champion; kibitzers and celebrities from all over the world leave hearth and home and come scurrying to Holland in order to bask in the reflected glow of the battle. Newspapers report the arrival of Capablanca, Lasker, Bernstein, Mises. Fischer hadn't been born yet: the usual scene was for both players to sit on a stage, sometimes hidden behind festive bouquets of flowers, with the spectators *sotto voce* discussing the game in progress, which seemed to bother neither Alekhine nor Euwe. People pulled pocket chess sets out