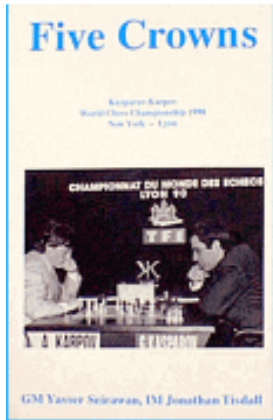


Inside Chess

Yasser Seirawan



Order the highly acclaimed

Five Crowns

by Yasser Seirawan
and
Jonathan Tisdall

Yasser Annotates:

Kortschnoi - Timman, Brussels 1988

Viktor Kortschnoi - Jan Timman

World Cup (2) 1988

Grünfeld [D86]

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

Kortschnoi, of course, is noted for his broad experience on the black side of the Grünfeld Defense. It was most interesting to see him play the white side.

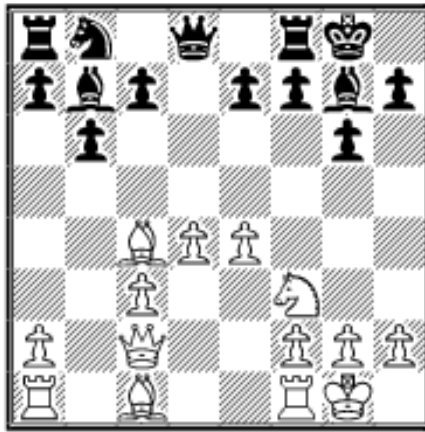
4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 b6

A move Jan used with atrocious results in his 1986 Candidates Match against Yusupov. Throughout the whole match Jan stood by the opening, claiming he always had a good position but subsequent poor play cost the game.

8.Nf3

Not bad but not the most testing. Yusupov went for the jugular with 8.Qf3! O-O 9.h4 with a very dangerous kingside attack for free. Just another note about move order here; it's interesting that Jan chose b6 before castling. Had he played 7...O-O it's quite probable that Viktor would have chosen 8.Ne2. In this case White's knight would be far more clumsily placed. As far as I'm aware the only way for White to show up 7...O-O is 8.Ba3 as I played against Fedorowicz in Lugano. In short, 7...b6 may well be inaccurate.

8...O-O 9.O-O Bb7 10.Qc2



An interesting and, for me, original plan. White's idea is simple; he wants to meet c7-c5 with d4-d5 and so guards the sensitive c3-pawn. But the points are much deeper than that. If Black is prevented from playing the counter c7-c5 the only option to avoid strangulation is e7-e5 but then a subsequent d4-d5 from White will kill both of Black's bishops. Therefore, Black *must* return to c7-c5. This will then force the position open. White

will now place his pieces in such a way as to gain maximum advantage from the eventual clearance.

10...Nc6 11.Re1!

Excellent! I love this move. It completely crosses Black up. If Black was hoping for a position, say, with 11...e5 12.d5 Na5 13.Bf1 counterplay with f7-f5 will be completely ruled out. In the meantime, Kortchnoi is planning Bf1, Rb1, d5!, and c4. This plan is very difficult to meet.

11...Qd7 12.Rb1 e6

Nicely played; Black adopts a little preventive medicine and quietly develops his pieces. Jan is preparing another possible chip against White's center with Na5 and f7-f5. But, here again the sweet move 11.Re1 trips Black up. Black has to be prepared to meet e4xf5 and Nf3.

13.Ba3

This is a question of taste so I won't condemn this move. Viktor feels that Black *has* to counter with c7-c5 and so makes it as difficult as possible for his opponent to carry out this plan. But, frankly, I feel there is bigger fish to fry—namely Black's king. I feel White should play 13.h4! This would seriously deter Black from then making the break f7-f5. If Black sits idle h4-h5 will produce a serious attack against Black's juicy dark-squared weaknesses. Finally, I feel that if White is adamant about using his bishop to cover c5 the outpost e3 would be even better. From e3 the bishop could eye the kingside too. But again this is taste. Viktor has in view variations where White uses a rook lift to e3 to get at the black king.

13...Rfd8

A possibly questionable move; I would play 13...Rfe8. This would keep the future option of f7-f5 alive.

14.h4! Na5 15.Bf1!

While playing over this game one must be impressed by the purposefulness of White's every move. Each one is a link to a deep plan conceived long ago.

15...c5

Here we have it then. Both sides have steamed ahead to this type of a position. Both players believe this push to be the only source of counterplay. The question is – who will benefit more from the opening of the position?

16.dxc5 Qc7



17.Qc1!

Outstanding! By this simple move White clarifies the whole situation. His pieces are *dominating* the game. Strange, but look closely! A dark cloud hangs over Black's king. White's rooks are better placed than Black's. So is the knight. White's light squared bishop is also more influential than his counterpart. Now on to something concrete. With his last

move, White announces his hostile intentions with respect to h4-h5xg6. In the meantime Black is left grasping for counterplay but where to attack White?

17...bxc5 18.h5 Nc6

Jan takes a look at the kingside and doesn't like what he sees. If Black tries to hold his c-pawn by 18...Bc6 19.hxg6 hxg6 20.Qg5 Nb7 then 21.Qh4 preparing Ng5 is munchy. Also, the rook lift is no longer idle fantasy.

19.hxg6 hxg6



20.Qg5

Pow! Viktor goes directly for the king. Black is prevented from 20...Ne5 21.Nxe5 and Rxb7 wins. By interweaving simple and intricate moves Viktor has created a work of art. The position is winning.

20...Rab8 21.Bxc5 Qa5

time a7 hangs.

Again, 21...Ne5 is prevented as this

22.Rb5 Qxc3 23.Reb1! Bf6

Forced. Not 23...Ba8 24.Rxb8 Rxb8 25.Rxb8+ Nxb8 26.Qd8+ wins. Black must deflect White's queen from the protection of the bishop on c5. This is also agreeable to White as he's anxious to use the g5-square as a springboard for his knight.

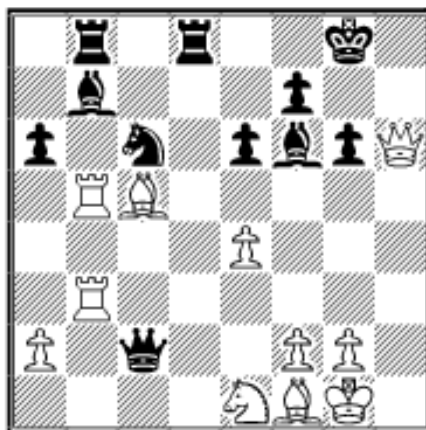
24.Qh6 a6

Again, Black has no choice: 24...Ba6 meets 25.Rxb8 Nxb8 (Don't leave that f8 square weak.) 26.Ng5 Bxg5 27.Qxg5 with a strategically winning game.

25.R1b3!

This costs Black a piece. Once the queen is driven from contact with the bishop on c5 the one on b7 is left hanging. And remember that rook lift fantasy?

25...Qc2 26.Ne1!



Well, here it is. Rook to h3 is a killer threat forcing the exchange of queens.

26...Qd2 27.Qxd2 Rxd2 28.Rxb7 Rxb7 29.Rxb7 Rxa2 30.Rb6 Nd4 31.Rxa6 Ne2+ 32.Bxe2 Rxe2 33.Nf3 Rxe4 34.Ra8+ Kg7 35.Bf8+ Kh7 36.Ra7 g5 37.Rxf7+ Kg6 38.Rd7 g4 39.Nd2 Re1+ 40.Nf1 1-0

A marvelous win by Kortchnoi; it is

this kind of form that makes him one of the most feared grandmasters in the world.

 [TOP OF PAGE](#)

 [HOME](#)

 [COLUMNS](#)

 [LINKS](#)

 [ARCHIVES](#)

 [ABOUT THE
CHESS CAFE](#)

[\[ChessCafe.com Home Page\]](#) [\[Book Reviews\]](#) [\[Columnists\]](#)
[\[Endgame Studies\]](#) [\[The Skittles Room\]](#) [\[Archives\]](#)
[\[Links\]](#) [\[Online Bookstore\]](#) [\[About The Chess Cafe\]](#) [\[Contact Us\]](#)

Copyright 2005 CyberCafes, LLC. All Rights Reserved.

"**The Chess Cafe®**" is a registered trademark of Russell Enterprises, Inc.