



COLUMNISTS

Inside Chess

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Inside Chess, 1988/6

The Schacknytt Festival in Malmö

A Substitute for a Dream by Lars Grahn

Probably, the Hastings Chess Congress held annually in December is the oldest traditional international chess event in the world. Over the years, several great players have visited the frosty western shores of England and damned the British winter. Some have even promised never to return; others never got the opportunity. In 1932, Dutch Master Daniel Nobeboom got pneumonia and then died. Lesser mortals have followed his example.

Nevertheless, it has always been a dream of mine to play in Hastings. As time goes by, though, godforsaken Hastings floats further and further from mind. What to do?

Right. Discuss it with local chess devotees, find a sponsor, and then put a festival on in my own home town. This is how the Schacknytt Festival in Malmö, the third largest city in Sweden, came into being.

The premier event in the previous two festivals, an open tournament for Elo-rated players, had been a success for local organizers, since the player from Malmö, Harry Schussler, satisfied the GM norm in both. He made a third attempt in 1987/88. By this time we had accepted the Hastings formula of a GM round-robin tournament plus an open tournament for other players (like the Challengers at Hastings).

International events are very rare in Sweden. As a matter of fact, our GM Ulf Andersson has not played a tournament in his native country since 1971! He was invited to Malmö, thought about it for a while, and decided in favor of Reggio Emilia. The Italians offered a higher category.

Four Swedish IMs did participate in Malmö: Thomas Ernst, Ferdinand Hellers, Harry Schussler, and Tom Wedberg, all of whom have one or two GM norms. The English entry, IM Mark Hebden, achieved a GM norm some years ago. Five GMs played: Yuri Balashov and Viktor Kupreichik from the USSR; Carlos Garcia Palermo of Argentina; Curt Hansen of Denmark; and Lars Karlsson of Sweden.

Kupreichik started with three wins, followed by a series of draws interrupted by a loss against Wedberg in the penultimate round, which allowed Balashov to catch him. They agreed to a swift draw in their last round game to share first prize. Eighteen-year-old Ferdinand Hellers had a chance to join them, but he lost to Garcia in the last round.

Yuri Balashov (2550) – Curt Hansen (2550)

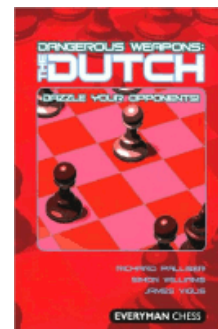
Malmö, 1988

Grünfeld Defense [D89]

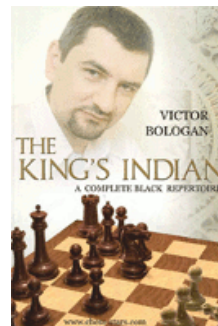
Annotated by GM Yuri Balashov

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 c5 8.
Ne2 Nc6 9.Be3 0-0 10.0-0 Bg4 11.f3 Na5 12.Bd3 cxd4 13.cxd4 Be6 14.Rc1
Bxa2 15.Qa4 Be6 16.d5 Bd7 17.Qb4 b6 18.f4 e6 19.d6 e5 20.f5

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The first twenty moves come without notes, since they result in a well-known key position in the Grünfeld Defense. In the last couple of years I have tried to avoid long theoretical variations, but this system in particular I have played ever since my youth. I have gathered a lot of experience through the years.

20...Rc8

Not best, for it does not counter White's main idea of activating the knight.

21.Nc3 Bc6 22.Nb5 Qd7

White obtains a clear plus after 22...Bxb5 23.Rxc8 Qxc8 24.Bxb5, since he dominates the light squares. A drawback to the text is that Black's bishop on g7 becomes passive.

23.f6! Bh8 24.Be2 Rfd8 25.Rcd1 Rb8

It is not easy to find counterplay for Black. The move 25...Qb7 meets 26.Nc7 Bxe4 27.Ba6. During the game it seemed to me that Black ought to play 25...Ba8 26.Nc7 Qc6, but even then White is better after 27.h3 h5 28.Ba6 Bb7 29.Bxb7 Nxb7 30.Nd5 or 28...Rb8 29.Qc3 Qxe4 30.Qxe5.

26.h3 h5 27.Kh2

White secures his king. But even stronger was 27.Rd2! with the idea, if possible, of doubling rooks on either file.

27...Nb7 28.Nxa7 Nxd6 29.Nxc6 Qxc6



Black has succeeded in eliminating the dangerous pawn on d6, but that does not mean all his problems are solved. His passive bishop on h8 becomes obvious.

30.Rd5!

You can find tactical motives for this maneuver in the variation 30...Nxe4 31.Rxd8+ Rxd8 32.Bf3 Rd4 (both 32...Bxf6 and 32...Qxf6 are hopeless) 33.Bxd4 exd4 34.Qe7 Qd6+ 35.Kg1!.

30...Ne8

It is hard to find an alternative for Black. Neither 30...b5 31.Rfd1 Nb7 32.

Rxb5 nor 30...Nb7 31.Qxb6 saves him.

31.Bb5 Qb7

When the queen moves any other way, there follows 31...Qc7 32.Rc1 Qb7 33.Rxd8 Rxd8 34.Qe7 or 31...Qe6 32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Qe7 Qxe7 34.fxe7 Rb8 35.Rd1 Bf6 36.Rd8 Rxd8 37.exd8Q Bxd8 32.Bxe8.

32.Rxd8 Rxd8 33.Qe7



33...Qc7

The move 33...Qb8 is refuted by a beautiful queen sac 34.Qxf7+! Kxf7 35.Bc4 + Kf8 36.Bh6+ Ng7 37.fxg7+ Ke7 38.Bg5+ Kd6 39.Rd1+ Kc5 40.Rxd8 Qxd8 41.Bxd8 Bxg7 42.Bd5.

34.Bxb6

Also winning is 34.Rc1 Qxe7 35.fxe7 Rb8 36.Rd1 or 34...Qb8 35.Rd1! Rxd1 36.Bxe8.

34...Qxe7 35.fxe7 Rb8 36.Rd1 1-0

After 36...Rxb6 37.Rd8 Bf6 (37...Re6 38.Rxe8+ Kg7 39.Bc4) 38.Rxe8+ Kg7 39.Rg8+ Kxg8 40.e8Q+ Kg7 41.Bc6, it is only a matter of time.

Carlos Garcia Palermo - Viktor Kupreichik

Malmö, 1988

King's Indian Defense [E61]

Annotated by GM Viktor Kupreichik

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.Bg5 0-0 5.e3 c5 6.Bxf6!?

A very interesting decision which gives the game an unusual run.

6...Bxf6

The alternative 6...exf6 leads to Black weaknesses after 7.dxc5 Na6 8.Nf3 Nxc5 9.Be2 and 10.0-0, although he does hold on to the bishop-pair.

7.Ne4 Qb6



8.Qd2?!

Of all possibilities this wins the prize for worst. One can expect sharp play after 8.Qb3!? cxd4 (8...d6!? is interesting) 9.Qxb6 axb6 10.Nxf6+ exf6 11.exd4 Nc6 12.Ne2! d5 13.cxd5 Nb4 14.Kd2 Rd8 and Black has compensation. The simple continuation, 8.Nf3 cxd4 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.exd4 Nc6, leads to equality. Very tempting is 8.Nxc5!? Qxb2 9.Bd3 with continued pressure on the kingside.

8...cxd4 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.exd4 d5! 11.cxd5 Rd8 12.Bc4 b5?!

With 12...Nd7 followed by ...Nb6xd5 Black is better.

13.Bb3

Very unclear is 13.Qa5 Rd6 (or 13...Rd7), but 13...Qb6 gives Black at least equality.

13...Bb7 14.Rc1 a5 15.a3 Nd7

After exchanges on d5, the bind on the eighth rank would be very unpleasant.

16.Ne2 Nb6 17.Rc5!

That's right! An exchange of rooks makes White's defense easier.

17...a4 18.Ba2 Bxd5 19.Bxd5 Rxd5 20.Rxd5 Nxd5 21.0-0 Rc8

Also possible is 21...Rd8.

22.Rc1 Rxc1+ 23.Qxc1 Qf5!



Black is not afraid of more exchanges. All possible endgames give him better chances.

24.h3

More accurate is 24.Qd1, because Black's next move practically forces a knight exchange. The queen ending gives Black the upper hand.

24...Qd3 25.Nc3 Nxc3 26.bxc3

In such endings everything depends on the player's judgment of the pawn ending. In this case it is clear that 26.Qxc3? Qxc3 27.Bxc3 Kg7 28.Kf1 Kf6 29.Ke2 Ke6 30.Kd3 Kd5 gives Black far too many tempi.

26...f6

Better is 26...Kg7, because now White could have offered an exchange of queens: 27.Qe3 Qxe3? 28.fxe3 Kf6 29.Kf2 Ke6 30.e4 f5 31.Ke3 and Black cannot break through White's defense. Black can also play 27...Qb1+ 28.Kh2 Kf7, and after 29.d5 Qb3 he keeps the initiative.

27.Qb2 Qd1+ 28.Kh2 Qb3 29.Qc1 Kf7 30.g4 Ke6 31.Qe3+ Kd6 32.Qg3+

Kd5 33.Qd3

White defends well and prevents Black's king from breaking in on the queenside. Now 33...Qxa3?? would be a gross blunder because of 34.c4+!.

33...Kc6 34.Qe4+ Kd6 35.Qf4+ Kd5 36.Qe3 Kc4

Far more simple is 36...Qc2!, pointed out by Balashov after the game. Then the queen maneuvers to e4 and the king to b3.

37.Qxe7 Kxc3 38.Qxf6 Qd5 39.Qe5 Qxd4 40.Qxb5 Qxf2+ 41.Kh1 Qf3+ 42.Kh2 Qf4+ 43.Kg2 Qe4+ 44.Kf2 Qc2+ 45.Kf3



This is the position for which I was aiming when I entered the forced variation starting with my thirty-sixth move. But at this point I suddenly realized that my plan, 45...Qd3+? 46.Qxd3+ Kxd3, would be met by 47.g5! and the pawn ending is drawn: 47...Kc3 48.Ke3 Kb3 49.Kd3 Kxa3 50.Kc3. White can never lose the opposition since he has the extra tempo h3-h4. Now Black's win comes as a surprise.

45...Qb3 46.Qc5+ Kb2+ 47.Kf4 Qc3! 48.Qd6 Qc1+ 49.Kg3 Ka2!

It is all about *zugzwang*, which is rare in a queen ending.

50.Kh4 Qh6+ 51.Kg3 Qe3+ 52.Kh4 Qh6+ 53.Kg3 Qc1 54.Kh4 Qe3!



The queen has an ideal position on this square. Now White must sacrifice the pawn on a3, since mate is threatened after 55...h6 followed by ...Qe1 or ...Qf2.

55.Qd5+ Kxa3 56.Qd6+ Ka2 57.Qd5+ Kb2 58.Qb5+ Ka3 0-1

If White continues to give checks, the black king walks to the kingside. Otherwise, the game could have concluded: 59.Qa6 h6! 60.Qxg6 Qg5+!.

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