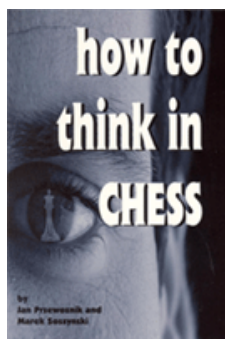




COLUMNISTS

Dutch Treat

Hans Ree



CHESSTHEATRE
 Play through and download
 the games from
[ChessCafe.com](#) in the
[DGT Game Viewer](#).

[The Complete](#)
[DGT Product Line](#)

Kortchnoi Speaks

On the YouTube website I type the word chess to see how many chess videos have been uploaded during the last 24 hours. It's 62 this time, bringing the total score to an estimated 34,500. By far not all chess videos on the web find their way to YouTube. Anyway, there and elsewhere on the web, there must be a lot going on that you wouldn't want to waste your time on.

Of course there are many interesting chess videos. Type 'Last days of Tal' on YouTube and you will be moved to tears. At least I was.

I liked the videos at www.nhchess.com, the website of the NH Chess Tournament that was played in August in Amsterdam. Half of them were made by Peter Doggers from Chessvibes.com, the others by Macauley Peterson from Chess.FM, a branch of the Internet Chess Club. Apart from being a chess journalist, Peterson is also a professional film maker, and it shows.

With some exaggeration the collection could have been titled '22 melancholy stories'. The tournament saw a team of 'Rising Stars' demolish a team that was tactfully named 'Experience' and many of the videos are about the sad things that old age will do to one's chess strength.

The star of the show is Viktor Kortchnoi. By the way, the nhchess site is one of the few places where his name is spelled correctly, the way Viktor does it himself.

I once asked him how it should be done and he explained that after his defection from the Soviet Union he had to decide how his Russian name should be transliterated into the Latin alphabet. He knew how it was done in English, German and French and he decided that his name should be a mixture of these three ways: Viktor Kortchnoi. Neither exactly English, German or French, his name should be pan-European.

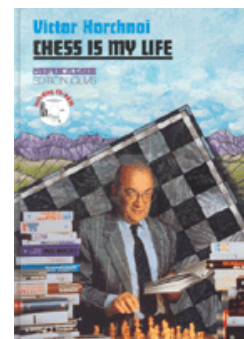
In jubilation, sorrow or anger, Viktor is always a joy to watch and listen to. Look at the video called 'Kortchnoi Speaks'. It starts with his rueful comment that the youngsters don't believe that he still can play chess and that two Dutch players continued their games against him when they were a rook down.

Then he remarks that the competition seems to have been set up – with a combined rating advantage to the youngsters of about 250 points – to end the series of these 'old against young' events for all time. They annihilate us, he says, and he stresses the fact that the word annihilate should be taken literally, because a man like him after four consecutive losses is on the brink of suicide.

We should not worry too much, I think, for the laments are softened by the broad grin of the experienced warrior who after thousands of battles has learned to laugh about himself.

He is never afraid to contradict himself. After this tournament we must work hard to learn to study with the computer, he says smiling and full of energy. But in another video he seems to despair of the possibility. What can we still learn, when we haven't learned it yet in decades of top chess?

Check out these
 bestselling titles from
[USCFSales.com](#):



[Chess is My Life](#)
 by Viktor Kortchnoi



[My Life for Chess Vol. 1](#)
 by Viktor Kortchnoi



[My Life for Chess Vol. 1](#)
 by Viktor Kortchnoi

He has praise for Fabiano Caruana, until he oversteps the time against him in a probably winning position and is seen barking at young Fabiano: “You’ll never play chess!” After that incident he criticizes Caruana for having put his hands in his pockets at the start of the game, a disrespectful and uncivilised attitude. We see a shot of Viktor himself, hand in his pocket, a nice touch.



L'Ami-Kortschnoi, in round 10

Source: www.nhchess.com

In the final video, ‘Kortschnoi lectures’, he generously lavishes praise on Erwin L’Ami, who had just defeated him in the final round, and we see him at the demo-board, smilingly explaining to the spectators what he had done wrong. Bravo!

Among the rising stars, L’Ami was the one exception escaping Viktor’s wrath. Ivan Cheparinov for instance, he compared to a lumberjack who frantically splits his trunks, driven by joyless perseverance. Of course Cheparinov adamantly denied that chess was not giving him pleasure and indeed it would be a very gloomy man that wouldn’t derive pleasure from the following game.

Kortschnoi - Cheparinov,

NH tournament, Amsterdam 2008

King’s Indian [E99]

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Be3

For many years this has been a favourite set-up for Kortschnoi. In accordance with his character, it is the most ambitious method.

10...f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Rc1 Rf6 14.c5 Nxc5 15.b4 Na6 16.Nb5 Rh6 17.Nxa7 Bd7

This natural move seems to have been new. In Ponomarenko•Shomoev, Tula 2001, Black went berserk and made a series of sacrifices: 17...Rxa7 18.Bxa7 Qe8 19.Bxa6 Qh5 20.h3 Bxh3 21.Kf2 Nf5 22.exf5 e4. This didn’t work out for Black, but the line gives an indication of Black’s possibilities.

18.Bxa6

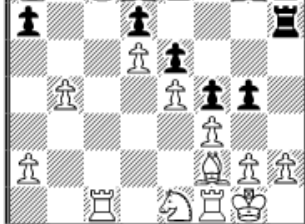
After the game this move was sharply criticised. White gains c6 for his knight, but later he will miss his bishop dearly.

18...bxa6 19.Qc2 g4 20.Qxc7 Qe8



21.g3

This may be a decisive mistake. He should have played 21.fxg4 when after



21...Bxg4 the position would become very complicated. One important line would be 22.Bb6 (though losing an exchange after 22...Be2 the defensive move 22.Rc3 would also come into consideration) 22...Qh5 23.Nf3 Bxf3 24. Rxf3 Qxh2+ 25.Kf1 Rg6 26.Rc2 Rg3 27.

Bg1 Rxf3+ 28.gxf3 Qh3+ 29.Ke2 Nf5 30.exf5 e4 31.fxe4 Qg4+ 32.Kf1 Qf3+ and Black gives a perpetual. Blood-stirring, as is normal in this variation of the King's Indian.

Watching the video 'Kortchnoi lectures' you will see that in a way this is a counterpart to his game against L'Ami. There, while attacking on the king's wing, he wrongly closed the position and here as a defender he wrongly opens it. I can imagine Viktor appreciating the irony and bursting with laughter.

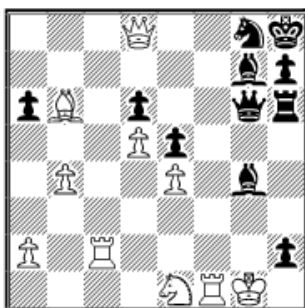
21...Kh8

After White's last move Black is not in a hurry. He knows that the position will open up to his advantage and he can take his time to bring his pieces to their optimal positions. In the long run White will succumb because of the weakness of e4.

22.Rc2 Ng8 23.fxg4 Bxg4 24.Bb6 Qg6 25.Nc6 fxg3 26.Nd8

White's position has fallen apart. After 26.hxg3, Black wins with 26... Qh5.

26...Rxd8 27.Qxd8 gxh2+



Here White overstepped. His position was hopeless, for after 28.Rxh2 Bf3+ 29. Rg2 Bxg2 30.Nxg2 Qxe4, Black would win easily.