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## Inside Chess

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There was quite a crowd of spectators as the Crown Group and the Parliament tournament got under way at De Moriaan playing venue in Wijk aan Zee. Chess journalists crowded into the too small press center and jockeyed for position on the tables before them. In a quaint throwback to a different age we noted plenty of fax machines and two outside telephone lines. It seems the staffers don't realize that this is the day and age of the Internet with a capital "I." We want our Internet access and more phone lines were being demanded. I had commandeered an entire line for myself for my "Chess.net" broadcast and I had earned a lot of frosty looks from my colleagues. Suddenly I realized I would much rather have been at the board playing rather than reporting. But also in this day and age a 2647 rating will not get you invited into Category 18 events. My focus was the Victor Korchnoi versus Garry Kasparov encounter and the players didn't disappoint my audience.

#### Gruenfeld Indian Defense

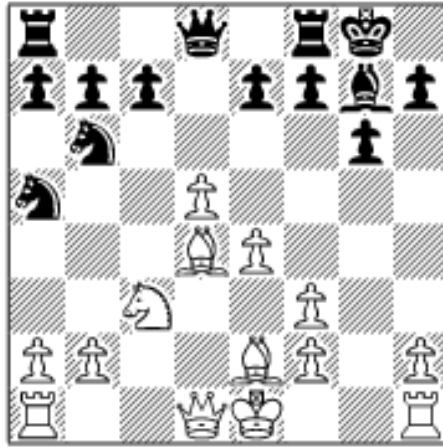
**White: GM Victor Korchnoi Black: GM Garry Kasparov**  
**Wijk aan Zee, Corus Tournament (01) 2000**

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5**

For a good portion of his career, the Gruenfeld Defense has been a major part of Korchnoi's repertoire as Black. Recently, he has played some offbeat lines that don't really challenge the Gruenfeld in the main topical variations. Undoubtedly this hadn't gone unnoticed by Kasparov.

**4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.Bd2**

An innocuous line for Black to face. In this position, Korchnoi has experimented with worse, trying 5.Na4?!, even winning a game or two along the way.

**5...Bg7 6.e4 Nb6 7.Be3 0-0 8.Be2 Nc6 9.Nf3 Bg4 10.d5 Bxf3 11.gxf3 Na5 12.Bd4**

Korchnoi has aimed for this position believing that his threats of b2-b4 combined with his big pawn center will give him the advantage. Black's next move chills his ambitions.

**12...Qd6!**

Very nicely played as Kasparov punches back.

Besides preventing the threat of b2-b4, Black also makes his own play in the center by controlling the dark-squares.

**13.Bxg7 Kxg7 14.f4?**

Bluntly speaking a mistake from which White doesn't recover. Victor wasn't about to play 14.Qd4+ e5! Which stops White's plan cold. Instead, he thinks he is chasing an initiative. In hindsight, 14.Qc1 was probably best but not what White wanted.

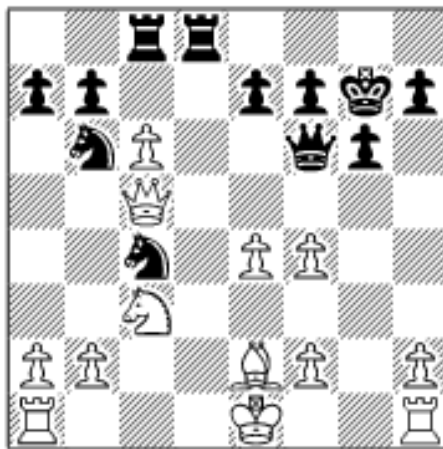
**14...Qf6!!**

A very fine move which earns Black the advantage. Kasparov dodges 14...Qxf4? 15.Qd4+ Kg8 16.Qb4 or 16.Qc5, going after the a5-Knight. Now White is cursed with having to guard the f4-pawn, the b2-pawn and the c4-square. Black has the advantage.

**15.Qd2 c6! 16.dxc6 Rfd8! 17.Qe3 Nac4 18.Qc5?!**

This only lands Korchnoi in worse trouble. Still, it has to be admitted that 18.Bxc4 Nxc4 19.Qe2 Qxc6 was no fun for White.

**18...Rac8**



After this, Black wins back his pawn with the better development and structure. Objectively speaking White is now lost. It's a miracle that Victor defends this position as well as he now does.

**19.c7 Rd7 20.Bxc4 Rxc7  
21.Qg5 Rxc4 22.Qxf6+ Kxf6  
23.Rc1 Rcd4 24.b3 Rd3  
25.Ke2**

An ugly move to make as White invites the Black Rooks to penetrate - with check even - but allowing ...Rd3-f3 would have meant the certain loss of a pawn.

**25...Rd2+ 26.Kf3 R7d3+ 27.Kg2 e6**

A simple pause in the action as Black prepares to reposition his b6-Knight but first he wants to cover the d5-square.

**28.Rhe1**

Naturally, White had to avoid 28.Rhd1?? Rxc3, winning a piece. For similar reasons, White must also avoid a future Re1-e2, which would also lose a piece.

**29...Ke7?!**

Not the most inspired reaction. Black should have continued with his plan by 29...Nd7, when he has ideas of ...g6-g5 in order to win control over the e5-square or even ...Kf6- e7 making way for ...Nd7-f6-h5 in order to clip the f4-pawn. In short, White faces a very unpleasant grovel. After the text, Korchnoi was down to a few minutes but finds a way to rally the troops.

**29.f5!**

Certainly underestimated by Kasparov as White is permitted to trade off one of his weak pawns.

**29...Nd7 30.fxe6 fxe6 31.Kf1! Ne5 32.Re2!**

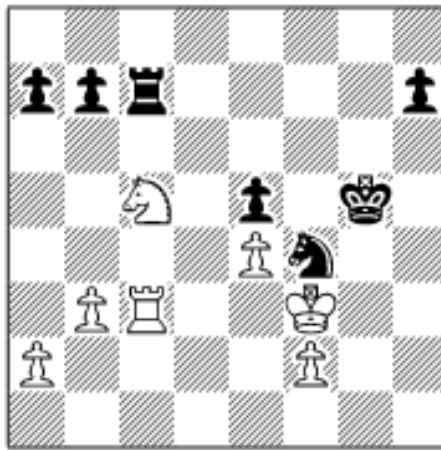
It must have been a tremendous relief to get rid of one of the

powerful Black Rooks. White is still in trouble but now he has a chance to grovel to a draw.

**32...g5 33.Na4 Rd1+ 34.Re1 Rxe1+ 35.Kxe1 Rd7 36.Ke2 Nd3 37.Rc3 Nf4+ 38.Kf3 Kf6?!**

At this point, both players were in a bit of time trouble. I think it was a mistake for Kasparov to allow White to trade off his h2-pawn. After 38...e5, followed by a quick ...h7-h5, Black has all the plusses he needs to win.

**39.Nc5 Rc7 40.h4 e5 41.hxg5+ Kxg5**



With the time control reached, both players had a chance to survey the damage. Instead, as is his habit, Korchnoi rushed one more move just to be sure he had reached the time control. This bad habit seems to be a decade or two old following an unpleasant loss on time.

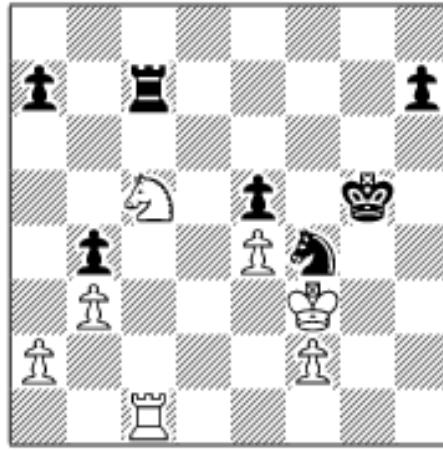
**42.Rc4?**

A blunder, which considerably eases Black's task. Necessary was 42.Rc1 in order to play Rc1-g1+ breaking the pin if allowed. The consensus was the 42.Rc1 Kf6 43.Nd3 Rxc1 44.Nxc1, might lead to a winning Knight ending for Black. While that may be true, the text doesn't help at all.

**42...b5?**

Remarkably this mistake was played after a long think. White hardly has a threat in the position and the only question is should Black force a Knight ending by 42...b6 43.Na6 Rxc4 44.bxc4 Ne6 which is a likely win, or just play: 42...h5!, leaving White in the same quandary as he was at move forty-two? I would've opted for the latter.

**43.Rc1 b4**



Kasparov reveals his clever idea. He wants to force a knight ending on more favorable terms. If 44.Nd3 Rxc1 (44...Rc3!?) 45.Nxc1, and this time the c1-Knight is truly boxed in, unlike our previous knight ending. However, the idea is just a bit too clever...

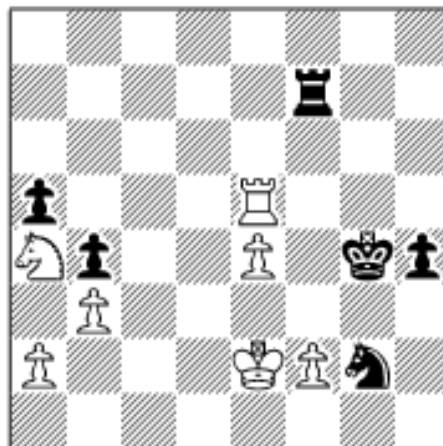
**44.Rc4! a5 45.Na4!**

Offering the knight ending right back, but this time, after 45...Rxc4 46.bxc4, White is relieved to have his own passer. Kasparov defers the Knight ending.

**45...Rf7**

A stunning development, White now has an active Rook on an open file! Real counterplay. Most of us in the press center had given Victor's position up as hopeless. Now he seems to have a real chance to save the game.

**46.Ke3 Ng2+ 47.Ke2 Nf4+ 48.Ke3 h5 49.Rc5 Ng2+ 50.Ke2 h4 51.Rxe5+ Kg4**



Stunned by his good fortune, Korchnoi now commits a grievous error. Nigel Short and I were analyzing the ramifications of 52.f3+ Kg3 (52...Rxf3 53.Rg5+ Kxg5 54.Kxf3) 53.Rg5+ Kh2, without coming to any conclusions when Korchnoi went splat.

**52.Re8??**

Losing on the spot.

**52...Nf4+ 53.Ke3 h3 54.f3+ Kh4 0-1**

There is no stopping the h-pawn: 55.Rh8+ Nh5 56.Kf2 Rg7 and

the pawn scores a touchdown.

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