

OPENING

NO COMPROMISES

Michal Krasenkow shares his special knowledge with you

Dutch Defence A85: 1.d4 f5 2.c4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 g6
4.h4



There are many reasons for avoiding the Leningrad Variation in the Dutch. One might perhaps wish to avoid the sort of positions which can be expected or one is put off by what is, after all, a considerable number of successes for Black. With 4.h4, which leads to the diagram, White chooses a completely independent path. There will also be no compromises: the next move is 5.h5 – prepared to offer an exchange on h5. So White's chances of success are already good, because from the diagram the most frequently played move is the inferior 4...♗g7; after the almost forced 5.h5 ♗xh5 6.e4! fxe4 (here after 6...♗f6 7.exf5 Black is not yet ready for 7...♗xf5) 7.♗xh5! gxh5 8.♗xh5+ ♖f8 9.♗h6 things are already becoming difficult for the black king.

But at least in the games of stronger players, the better 4...d6 is seen nowadays. After 5.h5 ♗xh5 6.♗xh5! (not 6.e4 on account of 6...♗f6 7.exf5 ♗xf5!) 6...gxh5 7.e4



Black is facing a difficult decision. Michal Krasenkow examines in his article on the DVD first of all 7...c6, 7...♗g7 and 7...♗d7, but in each case White recovers part of the material and retains his overpowering initiative.

The most often played 7...♗e6 was recently chosen even by Anatoli Vaisser, a great specialist in the Leningrad, but after 8.♗e2 ♖d7 9.d5 ♗f7 10.exf5 ♗g7 11.♗f3 Black's position was difficult to play and in the long run White (Anthony Wirig) collected the full point.

The Polish grandmaster considers the best defence to be 7...fxe4 8.♗xh5+ ♖d7. Here Black remains a clear exchange up though White's compensation is also perfectly clear and in an over-the-board game it is easier to play with the white pieces.

Conclusion: Although White cannot point to an objective opening advantage, Black is well advised for his part to avoid the dangerous variation with 4.h4. See the article by Boris Schipkov on the next page for more on this subject.