

# Helpfully unhelpful

A POSSIBLE confrontation between tournament organisers and the USSR Chess Federation concerning England's annual Hastings tournament was recently resolved — inadvertently — by British red tape and bureaucracy. Along with their usual ration of two Soviet players, Hastings this time also invited Soviet defector Igor Ivanov, who now resides in Canada. Presumably this news was not broadcast in Moscow, which tends to boycott non-Fide events containing such political embarrassments. So Rafael Vaganian and Vladimir Tukmakov turned up to play, only to discover the arrival of Ivanov was apparently imminent.

This posed the interesting question of how the Soviets would react. Would the federation ignore Ivanov's presence, or call its Grandmasters home? Or would Vaganian and Tukmakov be the last Soviet players ever to push pawns in Hastings? We were not to find out. The British Consulate in New York had totally muddled Ivanov's visa and he was unable to make the tournament on time, despite strenuous applications by the organisers to the British Home Office.

So, probably rather fortunately for Hastings, the Soviets stayed, played, and won. Vaganian may have maintained a low profile for a couple of years back home, but not so this event. Piling victory onto victory, he was assured the first prize of £1200 with two rounds to spare. When the merely "average" Soviet Grandmaster can shred a field like that, it is perhaps fortunate that Moscow doesn't send such superstars as Kasparov or Psakhis, as Hastings persistently requests. Final standings in the 1982-83 event were: 1, Vaganian 11 points; 2, Kovacevic (Yugoslavia) 8½; 3-4, Ftacnik (Czechoslovakia) and Murey (Israel) 8; 5, Tukmakov 7½; 6, Mestel (England) 7; 7, Hebden (England) 6½; 8-9, Gurevich (USA) and Short (England) 6; 10-11, Farago (Hungary) and Henley (USA) 5; 12-13, P. Littlewood and Plaskett (both England) 4½; 14, Lein (USA) 3½.

This week's game is a drawn-out struggle packed full of surprising twists and turns which almost defy annotation. In a way it is typical of both Murey and Vaganian. Yasha Murey, the Soviet emigre who now lives in Israel, delights in insanely murky complications and seems to go deliberately out of his way to seek them. Vaganian, on the other hand, is a consistently aggressive opponent, who never relaxes the pressure. Here he lapses into a poor position, but a late-middlegame rally nets him a winning queen-and-rook endgame.

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|------------|------|
| 7. Nf3     | Ba6  |
| 8. Nb5     | Ng6  |
| 9. Ng5     | Qd7  |
| 10. h4     | c6   |
| 11. h5     | Nxe5 |
| 12. dxe5   | cxb5 |
| 13. Bd3    | Nc6  |
| 14. Nxh7   | Nxe5 |
| 15. Nx18   | Kx18 |
| 16. Qb4 ch | Kg8  |
| 17. Be2    | d4   |
| 18. Bf4    | d3   |

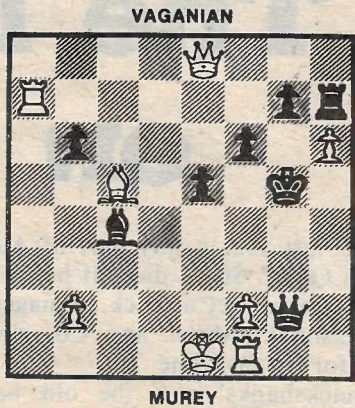
*Around here I gave up trying to predict anyone's next move.*

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|------------|------|
| 19. Bxe5   | dxe2 |
| 20. Qg4    | Rh7  |
| 21. h6     | Rd8  |
| 22. Qxe2   | f6   |
| 23. Bf4    | e5   |
| 24. Be3    | Qb7  |
| 25. axb5   | Qxg2 |
| 26. Qc4 ch | Rd5  |
| 27. Rf1    | Bxb5 |
| 28. Qc8 ch | Kf7  |
| 29. c4     | Rc5  |
| 30. Bxc5?  |      |

*An obvious capture which may be the fatal mistake — Murey should have known better! Instead 30.Rxa7 ch Kg6 31.Qg8 wins.*

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|-------------|------|
| 30. . . .   | Bxc4 |
| 31. Rxa7 ch | Kg6  |
| 32. Qe8 ch  | Kg5  |

*A rook down and his king far advanced, it seems incredible Black can survive. But survive he does — 33.Be3 ch Kh4! leaves White with no more checks and the rook on f1 attacked.*



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|-----------|--------|
| 33. f4 ch | Kxh6!  |
| 34. Rf2   | Qg1 ch |
| 35. Kd2   | bxc5   |
| 36. Kc3   |        |

*This leads to a lost ending, but what else?*

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|-------------|---------|
| 36. . . .   | Qxf2    |
| 37. Kxc4    | Qxf4 ch |
| 38. Kd5     | Qd4 ch  |
| 39. Kc6     | c4      |
| 40. Ra3     | c3      |
| 41. bxc3    | Qc4 ch  |
| 42. Kd6     | g6      |
| 43. Ra4     | Qd3 ch  |
| 44. Ke6     | Kg5     |
| 45. Qc6     | Qh3 ch  |
| 46. Kd6     | Rh8     |
| 47. Ra1     | Rc8     |
| 48. Rg1 ch  | Kh6     |
| 49. Qb7     | e4      |
| 50. Ke7     | Rg8     |
| 51. Qc6     | Rg7 ch  |
| 52. Kf8     | Kh7     |
| 53. Rb1     | Qh6     |
| 54. Ke8     | f5      |
| 55. c4      | g5      |
| 56. Qd5     | Qg8 ch  |
| 57. Kd8     | Qf6 ch  |
| 58. Kc8     | Qf8 ch  |
| 59. Qd8     | Qc5 ch  |
| 60. Resigns |         |

MURRAY CHANDLER

## FRENCH DEFENCE

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|----------|-------------|
| Y. MUREY | R. VAGANIAN |
| 1. e4    | e6          |
| 2. d4    | d5          |
| 3. Nc3   | Bb4         |
| 4. e5    | b6          |
| 5. Qg4   | Bf8         |
| 6. a4    | Ne7         |