



COLUMNISTS

*From the
Archives*

Hosted by
Mark Donlan



From the Archives...

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Dutch Treat by Hans Ree

Bert Enklaar

On Thursday, October 3 Dutch IM Bert Enklaar died, at the age of 52. In an old notebook I found the first game that I played against him, in 1959, when he was fifteen years old, I fourteen. My school beat his school 4-2, I proudly wrote at the time. Our game was a draw. I had added some pedantic notes which, as I see now, were not in complete accordance with the truth. Some more games between us are there, and in other notebooks which have disappeared somehow I must have written down dozens of our games, played in scholastic events, in the chess club for youngsters *The Black Foal* and in friendly training matches.

There were years when I met Bert Enklaar almost every day. We attended the same lectures in mathematics, then went to the coffeehouse opposite the zoo where we talked about the sense and meaning of mathematics, literature and chess. According to my memory, conversations with him were often about sense and meaning, but it seems likely that most time was spent on down to earth subjects like the King's Indian or the Fajarowicz variation of the Budapest gambit which he loved for many years with little recompense. After that we went to our lectures again or more often straight to the chess cafe on Leidseplein. Once or twice a week we met at our chess club. In 1963 both of us joined the Dutch team for the first time. We went to Birmingham for a match against England and at a London railway station we discovered that Kennedy

had been shot. Bert was gravely shocked and I found that strange. We made our debut in the Dutch Championship at the same time, in The Hague 1965, and we gained the same number of points. Some people had difficulties keeping us apart and it happened more than once that I talked to a chessplayer and after some time discovered that he thought I was Bert Enklaar.

Suddenly he gave up chess, radically and apparently forever. He found chess too frivolous and harmful to the soul. He was a serious man, which however did not exclude a humorous tone of conversation, and I now remember an occasion where he, model of gentleness, grinningly called me "La vache qui rit," the laughing cow, after a well-known brand of cheese spread. The remark seemed painfully to the point at the time, though I can't remember why.

He gave away all his chess books and to divide the loot his friends organized a blitz tournament which we called the Bert Enklaar Memorial. A few years later he was back in the chess world. We intended to return his chess books to him, whether or not we really did this, I am not quite sure. His period of absence had done him good. In 1972 he won the masters tournament in Wijk aan Zee tied with Ribli, with the wonderful score of 12 out of 15, two points ahead of the field. Again he played in the Dutch championship and in the magazine of the Dutch chess federation the reporter wrote about an "excellent first appearance," having forgotten that Enklaar had already been there in 1965.

He played in the Olympiad in Skopje 1972; next year he was the most successful Dutch player in the grandmaster group in Wijk aan Zee, he was awarded the IM title and in the Dutch Championship of 1973 he shared first place with Sosonko and Zuidema. Sosonko won the play-off and became champion.

Enklaar was a member of the Dutch team that gained a fine fifth place in the Olympiad of Nice 1974, and around that time he may have thought about becoming a professional chessplayer, but he did not make that fateful decision and became a teacher of mathematics instead. At the end of the seventies he started to withdraw from the chess world again, not radically this time, but gradually. He kept on playing chess, but no big tournaments anymore, only games for his club and small events which took one or two days. He said he liked to play chess, but not in the fanatical way of his past. He wanted to play for fun, so that he was in control of chess and not chess in control of him. There was a year that he only played draughts, quite fanatically according to Paul van der Sterren who knew him well, but draughts must have been less powerful and threatening.

In his last few years, when he had been declared incurably ill, he took up chess as a passion again. He analysed openings, bought a computer with a database of games, and played wherever he could, in the internal competition of three different clubs and in tournaments in the Netherlands and abroad. His last tournament was the Lost Boys tournament in Antwerp, in August this year. A few days after that he started to compete in the Donner Memorial in Amsterdam, but the pain and exhaustion which he had unfailingly kept hidden to his opponents, had become such that he was forced to resign from the

tournament after one round.

Ljubojevic, Ljubomir (2550) - Enklaar, Bertus (2410)

Wijk aan Zee (12) 1973 [A01]

1 b2-b3 Ng8-f6 2 Bc1-b2 e7-e6 3 e2-e3 Bf8-e7 4 f2-f4 0-0 5 Ng1-f3 c7-c5 6 Bf1-d3 b7-b6 7 Nf3-g5 h7-h6 8 Qd1-f3 Nb8-c6 9 h2-h4

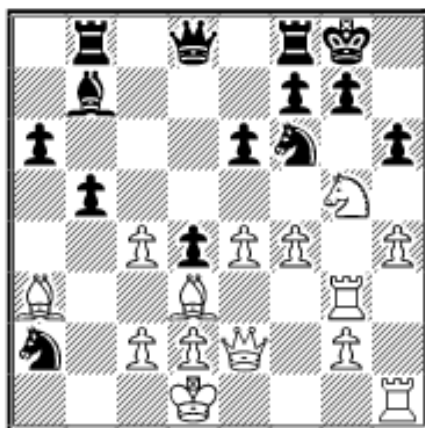


Original and aggressive play by White, but it will take quite some time before his attack will become really threatening.

9 Bc8-b7 10 Rh1-h3 Ra8-b8 11 Qf3-e2 d7-d5 12 Nb1-a3 Nc6-b4 13 Rh3-g3 a7-a6 14 0-0-0 b6-b5 15 Rd1-h1 d5-d4

After 15...c4 White still has 16 Bh7+.

16 e3-e4 c5-c4 17 b3xc4 Nb4xa2+ 18 Kc1-d1 Be7xa3 19 Bb2xa3



It has become obvious that Black's attack has made more progress than White's and now there is an unpleasant surprise for White.

19...Bb7xe4 20 c4xb5

After 20 Bxe4 bxc4 (threatening mate) 21 Qxc4 Rb1+ 22 Ke2 Rxh1 Black remains material up, because Ng5 and Be4 are *en prise*.

20...Be4xd3 21 Qe2xd3 Rb8xb5 22 Ba3xf8

This will lose quickly. With 22 Ke2 White could have saved his material, though Black is still better after 22...Nb4.

22...Rb5-b1+ 23 Kd1-e2 Rb1xh1 24 Bf8-a3 h6xg5 25 h4xg5 Nf6-h5 26 Rg3-f3

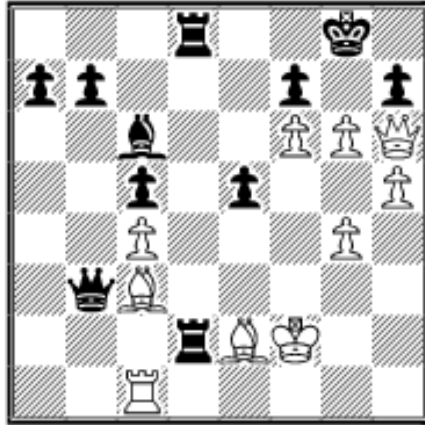
With a piece down White could have resigned, but he probably lacked the time to make such a considered decision.

26...Qd8-d5 27 Ke2-f2 g7-g6 28 g2-g3 Rh1-h2+ 29 Kf2-e1 e6-e5 30 c2-c4 Qd5-a5 31 Rf3-f2 Rh2xf2 32 Ke1xf2 e5-e4 33 Qd3-b3 Qa5xd2+ 34 Kf2-g1 e4-e3 White resigned.

Ljubojevic, Ljubomir (2595) - Enklaar, Bertus F (2390)

Lost Boys (7), 1996 [A33]

1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e6 6.g3 Ne5 7.e4 Bb4 8.Qe2 0-0 9.f4 Nc6 10.Nxc6 dxc6 11.e5 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Qa5 13.exf6 Qxc3+ 14.Kf2 Qd4+ 15.Kf3 Qxa1 16.Bb2 Qxa2 17.Qc2 Qa5 18.g4 g6 19.h4 c5 20.Bc3 Qc7 21.Kg3 Bd7 22.h5 Be8 23.Be5 Qd7 24.Qh2 Qd1 25.Be2 Qb3+ 26.Kf2 g5 27.fxg5 Bc6 28.Rc1 Rfd8 29.g6 Rd2 30.Qf4 Rad8 31.Bc3 e5 32.Qh6



This was an even more violent game than that of 23 years earlier. White had missed a win a few moves ago. Now he is threatening a mate against which there is no defence, only a counter-attack.

32...Rxe2+ 33.Kg3?

White was in a terrible time trouble. During the post mortem the players reached the conclusion that after 33 Kf1! Rd1+ 34 Kxe2 Qxc4+ 35 Kxd1 Bf3+ the game would have

ended a draw by perpetual check.

33...Rg2+ 34.Kh4 Rxc4+ 35.Kxc4 Qxc4+ 36.Kg3 Rd3+ 37.Kf2 Qh4+ 38.Ke2 Qe4+ 39.Kf2 Rf3+ White resigned.

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