

Korchnoi's complaint

EARLIER THIS YEAR the chess world was shocked by the defection of the top class Soviet grandmaster Viktor Korchnoi just after he had won the IBM tournament in Amsterdam.

Korchnoi's defection is said to stem from his dissatisfaction with conditions when he played Karpov, for the world

championships as it turned out, in 1975. The story is that the Soviet organisation wanted a young champion so much that Korchnoi was treated unfairly.

Three times Soviet champion, Korchnoi was one of the few players of his age group not strongly influenced by the teachings of former world

champion Botvinnik, who views chess as a science. Korchnoi plays for the fight. He takes tremendous risks to win on occasions.

His game against compatriot Spassky impressed me because of the way it seems to "flow" from beginning to end. Tactics remain in the notes as Korchnoi effortlessly

manoeuvres his pieces to their most effective squares.

USSR championship, 1962:

QUEEN'S GAMBIT
DECLINED

B. Spassky	V. Korchnoi
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	d5
4. Nc3	c5

The semi-Tarrasch defence.

5. cxd5 Nxd5
6. e3

6, e4 is an aggressive alternative but was only thought good for White after the 1969 Spassky-Petrosian match.

6. . . . Nc6
7. Bc4 cxd4
8. exd4 Be7
9. O-O O-O
10. Re1

If 10, Bxd5 exd5. 11. Qb3, Korchnoi had in mind 11 . . . Bg4. 12. Qxb7 Rc8. Now both 13, Ne5 Nxe5. 14, dxe5 d4 and 13, Be3 Bxf3. 14, gx f3 Bd6 give Black counterplay for his pawn.

10. . . . a6
11. Bd3?!

Taking the pressure off d5. A better alternative was 11, Bxd5 exd5. 12, Ne5.

11. . . . Nf6
12. Bg5 b5
13. Rc1 Bb7
14. Bb1 Rc8
15. a3 Na5
16. Qd3 g6
17. Bh6 Re8
18. Ne5 Nc4!

Cunningly foils White's intention to attack the black king; E.g. 19. Qh3 Qxd4! 20. Nxf7 Qg4!

19. Nxc4

Or White may defend his "b" pawn with 19, Re2 Nxe5. 20, dxe5 Ng4. 21, Bf4 Rc4. 22, Qg3 (Not 22, Qxd8 Rxd8. 23, Bg3 Bxa3! 24, h3 Bxb2!) but Black may play 22 . . . Rxf4. 23, Qxf4 Bg5 with a good game.

19. . . . bxc4?
20. Qd2 Qb6
21. Bf4 R(e)d8
22. Be5 Ng4
23. Qe2 Nxe5
24. dxe5 Rd4!
25. Be4 R(c)d8
26. Bxb7 Qxb7
27. Ne4 Qb5

To defend the "c" pawn — but is it a weakness or a strength? Korchnoi supplies the answer.

28. Nc3 Qb8
29. Rc2

29, R(e)d1 Rd3.

29. . . . Rd3
30. g3

Spassky wishes to stop worrying about back rank mate threats in variations like 30, Ne4 Qxe5. 31, Rxc4 f5. 32, Nc3 Qxe2. 33, Nxe2 Rd2. 34, Nc3 Rxb2.

30. . . . R(8)d4
31. Nd1?!

Better is 31, Ne4 but White's position is still inferior after 31 . . . Qd8. (31 . . . Qxe5. 32, Rxc4!)

31. . . . Qb3!
32. Ne3 Bg5
33. Nf1

33, f4 fails to Re4!

33. . . . a5

Giving Spassky something else to worry about; the creation of a passed pawn by a4 . . . c3 . . . and Qxa3. This is prevented, but the cost is high in terms of the white king's safety.

34. f4 Be7
35. R(e)c1 Bc5
36. Kh1

"Even the laziest king flees wildly in the face of a discovered check" goes one saying. But His Majesty must not flee to g2 or else 36 . . . Rxf4! hurts due to a black queen check on b7.

36. . . . Qb7 ch
37. Qg2 Qd5
38. a4 Rf3

The beginning of a manoeuvre designed to force Spassky to exchange on d5.

39. Nd2 Rf2!
40. Qxd5 exd5
41. Nf1 Rd3
42. Rc3

Spassky must have seen the line 42, Rxf2 Bxf2. 43, Kg2 Bd4. 44, Rc2 Rb3. 45, h4 Rxb2. 46, Rxb2 Bxb2. 47, Ne3 Bd4! 48, Nxd5 c3 and the knight must die to prevent the pawn promoting.

42. . . . Rxc3
43. bxc3 d4
44. cxd4 Bxd4
45. Resigns.

Spassky has seen that the simple c3 . . . c2 . . . Bb2 threat cannot be parried.

BATSFORD have just produced *It's Your Move*, by R. Teschner and A. J. Miles. Price in New Zealand when the book arrives is expected to be around \$10.95 case-bound and \$5.45 limp. The book contains 348 diagrammed positions from modern tournament and match chess. In each case the reader is invited to choose the next move. The authors say that this book is useful for keeping in trim tactically, as one is constantly looking at fresh examples.

I found the book both enjoyable and useful. A real asset is that the positions are not composed but are all drawn from actual play — though one begins to wonder after seeing several of the more beautiful conclusions.

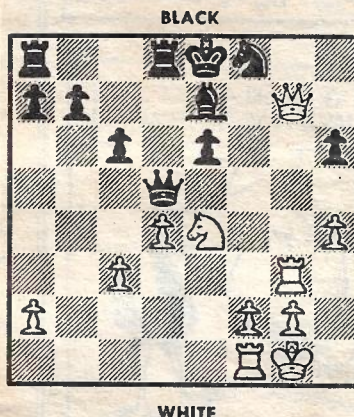
Korchnoi is a brilliant tactician and examples from his games are scattered throughout the book. Here are two, with the book's comments.

An example of pieces hindering rather than helping.

Korchnoi v Bronstein, 32nd USSR Championship, Kiev 1964-65.

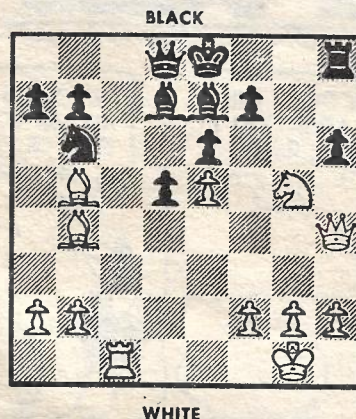
Listener

Nov 23rd 1976



In the example following, White succeeds with a startling move which depends basically on a pin.

Korchnoi v Udovic, Leningrad 1967.



I got the first answer quite easily but succumbed to temptation and looked up the solution on the second. But for you . . . solutions next week.

MURRAY CHANDLER