

# A model Grandmaster

AN EXCELLENT way for a player to improve is to model himself on a top Grandmaster. Not only will he have an instant opening repertoire, but he can also study the consequences of the first few moves, and how his Grandmaster handles the types of positions that arise.

Choosing one of the world's greatest players can't be bad, but may have a few drawbacks. You may get a position Karpov would like — but then he is the genius at exploiting those almost imperceptible advantages. Or pick Korchnoi, and you may find yourself taking horrifying risks you would rather you didn't!

Additionally, the games of the Karpovs and Korchnois are so well known that a prospective opponent may well have studied them himself.

A sound positional Grandmaster just below the top with up-to-date ideas would make an ideal model. Such a man is Rumanian Grandmaster Florin Gheorghiu. Currently rated number 47 in the world, Gheorghiu is an active tournament player and is particularly adept at positionally throttling weaker op-

position. Gheorghiu is cunning and extremely dangerous. He prepares his opening systems meticulously, searching for subtle finesses in popular and off-beat lines. With White Gheorghiu plays 1.d4 and has his systems worked out almost to perfection. Recently he has been scoring impressively with a slightly unusual line against the Queen's Indian defence, running 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.a3!? Gheorghiu-Petursson, Lone Pine 1979, proceeded 4...Bb7

5.Nc3 Be7? (5...Ne4 or 5...d5) 6.d5! d6 7.e4 c6 8.Bd3 a6?! 9.dxe6 fxe6 10.Ng5! Qd7 11.f4 e5 12.f5 b5 13.Ne6 with a crushing position.

Here follow two games from recent events in which Gheorghiu wrests the initiative through tricky opening play and then mercilessly thrashes his opponent.

## Warsaw Zonal 1979

### GRUNFELD DEFENCE

F. GHEORGHIU (Rumania) V. JANSA (Czechoslovakia)

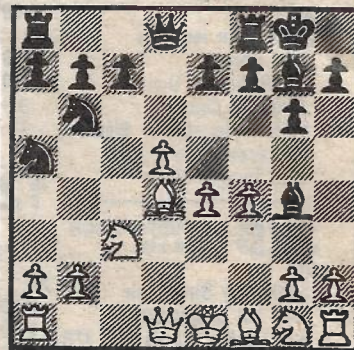
- 1. d4 Nf6
- 2. c4 g6
- 3. f3!?

This old variation received some attention in the 1950s but was discarded when reasonable antidotes were found.

- 3. ... d5
- 4. cxd5 Nxd5
- 5. e4 Nb6
- 6. Nc3 Bg7
- 7. Be3 0-0

Not 7...Nc6 (?) 8.d5 Ne5 9.Bd4 f6 (if 9...0-0 Alekhine gives 10.f4 Ned7 11.Bxg7 Kxg7 12.Qd4 ch followed by 0-0-0 and h4 with a big plus) 10.f4 Nf7 11.a4 e5 12.dxe6 Bxe6 13.a5 Nd7 14.a6 and White stood considerably better in Alekhine-Bagolyubov, world championship match, Berlin 1929.

- 8. f4! Nc6
- 9. d5 Na5
- 10. Bd4! Bg4 (I)



This resource has been analysed by English GM Michael Stean in Modern Chess Theory as Black's recommended counter to this variation. Stean now gives 11.Nf3 (not 11.Qxg4 Bxd4) Bxf3 12.gxf3 e5 13.fxe5 Nac4 14.Bxc4 Nxc4 15.Qe2 Nxe5 16.0-0-0 Qh4 17.Kb1 f5 18.Rhf1 fxe4 19.fxe4 c6 20.Rf2 Rae8 with advantage to Black.

However, our hero has not been caught napping and unveils his improvement...

- 11. Qd3! e5
- 12. fxe5 Nac4
- 13. Qg3!

Ha! My pawn is protected and your bishop is hanging.

- 13. ... Qg5
- 14. Nf3 Qh5
- 15. 0-0-0 c5!?

Rather than submit to a

cramped and ultimately lost game on account of White's large centre after 15...Bxf3 16.gxf3 Bxe5 17. Bxe5 Nxe5 18.f4. Jansa attempts to complicate by lashing out with his queenside pawns.

- 16. Bxc5 Rfc8
- 17. Bd4 Nxe5
- 18. Be2

Better than 18.Nxe5 Bxd1 or 18.Bxe5 Bxf3.

- 18. ... Nbc4
- 19. Kb1 b5

Gheorghiu now demonstrates another of his specialities — defusing the tension.

- 20. h3 Nxf3
- 21. gxf3 Bxd4
- 22. Rxd4 Bd7
- 23. Bxc4 bxc4
- 24. h4 Rab8
- 25. Rf1 Qh6

White was about to add 26.Qg5 swapping queens to the multiple exchanges that have left Black with nothing to show for his pawn minus. Jansa limps on for a while.

- 26. f4 Qf8
- 27. d6 Bc6
- 28. f5 Qd8
- 29. Qf2 Qd7
- 30. h5 Re8
- 31. Qg2 Kg7
- 32. Qd2

White is being as subtle as he can about ripping Black's kingside open.

- 32. ... h6
- 33. hxg6 fxg6
- 34. fxg6 Rf8
- 35. Rh1 h5
- 36. Rxf5 Rf1 ch
- 37. Nd1 Rh8
- 38. Rxf8 Kxf8

and Black lost on time.

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The next game was a vital last-round clash at Lone Pine in which the winner would receive \$8875 for first equal and the loser just \$62.50. So here we can expect an inspired Gheorghiu in his most devilish form.

## Lone Pine 1979

### QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE

F. GHEORGHIU (Rumania) J. TARJAN (USA)

- 1. d4 Nf6
- 2. c4 e6
- 3. Nf3 Bb4 ch

Sidestepping 3...b6 4. a3!? with which Gheorghiu had defeated both Petursson and Dutchman Hans Ree in earlier rounds.

- 4. Nbd2 b6

Reasonable alternatives are 4...d5 and 4...0-0.

- 5. e3 Bb7
- 6. Bd3 c5
- 7. a3!?

Equality resulted after 7.0-0 8.a3 Bxd2 9.Bxd2 Ne4 10.Bxe4 Bxe4 11.Bc3 d6 in Bobotsov-Andersson, Skopje Olympiad 1972. Gheorghiu is trying to save a tempo by not castling immediately.

- 7. ... Bxd2 ch
- 8. Bxd2 0-0
- 9. Bc3!

Setting a most cunning trap.

9. ... Ne4? And poor Tarjan falls straight into it!

- 10. Bxe4 Bxe4
- 11. dxc5 bxc5
- 12. Qd6!

The \$8812.50 move! Tarjan must resign himself to the loss of a pawn since 12...Qb6 drops a whole piece to 13.Qe5! because of the mate threat of g7. And 12...Bxf3 is no better after 13.gxf3 Qb6 14.Qg3, for example 14...f6 15.Rgl Rf7 16.Bxf6!

- 12. ... Nc6
- 13. Qxc5 Rc8
- 14. Qd6 f6
- 15. Nd2 Bg6

Or 15...Bxg2 16.Rgl Bh3 17.Qg3 threatening mate and the bishop.

- 16. 0-0 Qc7
- 17. Qxc7 Rxc7

Now queens are off, the rest of the game is a straightforward example of utilising a queenside pawn majority.

- 18. e4 Rb8
- 19. b4 Bf7
- 20. b5 Ne5
- 21. Bxe5 fxe5

- 22. a4 Kf8
- 23. Rfc1 Rbc8
- 24. a5 d6
- 25. b6 axb6
- 26. axb6 Rb7
- 27. c5! Be8

The idea was 27...Rxc5 28.Rxc5 dxc5 29.Nc4 with an excellent knight outpost on c4.

- 28. f3 Rcb8
- 29. Nc4!

So White has his knight outpost anyway. It was around here I met Gheorghiu in the refreshments room. He looked as pleased as Punch about his whole creation and told me how

terrible Tarjan's position was, describing the extent to which Black's pieces were immobile!

- 29. ... dxc5
- 30. Ra5 Ke7
- 31. Rxc5 Bd7
- 32. Nxe5 Kd6
- 33. Ra5 Be8
- 34. Nc4 ch Kc6
- 35. Rd1 Rf7

Successfully avoiding 36.Rd6 checkmate!

- 36. Rd6 ch Kb7
- 37. Ra7 ch Kc8
- 38. Rxe6 Resigns.

MURRAY CHANDLER