

New Opening Notes

THREE KNIGHTS

White's system in a game **Westerinen v Zwaig** (Sweden 1969), was interesting:

1 P-K4 P-K4 2 N-QB3 N-QB3 3 N-B3 P-KN3 4 P-Q4 PxP 5 N-Q5 B-N2 6 B-KN5 QN-K2 7 NxQP

7 P-K5 or 7 B-QB4 are keener.

7... P-QB3 8 N-QB3!

The most logical as the exchange on K7, which used to be the regular continuation, only aids Black's development.

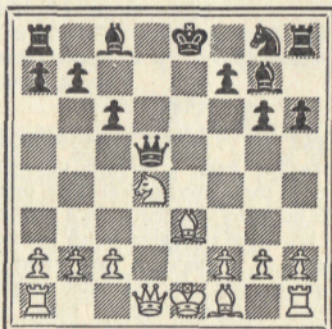
8... P-KR3 9 B-K3

Or 9 B-KB4 P-Q4 10 Q-Q2 N-B3.

9... P-Q4

This may well be premature as Petrosyan got a good game against Gufeld in the 37th U.S.S.R. Championship by 9... N-B3 10 B-QB4 O-O 11 Q-B3? (11 O-O P-Q4) 11... P-Q4 12 PxP P-B4!! and now 13 N(Q4)-K2 B-N5 14 Q-N3 N-B4 etc. or as in the game 13 N(Q4)-N5 P-R3 14 P-Q6 N-B4 15 N-B7 NxP! White's pieces are in a mess and his king in danger.

10 PxP NxP 11 NxN QxN



Black seems to have got out of all opening difficulties but 12 N-N5! jolts him.

12... Q-K4

Or 12... QxQch 13 RxQ and if 13... PxN 14 BxNPch K-K2 15 B-B5ch K-K3 16 B-B4ch K-B4 17 R-Q5ch winning, or 13... B-K4 14 B-B5 followed by 15 N-Q6ch or even 14 B-Q4 BxB 15 N-B7ch K-K2 (15... K-Q1? self-pinning his own bishop, 16 NxR finishing the exchange up) 16 RxB R-N1 17 B-B4 with advantage to White as his pieces are much better placed.

13 N-Q6ch K-K2 14 N-B4 Q-Q4 15 Q-K2 B-Q2 16 R-Q1 Q-K3 17 R-Q6 Q-B4 18 Q-Q2

White has a considerable advantage.

by Yakov Estrin

QUEEN'S GAMBIT—TWICE!

A curious variation of the **Queen's Gambit Accepted** occurred in the **Portisch v Bronstein** game at Monaco 1969.

1 P-Q4 P-Q4 2 P-QB4 P-QB4 3 PxQP

For a long time 3 N-KB3 was preferred.

3... N-KB3 4 P-K4!

Very strong, whereas after 4 PxP, QxP would enable Black gradually to equalise.

4... NxKP 5 PxP NxQBP 6 N-KB3

White has refused to win material, preferring to get an open game with scope for developing his pieces.

6... P-K3 7 N-B3 PxP 8 QxP Q-K2ch

Donner v O'Kelly, Havana 1965 went 8... N-B3 9 QxQch NxQ 10 N-Q5 N(Q1)-K3 11 B-K3 B-Q2 12 N-K5 B-R5 13 N-QB3 P-QR3 and now by 14 BxN NxB 15 B-B4 White could have kept the upper hand. 8... Q-K2ch is certainly no easier for Black.

9 B-K3 N-B3 10 B-QN5 B-Q2 11 O-O N-K3 12 N-K5!

Now Black is in real trouble.

12... NxN 13 QxN(K5) BxB 14 NxB P-QR3 15 QR-Q1! R-Q1 16 B-N6 RxR 17 RxR P-B3 18 Q-KB5 P-N3

Or 18... PxN 19 QxNPch K-B2 20 R-Q7.

19 N-B7ch K-B2

19... NxN 20 Q-B8ch K-B2 21 R-Q7.

20 Q-Q5 Resigns as 21 R-K1 kills.

CENTRE COUNTER

Black got a fine game in the Kiel variation in the game **Shaposhnikov v Smolensky** in the eighth U.S.S.R. Postal Championship.

1 P-K4 P-Q4 2 PxP N-KB3 3 P-Q4 NxP 4 P-QB4 N-N5 5 Q-R4ch QN-B3 6 P-QR3

Not 6 P-Q5 P-QN4! 7 PxP N-Q5 8 N-QR3 P-K4 with a fine active position for Black whilst 7 QxNP N-B7ch 8 K-Q1 B-Q2! would also be good for Black as if 9 PxN B-N5 dbl ch! 10 KxN Q-Q8ch and 11... QxQBch with a decisive advantage; but not 9... BxP dis ch 10 KxN when White gets good value for his queen—three minor pieces.

6... N-R3 7 P-Q5 N-B4 8 Q-Q1

Not 8 Q-N5 P-K3! 9 PxN P-QN3 and Black wins the queen by 10... P-QR3.

8... N-N1 9 P-QN4 N-K5

White has picked up a lot of tempi but

where are his developed pieces to show for them? He has loosened and weakened his own queen's side.

10 Q-B3

In a game from the eighth U.S.S.R. championship final against Dragunov, Smolensky also got a good game after 10 B-Q3 N-KB3 11 R-R2 P-QR4 12 P-N5 P-K3 13 PxP BxKP 14 N-K2 QN-Q2 15 N-B4 N-B4.

10... N-KB3 11 B-N2 P-QR4 12 P-N5 P-K3 13 PxP BxKP 14 N-B3

White forgets that he should get his king into safety before developing his queen's side. 14 B-K2 QN-Q2 15 N-R3 was the right way to achieve this.

14... B-Q3 15 P-B5 B-K4

The strongest square for the bishop,

intending to manoeuvre his QN to QB4. Black's advantage in development is such that he can keep tempting White to waste further time by capturing the "poisoned pawn" at QN7.

16 R-Q1

Forcing Black to make a good move. Minor piece development was essential.

16... Q-K2 17 Q-K2?

A losing move in a difficult position. Of course discovered checks on the king's file were in the air; e.g., 17 QxP?? BxNch 18 BxB B-Q4 dis ch.

17... B-QB5!

Clearly White had overlooked this and he was now forced to resign as either 18 QxB BxN dbl ch or 18 Q-K3 N-N5 would lose him disastrous amounts of material.

WORLD RATINGS & MASTER TITLES

At the International Chess Federation's meeting at Lugano, October 1968, a sub-committee was set up consisting of Folke Rogard (F. I. D. E. President), Dr. Dorazil (Austria), Grand master S. Gligoric (Yugoslavia) and Prof. A. E. Elo (Milwaukee) to put forward an improved scheme for calculating and awarding master and grand master titles. The present system treats all grand masters as equal and all international masters as equal and may involve only a mere handful of games. The result has been a cheapening of titles, and other inconsistencies, such as Suttles' experience in the Olympiad at Lugano. He was denied the grand master title because he did not meet the norm. He failed to achieve the norm because he won too many games! He beat Kastro, who happened to hold no title. Had he not played this game, he would have achieved the norm but because he played and won, he failed! A few hours later, Kastro himself was awarded the interna-

tional-master title, for his performance at Lugano!!

The new scheme was put before this year's F.I.D.E. meeting at Puerto Rico but was shelved until 1970, mainly through determined opposition from the U.S.S.R. and Eastern European countries.

Prof. Elo is the main architect. He has now enlisted a computer to calculate rankings of players throughout the world on a system which is the only one, he claims, based scientifically on statistical and probability theory. It was proposed as the basis for allocation of titles. A minimum of 30 games is enforced. Tournaments are rated on the basis of ratings of participants, so that another anomaly is removed: at present, for instance, Zonal tournaments vary enormously in strength, so that one player may qualify for the Interzonal from a much weaker field than another. The Russians at Puerto Rico complained about this!

Here is Prof. Elo's world list.

INTERNATIONAL RATING LIST COVERING JANUARY 1966 TO MAY 1969

Values are expressed on the scale of the United States Chess Federation on which the master level is set at 2200 and the category interval at 200 points. Ratings marked with an asterisk * constitute a self consistent set. The British ratings are equivalent to the U.S. with the fourth figure deleted, less ten.

Augustin Czechoslovakia	2350	Bednarski Poland	*2420
Averbakh U.S.S.R.	*2540	Beni Austria	2200
Bagirov U.S.S.R.	2480	Benko U.S.A.	*2540
Adamski Poland	*2450	Bertok Yugoslavia	*2430
Addison U.S.A.	*2470	Besser W. Germany	2460
Ader Chile	2360	Bhend Switzerland	2300
Ageycenko U.S.S.R.	2440	Bikhovsky U.S.S.R.	2440
Aloni Israel	2320	Bilek Hungary	*2500
Adorjan Hungary	2420	Bisguier U.S.A.	*2460
Antoshin U.S.S.R.	*2560		