

# An attacking defence

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...gxf6 line (1,e4 c6 2,d4 d5 3,Nc3 dxe4 4,Nxe4 Nf6 5,Nxf6 ch gxf6!). 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 experimented against the wrong opponent and lost to the aggressive Latvian, Mikhail Tal.

To reach the 5...gxf6 line though, one must pass through, as it were, the formidable Pannov-Botvinnik 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.

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|-----------|-----------|
| A. Martin | J. Bellon |
| (Spain)   | (Spain)   |
| 1. e4     | c6        |
| 2. d4     | d5        |
| 3. exd5   | cxd5      |
| 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.

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| 6. Bg5   | Qa5 |
| 7. Nf3?! |     |

Black's strategy pays off. Better are 7.Qd2 and 7.Bxf6 because after the text White has several annoying pins to attend to.

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| 7. . . . | Bg4    |
| 8. Qb3   | 0-0-0! |
| 9. Bxf6  | gxf6   |
| 10. cxd5 | Nb4    |
| 11. Bc4  | Kb8    |
| 12. a3   | e6     |
| 13. dxe6 | fxe6   |
| 14. 0-0  | Bxf3   |
| 15. axb4 |        |

Hoping for either 15...Qg5 16.g3 or 15...Qh5 16.Bxe6! when Black's attack is immeasurably slower than in the game.

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| 15. . . . | Rg8! |
| 16. g3    |      |

The queen is a no-no, of course, for Black threatens mate by 16...Rxc2 ch 17,Kh1 Rg8.

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| 16. . . . | Qh5 |
| 17. Rfcl  |     |

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

17. . . . Rxd4

18. Nb5!?

Now 18...Rh4 fails to 19.Qe3, 19.Bxe6 and 19, goodness-knows-what-else but he didn't really want to go there anyway!

18. . . . Rd2!

19. Qe3



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| 19. . . . | Rxg3 ch! |
| 20. fxg3  | Qxh2 ch  |
| 21. Kf1   | Qh1 ch   |
| 22. Qg1   | Bg2 ch   |
| 23. Ke1   | Qxg1 ch  |
| 24. Kxd2  | 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. Johannesen, Sweden v. Norway 1976.

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

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| Times: 20 seconds, expert      |
| 40 seconds, strong club player |
| 1½ minutes, average            |
| 3 minutes, good                |
| 10 minutes, novice             |



Solution: White found 1. Rxe4! Rcl ch (if 1...Qxe4 2. Qg3 ch Kh8 3. Nxh7 ch! Rxf7 4. Ra8 ch) 2. Kh2 Black resigns (2...Qxh2 3. Qe3! and wins).

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