

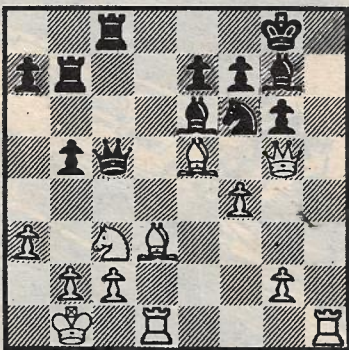
# Risks on the c-file

IT IS NO accident that the most popular of all openings is the Sicilian Defence. Black's c-file pressure and counter-chances can seem so strong that some White players are hesitant to allow the main variations at all. Yet it is worth remembering that in the Sicilian, as with other defences, the onus is on Black to neutralise White's first move advantage. In launching his own attack so early Black walks a tightrope that can sometimes result in his own obliteration.

One famous example of a series of White defeats of the Sicilian occurred in round 14 of the 1955 Goteborg Interzonal. Three Argentine players tried a new idea in the Sicilian Najdorf (now established as the Goteborg variation) against three Soviet opponents — and were all wiped out. Something of the sort, though on a more modest scale, happened recently when Holland met Hungary at the European Teams Championship in Bulgaria. Holland won an important match victory over their favoured rivals, thanks to incisive results on the two boards where Sicilians were played.

The first game to finish was between John van der Wiel and Gyula Sax, in which Black defended with a Sicilian Dragon.

SAX (Hungary)



VAN DER WIEL (Holland)

White ended matters with the nice combination 1.Bxg6! fxg6 2.Qxg6 Bf7 (the threat was 3.Rh7) 3.Rh8 ch! Resigns. After 3... Kxh8 4.Qxf7, mate will follow with Rh1 next move.

The other Sicilian from the match was a tense board one clash between Jan Timman and Lajos Portisch.

## SICILIAN DEFENCE

<b>J. TIMMAN</b> (Holland)	<b>L. PORTISCH</b> (Hungary)
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	d6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nf6
5. Nc3	a6

The complicated and much-analysed Najdorf variation — a long-time Portisch favourite.

6. Bg5	e6
7. f4	Be7
8. Qf3	Qc7
9. 0-0-0	Nbd7
10. Bd3	h6
11. Qh3	Nb6
12. f5	e5
13. Nb3	Bd7
14. Be3	Na4!
15. Bd2	Nxc3?!

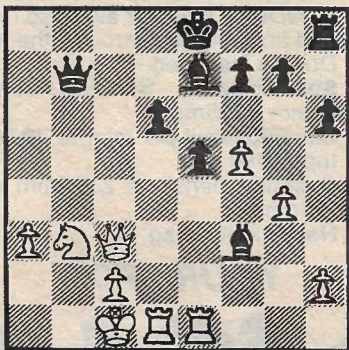
Black's counterplay, as usual, lies on the queenside; here the immediate 15...a5 gave good chances.

16. Bxc3	a5
17. a3	Bc6
18. Rhe1	b5
19. g4	b4!
20. axb4	axb4
21. Bxb4	Qb7
22. Ba3	Rxa3

An interesting exchange sacrifice, though probably embarked on after Black saw 22...Nxe4 23.Bxe4 Bxe4 24.Bxd6! and White remains a pawn ahead, eg 24...Bg5 ch 25.Kb1 Qa6 26.Ba3 or 24...Qc6 25.Qc3.

23. bxa3	Nxe4
24. Bxe4	Bxe4
25. Qc3	Bf3

PORTISCH



TIMMAN

26. f6!

A brilliant move to quell the dangerous Black bishop pair. 26...Bxf6 27.Rxd6 favours White, and on 26...Bxd1 one possibility runs 27.Na5 Qd7 28.fxe7 Bxg4 29.Nc6 Qc7 30.Re4 Bd7 31.Rc4 with decisive threats.

26. ...	gxf6
27. Na5	Qa8
28. Rd3	Bxg4
29. Nc4	Qa6
30. Qb4	d5
31. Qb8 ch	Bc8
32. Nxe5!	

Ripping open the centre at a stroke. 32...fxe5 33.Qxe5 creates unstoppable threats against e7 or h8, so the black king flees by castling. Thanks to Timman's 26th move, however, the kingside is no haven.

32. ...	0-0
33. Nd7!	Bd6
33...Bxd7	34.Qg3 ch Kh7
35. Rg1 ch	Kh8
35. Rh3	Qf1 ch

A last-ditch try to stave off Rxf6 mate.

36. Rx11	Bxb8
37. Rxh6 ch	Kg7
38. Rh4	

Renewing the mate threats: if 38...Bxd7 39.Rg1 does the trick. Portisch make his final desperado sacrifice.

38. ...	Bf4 ch
39. Rhxf4	Resigns

On 39...Bxd7 40.Rg1 ch followed by Rh4 mate. A powerful performance by the Dutch number one that brought an eruption of applause from the Bulgar crowd.

MURRAY CHANDLER