Chess

An attacking defence

NZ LISTENER, July 9, 1977

THE CARO-KANN Defence used to be thought of as a rather dull way of ensuring a draw with Black. However times are a-changing and the rising enthusiasm for the defence has recently been furthered by the introduction of the 5, ... g×f6 line (1,e4 c6 2,d4 d5 3,Nc3 d×e4 4,N×e4 Nf6 5,N×f6 ch g×f6!?). At the Interzonal last year Bent Larsen said he found this variation very interesting and was thinking of taking it up. He has done just that in the current Grandmaster tournament in Las Palmas, but unfortunately he experi-mented against the wrong opponent and lost to the aggressive Latvian, Mikhail Tal.

To reach the 5, ...g×f6 line though, one must pass through, as it were, the formidable Pannov-Botvinik attack. Once thought good for White, Black's defences have proven resilient in this line, and the following game, also from Las Palmas, illustrates that it's not only Black who must be wary of the offensive.

A. Martin (Spain) (Spain)
1. e4 c6
2. d4 d5
3. e×d5 c×d5
4. c4 Nf6
5. Nc3 Nc6

Bellon chooses a slightly inferior alternative to 5,e6 or 5,g6 hoping his opponent will not be familiar with the line.

6. Bg5 Qa5 7. Nf3?!

Black's strategy pays off. Better are 7,Qd2 and 7,B×f6 because after the text White has several annoying pins to attend to.

7. . . . Bg4
8. Qb3 0-0-0!
9. B×f6 g×f6
10. c×d5 Nb4
11. Bc4 Kb8
12. a3 e6
13. d×e6 f×e6
14. 0-0 B×f3
15. a×b4

Hoping for either 15, . . . Qg5 16,g3 or 15, . . . Qh5 16,B×e6! when Black's attack is immeasurably slower than in the game.

15. . . . Rg8! 16. g3

The queen is a no-no, of course, for Black threatens mate by 16, ... R×g2 ch 17,Khl Rg8.

16. . . . Qh5 17. Rfc1

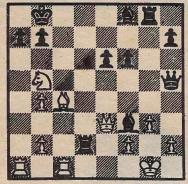
The rook moves to enable Martin to counter 17, . . . Qh3 with 18,Bf1. Black's next move seems to threaten 18, . . . Rh4.

17. . . . R×d4 18. Nb5!?

Now 18, . . . Rh4 fails to 19, Qe3, 19, B×e6 and 19, goodness-knows-what-else but he didn't really want to go there anyway!

18. . . . Rd2! 19. Qe3

BELLON



MARTIN

19. . . . R×g3 ch!
20. f×g3 Q×h2 ch
21. Kfl Qh1 ch
22. Qg1 Bg2 ch
23. Kel Q×g1 ch
24. K×d2 Bh6 ch!

A very economical bishop. 25. White Resigns.

Other participants at Las Palmas include Miles, Timman, Pomar and Karpov, who, as usual, streaked away after having won his first five games.

PROBLEM

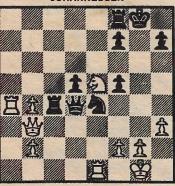
From Liljedahl v Johannessen, Sweden v Norway

Although a pawn up, White looks to be under some pressure. How did he finish the game quickly?

finish the game quickly?
Times: 20 seconds, expert
40 seconds, strong club
player
1½ minutes, average

1½ minutes, averag 3 minutes, good 10 minutes, novice

JOHANNESSE



LILJEDAHL

Solution: White found 1. R×e4! Rcl ch (if 1. . . Q×e4 2. Qg3 ch Kh8 3. N×f7 ch! R×f7 4. Ra8 ch) 2. Kh2 Black resigns (2. . . . Q×f2 3. Qe3! and wins).

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