

Tibor Károlyi

**PLAY**  
**THE**  
**DUTCH!**

PART 1



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# KEY TO SYMBOLS

=	Equality or equal chances
±	White has a slight advantage
∓	Black has a slight advantage
±	White is better
∓	Black is better
+-	White has a decisive advantage
-+	Black has a decisive advantage
∞	unclear
∞	with compensation
↔	with counterplay
↑	with initiative
→	with an attack
Δ	with the idea
□	only move
N	novelty
!	a good move
!!	an excellent move
?	a weak move
??	a blunder
!?	an interesting move
?!	a dubious move
+	check
#	mate





# PREFACE

One of the most difficult things in chess is to decide how to play for a win with Black without taking unreasonable risk. I personally think at the moment that against 1.d4 the Leningrad Dutch is the best choice. The reason? Against this very playable opening White can't kill the game to a draw!

Previously, very few of the great players tried it, but these days many world class players regularly employ it. The world top three players, Carlsen, Caruana and Mamedyarov — as well as some other top ten grandmasters — employ it quite often. One can't find better proof that an opening is worth investigating and playing.

Interestingly, it is a different problem choosing an opening against the closed openings than it is against 1.e4. When White pushes the pawn in front of his king two squares and a player as Black looks for piece play and fighting positions, he can choose from several options; for example the Open Spanish and several other Ruy Lopez lines are available, the Scandinavian and some Sicilians are also possible.

Against the closed openings, however, many openings are solid — for

example it is hard to crack the Orthodox and the Slav Queen's Gambit variations — but White always has lines which give Black relatively few chances to play for a win. In some Queen's Indian lines it is hard to create winning chances. The Grünfeld can be dynamic, but again in some variations theory has developed long, forced lines in which White is virtually able to force a draw.

Also against the closed systems, many decent openings like the QGA, the Nimzo Indian and the Grünfeld can't be employed against 1.c4. So Black has to learn an English opening line.

But when one chooses the Leningrad Dutch, he or she can employ it against both 1.c4 and 1.d4. Against the Leningrad Dutch White can't avoid reaching a fighting position with mutual chances. Although Black has to orientate well in the variations, still there are few long and forced lines. In many lines one can do well by understanding the positions.

Many of my pupils feel that the King's Indian has become too demanding regarding memorising long lines, and when they want to change I sug-

gest the Dutch defence — and it has worked extremely well.

Of course no opening has only good sides, and the Leningrad Dutch is also not an exception. Though there are not so many forcing lines, Black often has only a narrow path to a reasonable position. The Leningrad Dutch has an important feature -mistakes are very expensive! That is true regarding both colours, but perhaps a bit more for Black.

Your author has played the opening for many years and is happy with his score, but when I lost, I did so quickly! When one is in bad form, the Leningrad is more dangerous to play than other opening. However, I think this opening is one of the most fun to work with.

Vladimir Malaniuk, the strong grandmaster from Ukraine, told me that the first 50 games in which he employed it he lost all together 3 or 4 times. Apologies for not remembering the exact numbers. He was proud that Kasparov and his many trainers prepared against it for many hours and were unable to obtain any advantage at all. Very sadly he is no longer with us, but his colossal contribution to the Leningrad Dutch will remain for a long, long time.

This opening is very beneficial for young players, as they obtain experience in many different types of positions. Things can be similar to the

King's Indian when Black carries out ...e5, or some pawn sacrifices remind one of the Closed Sicilian, but if Black plays ...c5, a Benoni-type position can occur, and when Black plays ...d5, things may be reminiscent of the Queen's Gambit.

I learned from Kindermann's book on the Leningrad Dutch that Elias Stein from Holland played it first back in 1789, and I also learned from the German grandmaster that Nikolay Kopylov, Evgeny Kuzminikh and Kirill Vinogradov spent years developing ideas for the Leningrad setup — and the first of these players even beat the great Botvinnik with it!

The Leningrad Dutch is a lot of fun; one can score well with it, so ...play it!

Some instructions on how best to use the book.

Playing openings well consists of three main elements, one of which is to have decent lines, another that one has to recall variations well. The third is to be able to react well, when the opponent throws a new problem at us during the game.

I believe that the way I treat the opening helps with this third element. I have given several options against virtually all lines, instead of strictly one move or one variation. Although I believe going through several possibilities will take somewhat more energy, I think the invested effort will

help in several ways. It will raise your level of understanding a lot, and one is also much more likely to find a line that suits him or her very well.

Also, having more options can be very beneficial in certain tournament situations. One may choose a certain move when the win is absolutely required. When two things clashed — the correctness of a line against high winning chances but with perhaps a small hole, I always wanted to make sure that Black would get a playable line.

I was able to put a lot of material into the book, but still had to select what to insert and what to leave out. I mainly focused on the games of the highest-rated players and those games that were played in the last dozen years or so.

I chose the chapters' structure starting with the least-played move, moving towards the main lines. On a few occasions I planned some lines, but when I looked deeper into it, I no longer found that particular idea attractive — although I often still left it in the book, believing it helps to raise one's overall understanding.

I spent a lot of time investigating Kindermann's excellent book, which was published 13 years ago and turned my attention onto several lines. I also looked at the books of Malaniuk, Marusenko and Neil McDonald. These superb books, however, give fewer options to choose from, and the approach my book takes to the opening is different. However, I believe they are all useful.

I started to play the Leningrad Dutch because my Finnish friend Jouni Yrjola suggested it, and I am very grateful to him. In this book I kept the move order he suggested, so I always advise starting not with 1...d6 or 1...g6, but with 1...f5 — and in this way the first book will also help the players who play the Stonewall starting 1.d4 f5. Please do not forget to play some blitz games in the Leningrad Dutch first to get a feeling for it, and a sense of the possibilities and dangers, before you try it in a proper over-the-board game!

Dear Reader, I wish you good luck with the Dutch.



# FOREWORD TO THE FIRST VOLUME

When one answers 1.d4 with 1...f5, you usually face a choice between meeting one of the main lines or a sideline.

I have divided the book into two parts: In the first, all the lines in which White doesn't play g3 and develop the bishop to g2. White has quite a few aggressive attempts, but my impression of these lines in general is that, although they can temporarily cause problems, Black players after a while find a way to neutralise them.

The first volume will be useful for players who want to play the Stonewall, the Ilyin-Zhenevsky or the Hort systems without allowing the French or the Pirc defences.

As you will see, I do not always recommend developing the bishop to g7.



# CHAPTER 1.

## WHITE SIDELINES AFTER 1.d4 f5

### 1.d4 f5 2.♘h3 and 2.b3

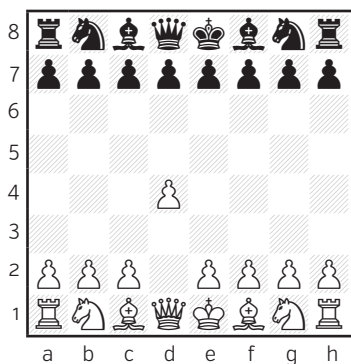
#### ■ Game 1

▷ **Viktor Korchnoi**

▶ **Anna Muzychuk**

Marianske Lazne 2009

1.d4



1...f5

When Black pushes the f-pawn two squares, he can have several ideas of how to follow up. I usually suggest carrying out ...e5, but many head for the Stonewall formation. Of course one can start the Leningrad Dutch with 1...d6, but that limits Black's op-

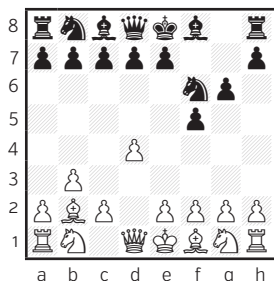
tions in many lines and some do not like to play the Pirc, or the Modern or the Philidor. I do not cover moves other than 1.d4, but let me just give you my suggestion against 1.b3: I suggest 1...e5 and on 2.♗b2 d6 to follow with ...f5. On 1.c4 I suggest 1...f5 as in some English lines I would keep the e-pawn on the seventh rank. On 1.♘f3 f5 2.d3 d6 3.e4 I think 3...e5 is the simplest, and on 1.♘f3 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.♘g5 d5 4.d3 ♖d6 — which prepares ...h6 — gives Black a good game. In this book, however, I only cover lines where White plays d4.

2.♘h3

This move was once played in 1988 by an amateur player, but in 2002 Bezgodov beat Panchenko with it, and from that point on it gained some popularity. For example, Korchnoi has employed it twice. The knight often goes to h3 in all three main Dutch Defences structures; the Leningrad, the Stonewall and the Ilyin-Zhenevsky.

2.b3 McDonald suggests this move, which makes it hard for Black to carry out ...e5. It might be successful against

a specific opponent, but objectively it should offer no advantage. 2...♖f6 3.♗b2 g6 The Leningrad setup should be fine here as well.



a) 4.g3 ♗g7 5.♗g2 o-o 6.♖f3 is a transposition

b) 4.♖f3 ♗g7 5.e3 d6 6.♗c4 e6 7.o-o o-o 8.♖bd2 ♗h8 9.♗e2 ♖c6 10.♗ad1 ♗e7 11.♗fe1 Kraai,J-Nakamura,H, Connecticut 2007 11...a6 12.a4 ♖e4 13.♗d3 ♖c5=

c) 4.♖c3 Jobava wants to make his opponent think. 4...♗g7 5.f3 (5.e3 d6 6.♗c4 e6 7.♖f3 ♗e7 8.o-o c6 9.a4 ♖bd7=)

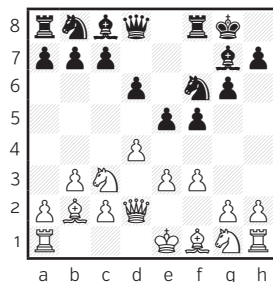
c1) 5...d5 Perhaps going for the Stonewall formation is the simplest. 6.e3 c6 7.♗d3 (7.♖ce2 ♗d6 8.♖f4 ♖bd7 9.♖d3 b6=) 7...♖bd7 8.♖ce2 (8.♖ge2 e5) 8...♗c7 9.♖f4 ♗d6 10.♖gh3 e5=

c2) 5...c5 6.dxc5 (6.d5 ♗a5± or 6.e3 cxd4 7.exd4 d5=) 6...♗a5 7.♗d2 ♗xc5= 8.o-o-o o-o 9.e3 e6 10.♖ge2 d5=

c3) 5...d6 6.e3 o-o 7.♗d2

c31) 7...♖bd7 8.♗c4+ ♗h8 9.♖h3 e5 10.♖g5 exd4 11.exd4 (11.♗xd4 ♖e5=) 11...♖b6=

c32) 7...e5?!



This is somewhat naive and optimistic. 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.♗c4+ ♗h8 10.♗xd8 ♗xd8 11.♖h3 ♗e8 (11...h6 12.♖b5 ♖e8 13.♗f7±) 12.♖g5 h6 13.h4 ♖a6 14.o-o-o+- Jobava,B-Kobalia,M, Moscow 2017.

## 2...♖f6

2...g6 Playing ...g6 without ...♖f6 often triggers the h4-h5 attack (with a subsequent exchange sacrifice) so it may raise the idea of trying it now since White can't quickly push the h-pawn.

a) 3.♖f4 d6 4.d5 c6=

b) 3.c3 ♗g7 4.g3 ♖c6 (With 4...♖f6 Black could transpose to a well-known line.) 5.♗g2 e5 6.dxe5 (6.d5 ♖ce7) 6...♖xe5=

c) 3.♖c3 ♖f6 4.♗g5 (4.♗f4 ♗g7) 4...♗g7 5.e3 d5 6.♖f4 c6 7.h4 ♖e4 8.♖xe4 fxe4=

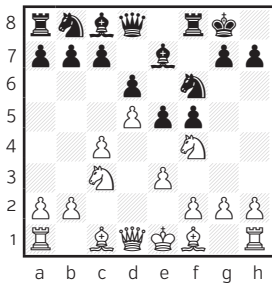


## 3. ♖g5

a) 3. ♘f4 e6 (3...d6 4.d5 c6 5.c4 ♘a6 6. ♘c3 ♘c7 7. ♖d3 g6 1/2 Ganaus, H-Schroll, G, Austria 2007, or Black can also try the unclear 7...g5 8. ♘h3 h6 9.g3 ♘g4∞)

a1) 4.h4 d6 5. ♘c3 Ilincic, Z-Torma, R, Budapest 2016 5...e5=

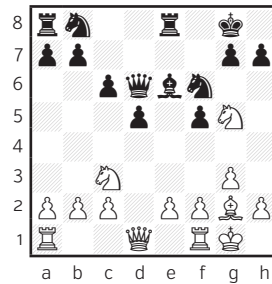
a2) 4.c4 ♖e7 (4...d6 5. ♘c3 e5) 5. ♘c3 o-o 6.e3 d6 7.d5 (7. ♖e2 e5 (7...c6) 8.dxe5 dxe5 9. ♘fd5 ♘xd5 10. ♘xd5 ♖d6) 7...e5



8. ♘e6? White will not be able to hang on to the e6-pawn, and here — unlike in the King's Indian — doesn't get enough compensation. (8. ♘d3 ♘bd7) 8... ♖xe6 9.dxe6 ♘a6 10. ♖f3 c6 (10... ♘c5 11. ♖e2 [11. ♖xf5 ♘fe4+] 11...c6 12.o-o g6 White drops a pawn for almost nothing.) 11. ♖xf5 ♘d5 (11... ♘c5 12. ♖c2 d5 Black's fluent play is more important than the bishop pair.) 12. ♖c2 ♘xc3 13.bxc3 ♘c5 14. ♖a3 ♘xe6 15. ♖d3 Korchnoi, V-Rotov, I, Puhajarve 2011 15...g6 16. ♖d1 (16.h4 ♖xh4; 16.g3 d5=) 16... ♖a5 17. ♖b4 ♖c7 18.h4 a5 19. ♖a3 d5=

a3) 4.g3 4... ♖e7 (4...c5!? I like inserting this move, which may be a novelty, as it gains space. 5.e3 [5.c3 d5] 5... ♖e7 6. ♖g2 d5=) 5. ♖g2 o-o 6.o-o ♖e8?! (6...d5! 7. ♘d3 ♘bd7 8. ♘d2 c5=) 7. ♘d2 ♘c6 8.c3 g5 9. ♘d3 d5 10.b4 a6 11.a4 ♖d6 Varga, Z-Gazik, I, Banska Stiavnica 2012 (11...b6 12. ♘f3 ♘e4 13. ♖c2 ♖b7 14. ♖e3±) 12. ♘f3 h6 13.h4±

b) 3. ♘c3 d6 (3...e6!? 4. ♘f4 d5 is simple and strong.) 4.d5 (4. ♖g5 c6 5. ♖xf6 exf6 6.d5 ♖b6∞) 4...e5 5.dxe6 ♖xe6 6.g3 c6 7. ♖g2 d5 Black buries the bishop, but the fact that Black has no weaknesses and has space easily compensates for the passive bishop. 8.o-o ♖d6 9. ♖f4 o-o (By playing 9...h6 Black could keep the bishop.) 10. ♘g5 ♖e8? (10... ♖c8?! 11. ♘xd5 or 10... ♖e7=) 11. ♖xd6 ♖xd6

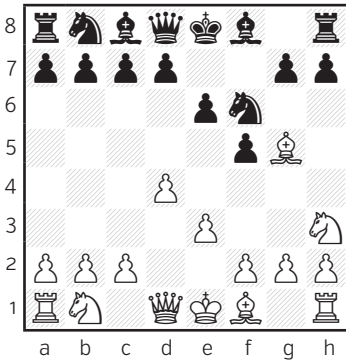


12.e4! White opens the position. 12... fxe4 13. ♘cxe4 ♖e7 14. ♘xf6+ ♖xf6 15. ♖h5 ♖g6 16. ♖xg6 hxg6 17. ♖fe1± Deviatkin, A-Lach, A, Wroclaw 2014.

## 3...e6 4.e3

4. ♘f4 ♖e7 (4...c5 5.e3 cxd4 6.exd4 ♖b6∞) Players who like some-

what wild openings may try this: it's a playable position.) 5.h4 Holemar,D-Vavruska,A, Czech Rep. 2013 5...c5 6.c3 ♖b6=



#### 4...h6

Black obtains the two bishops, but in exchange has to be careful with his somewhat loose kingside.

4...♙e7 5.♘f4 o-o 6.♘d2 c5 7.c3 ♘c6 8.♙e2 (8.♙xf6 ♖xf6 9.d5 ♘e5 10.♘c4 Holemar,D-Wiley,T, Frydek Mistek 2004 10...♗f7 Black will play ...e5 with a nice position.) 8...♖c7 (8...cxd4 9.exd4 ♘d5 10.♙xe7 ♗cxe7= or 8...b6 9.o-o ♙b7 10.♙xf6 ♖xf6=) 9.o-o ♙b6 10.♙f3 Petran,P-Antal,G, Hungary 2012 10...♖b8 11.♖c1 b5=

#### 5.♙xf6 ♖xf6 6.♘f4

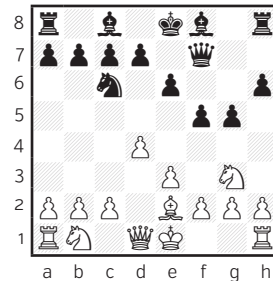
6.♙e2 ♘c6 (6...g5 7.♙h5+ ♔d8∞) 7.♘f4 ♙d6=

#### 6...g5

6...♙d6!? is interesting and 6...♘c6 7.♘c3 ♙b4 would be equal.

#### 7.♘d3

The knight does little in the centre. Exceptions are part of what makes chess such a wonderful game, and this time the knight would do better on the edge of the board. 7.♘h5!? ♖f7 8.♙e2 ♘c6 9.♘g3



9...♔d8 It is hard to judge this unique position. Black may do all right with the unusual placement of the king.

#### 7...♙g7 8.h4

8.♙e2 ♘c6 9.c3 b6 10.♙h5+ ♔d8 11.♘d2 ♙a6∞

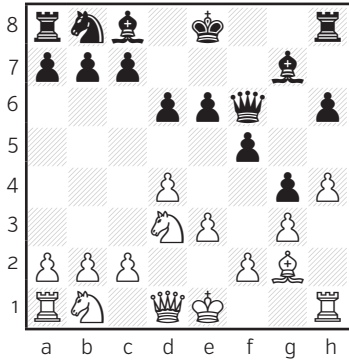
#### 8...g4 9.g3

9.♘f4 b6 (9...h5 10.♘c3 ♘c6 11.♘b5 ♔d8 12.c4 b6∞) 10.♘c3 ♙b7 11.♙c4 ♘c6=

#### 9...d6

From now on both sides concentrate on advancing their pawns.

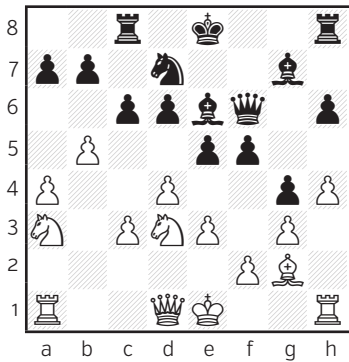
#### 10.♙g2



10...e5

10...♘c6 Black could consider castling long as well. After 11.c3 ♕d7 12.♘d2 o-o-o 13.b4 e5 the position would be highly unclear.

11.c3 c6 12.a4 ♕e6 13.b4 ♘d7 14.b5 ♖c8 15.♘a3



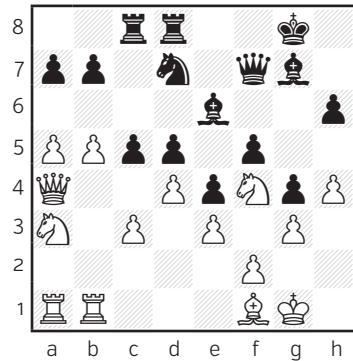
15...e4

Black closes the position. He could also consider castling and playing ...♙f7, ...♘f6 and ...♘e4.

16.♘f4 c5

The position becomes even more closed.

17.o-o o-o 18.a5 ♖fd8 19.♙a4 ♙f7 20.♖fb1 d5 21.♕f1



21...C4

Black seals the position, and a draw is almost inevitable. I think the game actually ended in a draw and Korchnoi did not in fact lose as the result of the game indicates.

22.♖d1 ♘f6 23.♘c2 ♕f8 24.a6 b6 25.♘e1 ♘h5 26.♘eg2 ♕d6 27.♖e1 ♙h7 28.♖ab1 ♖c7 29.♖b2 ♙e8 o-1