

# The low key to success

AN INTENSE desire to win and a powerful charisma at the board are attributes shared by nearly all world-class chess players. Viktor Korchnoi's opponents have complained they cannot think straight when facing him, while once a player donned dark glasses against Mikhail Tal in a desperate attempt to counteract the ex-world champion's disturbing glare.

A rare exception to this norm is West German Grandmaster Robert Hubner, the world's fourth highest rated player, who maintains an unobtrusive profile. I had the interesting experience of playing him recently in the West German Bundesliga, the only event Hubner has played in since walking out of his candidates match against Korchnoi in January.

Apparently the brilliant academic was taking things seriously, as the top board results tend to be crucial in the professional teams league. Yet at the board he exuded nothing of the intimidating presence radiated by so many top players.

Clearly Robert views chess primarily as an intellectual exercise or abstract problem to solve. But even so I find it remarkable that someone so outwardly sensitive can survive the psychological warfare of modern tournament play.

Since defaulting against Korchnoi, Hubner has been castigated by his national press and received similarly unwelcome "fan" mail ("No real German would have resigned"). Yet the Meran match organisers paid his prize money in full and, Fide permitting, all the signs are that Hubner intends to take the world championship trail once again next series.

This series he certainly succeeded in eliminating his weakest point, the openings, as I discovered in this game from the Hamburg-Porz match.

## QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE

M. CHANDLER	R. HUBNER
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	b6
4. g3	Ba6
5. Nbd2	c5

For 5 ... Bh7 6.Bg2 c5 7.e4! see Sosonko-Gheorghiu, given last week. I was still hoping to transpose to this line.

6. Bg2 Nc6!

A new move and a strong one. The critical test must now be 7.d5 but I am unconvinced as to White's compensation for the sacrificed pawn. However, the line I chose allowed Hubner a clever trick to wrest the initiative.

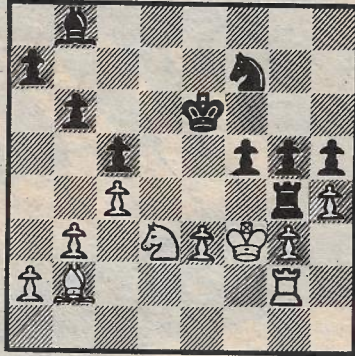
7. Qa4?	Bb7
8. Ne5	cxd4!
9. Nxc6	Qc7!
10. Nb3	e5!
11. f4	Bxc6
12. Bxc6	Qxc6
13. Qxc6	dxc6
14. fxe5	Ng4
15. Nxd4	

Also possible is 15.Bf4 but, as in the game, Black's superior pawn structure

gives him an enduring plus in what is now almost an endgame.

15. ...	Nxe5
16. b3	0-0-0
17. Bb2	Bb4 ch
18. Kf2	Rhe8
19. h3	g6
20. Rad1	f5
21. Rhf1	Rd7
22. Nc2	Bc5 ch
23. Bd4	Red8
24. e3	h5
25. Ke2	Bd6
26. Bc3	Nf7
27. Bf6	Re8
28. Rg1	Re6
29. Bb2	c5!
30. h4!	Re4
31. Rd5	Bb8
32. Rxd7	Kxd7
33. Ne1	Rg4
34. Kf3	Ke6
35. Nd3	g5!
36. Rg2!	

HUBNER



CHANDLER

Giving good drawing chances, as 36...g×h4 37.g×h4 R×h4 38.Rg6 ch allows White good counterplay. Not however 36.Nf2? g×h4 37.N×g4 f×g4 ch 38.Ke2 h×g3 and the Black passed pawns would win.

36. ...	Bd6
37. Bc3	Be7
38. h×g5	N×g5 ch
39. Ke2	Bd6
40. Rh2	

Perhaps 40.Nf4 ch B×f4 41.e×f4 Ne4 42.Be1 also holds. Unfortunately I now had only five minutes, against Hubner's 20, to reach the time-control at move 50, and overlooked a subtle point.

40. ...	Ne4
41. Be1	B×g3
42. R×h5	B×e1
43. K×e1?	

Correct is 43.Rh6 ch followed by 44.N×e1! and draws.

43. ...	Rg1 ch
44. Ke2	Rg2 chl
45. Kf3	R×a2
46. Rh6 ch	Ke7
47. Kf4	

The king's position looks aggressive but he is in fact in grave peril.

47. ...	Rd2!
48. Ne1	Rf2 ch
49. Ke5	Ng5!
50. Rh5	Nf7 ch
51. Kd5	

And now 51...Kd7! would have completed the mating net (threat: 52...Rd2 ch). Overlooking this, Hubner sealed another move which "only" wins another pawn. In any case White's cause is lost.

51. ...	Re2 (?)
52. Resigns	

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