

Deutsch treat

by Murray Chandler

THE 1986/87 Bundesliga season has just finished, the winners being the mighty team from Solingen. West Germans take their national inter-club league extremely seriously and this year Solingen retained the services of six grandmasters — Hubner, Short, Spassky, Lobron, Lau and Kavalek. Not bad for an eight-board team, though under German Federation rules only two out of the three foreigners (Short, Spassky and Kavalek) can play together in one match. Recently, however, Italian football clubs have been instructed by the European Community to lift an almost identical restriction on numbers of their overseas club members. Maybe next season Solingen's property millionaire sponsor Egon Evertz can fly a couple of Russians in too.

As things stand even the strong amateur West German players are worth nearly their weight in Deutschmarks and between May and September a certain amount of poaching goes on between clubs. Solingen have already snatched a promising junior player from my own club, Hamburg HSV, for next season. The junior, ranked 2370 on the Elo scale but only a Fide master, was getting DM2000 (approaching \$NZ2000) total for his 15 games at Hamburg, plus expenses. Knowing Solingen he is probably getting his own flat, private jet and Mercedes now, but it serves me right for turning down a Solingen transfer last year! I have been a mercenary for Hamburg since 1981, being joined a couple of years ago by English grandmaster John Nunn. We make seven or eight weekend trips per season to West Germany for Bundesliga games, and also take part in occasional exhibitions for our club.

This season Hamburg HSV (we are part of the famous Hamburg football club) came a comfortable third in the Bundesliga, out of 16 teams from around West Germany. By September/October, however, we hope to be the most technologically advanced club in the world utilising a new computer system called Chessbase. This is a state-of-the-art system for storing and classifying thousands of games. It surpasses anything I have seen before. Games are entered into the database using a "mouse" to move pieces on a chessboard created on the screen, and games can be recalled by position, opponent or opening classifications. It should be an invaluable tool for study, and our club has already acquired 14 Atari 1040STs, currently the only appropriate computer. The Chessbase software costs around DM500 and information can be obtained from NZ Chess Supplies or from Fredric Friedel, Hauptstr. 28B, D-2114 Høllenstedt, West Germany.

The Chessbase technology, which proofreads each game as it goes along, is fast becoming the standard equipment in Europe for producing bulletins during tournaments. It was used at the latest Brussels super-tournament during April

and TV monitors around the tournament site would automatically replay finished games for the spectators. I was told that after this following game from Brussels, Viktor Korchnoi sat watching his victory being repeated on screen about 20 times! Probably he could not believe that he had taken only 17 moves to defeat grandmaster Bent Larsen — with Black. Here is what happened:

RETI OPENING

LARSEN	KORCHNOI
1. c4	Nf6
2. g3	c6
3. Nf3	d5
4. b3	Qb6!?

A novel idea which stops 5. Bb2 due to 5... dxc4 and prepares for central expansion. Normal are 4... Bf5 and 4... Bg4.

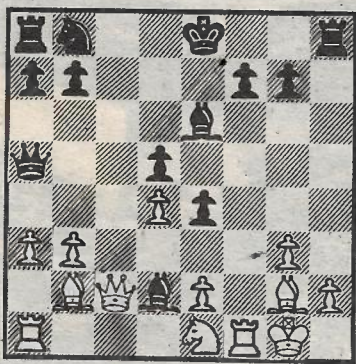
5. Bg2	e5!
6. 0-0	
Not 6. Nxe5 Qd4! forking knight and rook.	
6. ...	e4
7. Ne1	h5!?

Remarkable play — in the opening, with few pieces developed, Korchnoi pushes his rook pawn to loosen the White king position. Such a strategy is possible here because Black has gained substantial space and time in pushing his central pawns forward so early. But that doesn't alter the fact that Korchnoi has already broken every opening rule of thumb in the book.

8. Nc3	h4
9. d4	h×g3
10. f×g3	Qa5
11. Qc2?	

Afterwards Korchnoi gave 11. Qd2! as correct, leaving the c2-square available for White's knight on e1. What a vital difference this makes soon becomes clear.

11. ...	Bb4
12. Bb2	Be6
13. c×d5	N×d5
14. N×d5	c×d5
15. a3	Bd2!



Suddenly White's king is in mortal danger from the Black bishop forcing it into the corner. For example, 16. Rd1 Be3 ch 17. Kh1 Ne6 with ideas of 18... 0-0-0 and 19... R×h2 ch, as well as 18... Qc7 as in the game. Belatedly Larsen vacates the c2-square, but his knight has no time to cover the all-important e3-square.

16. Qd1!?	Be3 ch
17. Kh1	Qc7!
18. Resigns	

There is no satisfactory defence: 18. Nc2 Q×g3! followed by checkmate on h2. An astonishing miniature between two world class grandmasters.



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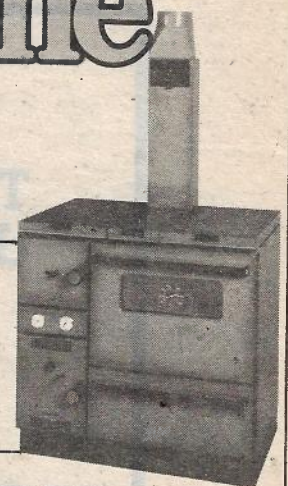
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