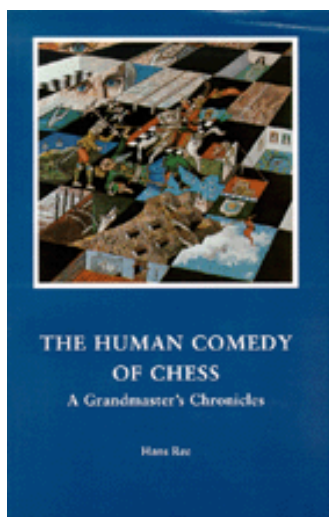




COLUMNISTS

Dutch Treat

Hans Ree

*The Human Comedy
of Chess*

by Hans Ree

Dutch Brilliance

On the website of the Dutch Chess Federation, IM Rini Kuijf described how he had been watching a game from the European championship, played in the Turkish city of Atalya, between the strong Czech David Navara and our youngest Dutch grandmaster Jan Smeets. It was live on the internet and Kuijf's patriotic heart swelled with pride. What a brilliant game by Smeets. First an unexpected sacrifice of a bishop, then a rook sacrifice and finally an elegant knight move that won the queen.

Kuijf set to work and wrote an article for his newspaper about Smeets' final breakthrough with a magnificent win over a 2600+ player. Then he went back to watch the games and he saw that a lot had changed.

Actually, Smeets hadn't won against Navara, but lost. And it had been quite a different game, not a spectacular attack on the king, but a technical endgame. The game that had stirred Kuijf's heart had in fact been played by the Romanian Mircea Paligras and the Georgian Baadur Jobava. On the tournament website these games had originally been mixed up and now the mistake had been corrected.

Kuijf was just in time to phone his newspaper to tell them they should cancel his article about Smeets' break-through. It was a pity that he had written in vain, but he was not unhappy. With patriotic fervor he had sympathised with Smeets and seen a wonderful game and this experience could not be taken away from him, even if later developments had put a different light on it. Like Princes Ukhtomski in Vladimir Nabokov's short story *A Matter of Chance*, he knew "that happy things can only be spoken of in a happy way, without grieving because they have vanished."

I too would have preferred that this wonderful game would have been played by my compatriot Smeets, but it's still worth showing. Jobava gained fame last year when he won a beautiful game against Bareev in the European club championship and then told journalists that the final position, at move 33, had already been on the board during his home preparations. Here he shows that he can be an artistic improviser too.

Parligras - Jobava, European championship 2004

1. e2-e4 d7-d6 2. d2-d4 Ng8-f6 3. Nb1-c3 g7-g6 4. Bc1-e3 Bf8-g7 5. Qd1-d2 0-0
6. 0-0-0 c7-c6 7. Kc1-b1 b7-b5 8. f2-f3 Nb8-d7 9. e4-e5 b5-b4

A strong novelty. Black sacrifices a pawn for active piece play.

10. e5xf6 b4xc3 11. Qd2xc3

11. fxe7 was probably better, but then also Black has good chances for an attack after 11...Qxe7

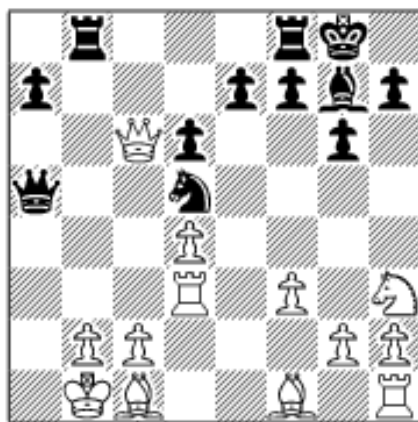
11...Nd7xf6 12. Qc3xc6 Bc8-e6 13. Be3-c1 Ra8-b8 14. Ng1-h3

Now the simple 14...Qa5 15. Qa6 Bxa2+ would be good for Black, but he prefers a much more forceful blow.

14...Be6xa2+ 15. Kb1xa2 Qd8-a5+ 16. Ka2-b1 Nf6-d5

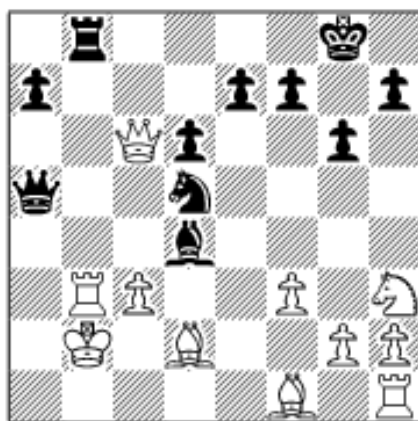
Threatening 17...Nc3+

17. Rd1-d3



Here Black has a rich choice of good moves, e.g., 17...Nb4, when White can still defend by returning the piece with 18. Qc4 Rfc8 19. Ra3 Qf5 20. Bd3. Also very strong would be 17...Bxd4 with many threats. Black chooses the most spectacular way to pursue his attack.

17...Rf8-c8 18. Bc1-d2 Rb8xb2+ 19. Kb1xb2 Rc8-b8+ 20. Rd3-b3 Bg7xd4+ 21. c2-c3



21...Nd5-b4

The beautiful point of Black's sacrifice. White has to give up the queen and should have done so by 22. cxd4 Qa2+ 23. Kc1 Qa1+ - 23...Qxb3 24. Bxb4 Rxb4 is another way to win the queen, not quite clear either - 24. Rb1 Qa3+ 25. Kd1 Nxc6 26. Txb8+, after which he would still be able to put up resistance.

22. Qc6-a6 Nb4xa6 23. Bf1xa6 Rb8xb3+ 24. Kb2xb3 Qa5xa6 25. c3xd4 Qa6-e2

Now Black wins easily

26. Bd2-e1 Qe2xg2 27. Nh3-f2 Qg2xf3+ 28. Kb3-c4 a7-a5 29. Rh1-g1 a5-a4 30. Nf2-d3 a4-a3 31. Be1-d2 e7-e5 32. d4xe5 Qf3-c6+ White resigned because he

will lose his rook.

In English, expressions containing the word “Dutch” are invariably negative. “Dutch” treat, comfort, courage, concert or nightingale are better avoided; one of the worst expressions, fortunately not generally known, is “Dutch wife”, used by English sailors for a wooden board with a hole in it.

From the first part of this column readers might infer that “Dutch Brilliance” stands for brilliance that is not really Dutch at all, but the next game will prove that this is not true.

It was played a few weeks ago in the Dutch junior championship, which was won, in the absence of our best youngsters Smeets and Stellwagen, by Dennis Ruijgrok.

Hilke van den Berg - Renze Rietveld, Dutch championship U-20 2004

1. a2-a3 f7-f5 2. b2-b4 Ng8-f6 3. Bc1-b2 e7-e6 4. h2-h3 a7-a5 5. b4-b5 b7-b6 6. e2-e3 Bc8-b7 7. Ng1-f3 Bf8-e7 8. g2-g4

This expansion on both flanks while the center is held back gives the game a pleasant whiff of Basmania. From John Watson we have learned that nowadays anything goes in opening strategy, but still what we see here is quite extraordinary.

8...f5xg4 With hindsight one can say that Black shouldn't have opened White's attacking lines.

9. h3xg4 0-0 10. Bf1-g2 d7-d6

After 10...Nxg4 11. Ng5 Bxg5 12. Qxg4 Bxg2 13. Qxg2 White has a very strong attack for the pawn.

11. g4-g5 Nf6-g4

None of the knight moves was quite satisfactory. Relatively best was probably 11...Ne4, but White would have a fine game, one possibility being 12. d3 Nc5 13. d4 Ne4 14. d5 Bxd5 15. Qd4 Rf7 16. Nfd2.

**12. Rh1xh7**

Bravo for Basmania! After twelve unorthodox moves White is already winning.

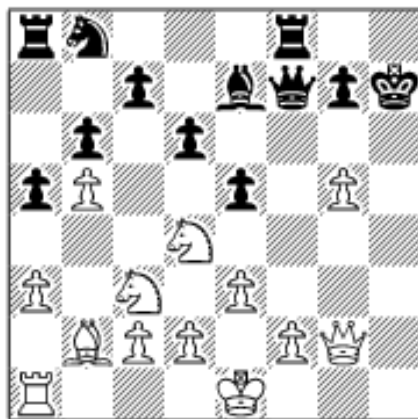
12...Kg8xh7 At first sight it seems as if White lacks material to follow up his attack, because his Nf3 is pinned. But it is exactly the opposition of Bb7 and Bg2 that makes his combination correct.

13. Nf3-d4 Qd8-e8

After 13...Bxg2 14. Qxg4 White is threatening mate by 15. Qh5+ Kg8 16. g6

14. Qd1xg4 Bb7xg2 15. Qg4xg2 Qe8-f7 16. Nb1-c3

Being only an exchange down White's attack is decisive.

16...e6-e5**17. 0-0-0**

Threatening 18. g6+ Qxg6 19. Rh1+

17...Be7xg5 18. Qg2xg5 e5xd4 19. Nc3-d5 Rf8-e8 20. Bb2xd4 Nb8-d7 21. Rd1-g1 Nd7-e5 22. f2-f4 Ne5-f3 23. Nd5-f6+

Elegant to the end.

23...Qf7xf6 24. Qg5-h5+ Qf6-h6 25. Rg1xg7+ Kh7-h8 26. Qh5xh6 mate



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