

Contents

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.a3

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Foreword

The Queen's Indian Defence 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 b6 was basically conceived as an antidote to other openings – White wanted to avoid the Nimzo-Indian, while Black was looking for alternatives to the Queen's Gambit. Time has not changed tastes much. The pin from b4 remains unpleasant to many first players, not to mention doubled pawns on the c-file!

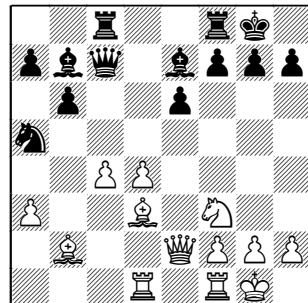
For a long time the QID had the reputation of a peaceful unambitious opening where White would struggle to obtain even a slight edge. The b7-bishop gave Black full control over the central squares, and especially e4. Besides, a possible exchange of light-squared bishops would reduce even further White's chances of developing a real initiative in the centre.

The concept of the great champion Tigran Petrosian that White should spend a tempo on a2-a3 to secure the c3-knight did not receive universal acclaim at first. Everyone thought it was just another sign of the notorious cautiousness of "Iron

Tigran". Meanwhile Petrosian kept playing his system, earning points and leaving the other players perplexed.

Only in the late 70ies and early 80ies the attitude began to change. Chess players appreciated the strong points of Petrosian's idea and started independent exploration. Thus the Dementiev system (with ♗d2) was born. However the real burst of popularity came with the successes of Garry Kasparov. He not only embraced the Petrosian system, but he charged it with energy. Kasparov crushed his opponents by direct kingside attacks, making it seem natural and easy, like his victory over Portisch:

Kasparov-Portisch, Niksic 1983



Foreword

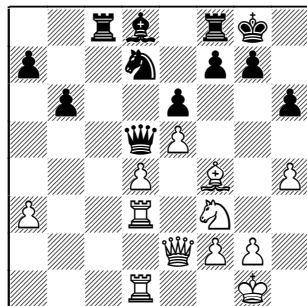
17.d5 exd5 18.cxd5 ♙xd5
19.♙xh7+ ♗xh7 20.♞xd5 ♖g8
21.♙xg7 ♗xg7 22.♜e5 ♞fd8 23.♞g4+
♜f8 24.♞f5 f6 25.♜d7+ ♞xd7
26.♞xd7 ♞c5 27.♞h7 ♞c7 28.♞h8+
♜f7 29.♞d3 ♜c4 30.♞fd1 ♜e5
31.♞h7+ ♜e6 32.♞g8+ ♜f5 33.g4+
♜f4 34.♞d4+ ♜f3 35.♞b3+ 1-0

A lot of time had passed before Black reached to the conclusion that trading light-squared bishops would reduce the enemy's attacking potential and would make more room for manoeuvres. This treatment was even proclaimed as the safe equalizer against the Petrosian system, but as you will see from Part 9, Black still has plenty of problems to solve in that line:

Krasenkow-Cvitan
Plovdiv 2003

1.d4 ♜f6 2.c4 e6 3.♜f3 b6 4.a3
♙b7 5.♜c3 d5 6.cxd5 ♜xd5 7.♞c2
♙e7 8.e4 ♜xc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.♙d3 c5
11.0-0 ♞c8 12.♞e2 ♙a6 13.♞d1 ♙xd3
14.♞xd3 ♜d7 15.e5 cxd4 16.cxd4

♞c4 17.♙g5 ♙d8 18.♞ad1 ♞c8 19.h4
h6 20.♙f4 ♞d5



21.♜h2! f5 22.♙xh6!±.

Even without bishops White's initiative can be difficult to tame.

The Petrosian system is very rich in strategic ideas and different pawn structures. One can face isolators, hanging pawns, hedgehogs, Gruenfeld and Benoni setups, mobile pawn centres. This variety of options gives the better player fair chances to win. It will certainly continue to attract new fans to the Petrosian system.

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