

## Richard Shorman

# Chess

The first woman to achieve recognized master status among men was Vera Menchik. She won the women's world chess championship in 1927 and held it virtually unchallenged until her death in 1944.

**White: Vera Menchik, Black: Sir George Thomas.**

London, 1932.

**Thomas.**

King's Indian Defense

1 P-Q4	N-KB3	13 N-N3	B-Q2
2 P-QB4	P-KN3	14 P-KR4	P-R5(d)
3 N-QB3	B-N2	15 P-R5	Q-N1(e)
4 P-K4	P-Q3	16 B-R6	Q-R2
5 P-B3	0-0	17 BxB	KxB
6 B-K3	P-K4	18 N-B5ch-(f)	NxN
7 KN-K2	P-N3(a)	19 NPxN	P-R6(g)
8 Q-Q2	N-B3	20 P-B6ch!(h)	K-R1
9 P-Q5	N-K2	21 Q-R6	PxPch
10 P-KN4(b)	N-Q2	22 K-N1	R-KN1
11 R-KN1!(c)	P-QR4	23 PxP	PxP
12 0-0-0	N-QB4	24 QxPch-(i)	Resigns

(a) To gain control over his own QB4 in anticipation of future Q-side action, but the real fight takes place on the opposite wing.

(b) Besides its obvious attacking purpose, this move also aims at neutralizing Black's typical reaction in the center by P-KB4.

(c) Preventing 11 . . . P-KB4 because of 12 NPxP PxP 13 B-R6 R-B2 14 BxB RxB 15 RxRch KxR 16 Q-N5ch followed by PxP, etc. (Tartakover).

(d) Black masses for counterplay on the queen side. Defensive measures beginning with P-KB3 would make it harder for White to force open a file close to his king, however.

(e) At least he is consistent.

(f) A natural combination that clears a path for the heavy pieces. If 18 . . . PxN, then 19 PxPch K-R1 20 Q-R6 wins without effort.

(g) Hoping for 20 P-N3 NxPch! 21 PxN P-R7, which would recover the piece and put Black back into the game again, but he has another surprise coming.

(h) Very prettily winning her won game. The consequences of 20 . . . KxP have been calculated out to mate after 21 Q-N5ch K-N2 22 P-R6ch K-N1 23 Q-B6.

(i) The finishing touch.

Only Nona Gaprindashvili (pronounced gah-preen-dahsh-VEE-lee: "With a name like that she has to be good.") has ever reached similar heights, although there are considerably more women of master strength playing today than there were during Menchik's long reign. Since beating Elizaveta Bykova for the women's title in 1962 (by a score of 9-2!) Gaprindashvili twice confirmed her front rank standing in championship matches with Alla Kushnir.

**White: Alla Kushnir.**

**Black: Nona Gaprindashvili.**

**Women's World Championship, Tbilisi, 1969.**

**English Opening**

1 P-QB4	N-KB3	16 B-N2	QxQ
2 N-KB3	P-B4	17 KRxQ	R-B7(d)
3 P-KN3	P-QN3	18 R-Q7(e)	B-N4!
4 B-N2	B-N2	19 B-Q4(f)	P-K4-
5 0-0	P-K3	20 BxKP	BxP
6 P-N3	B-K2	21 RxRP	BxP
7 B-N2	0-0	22 K-R3(g)	P-R4
8 P-K3	P-Q4	23 B-B4(h)	R-Q1
9 PxP(a)	NxP	24 R-QB1	R-K7
10 P-Q4	PxP!(b)	25 R-B3(i)	B-N8
11 NxP	N-QB3	26 P-KN4	R-Q5
12 NxN	BxN	27 R-B8ch	K-R2
13 N-B3	NxN	28 RxB	K-N3!
14 BxN	BxB	29 R-8-B7	R-Q6ch(j)
15 KxB(c)	R-B1	30 Resigns	

(a) Larsen has played 9 Q-K2 in similar positions to preserve the tension.

(b) Perfectly timed and much better than 10 . . . N-QB3 11 PxP and 12 Q-K2, with good prospects for White.

(c) A routine enough move but one that allows Black to assume the initiative in an otherwise quiet game. Sharper is 15 Q-N4, maintaining the balance of position after both 15 . . . B-KB3 16 BxB QxB 17 KxB (16 BxP? P-B3!) R-B1 17 QR-B1 (Lein).

(d) The first "tangible" gain.

(e) This attempt at simplification produces just the reverse effect. With 18 B-K5 R-1-B1 (18 . . . P-B3 19 B-Q6 19 R-Q7 White has drawing chances.

(f) Post-game analysis revealed 19 B-R3 as the best try, e.g., 19 . . . R-1-B1 20 R-1-Q1 RxRP 21 B-K7 P-KR3 22 BxB PxB 23 R-N7 and even though a pawn up Black will have a difficult task proving the win.

(g) The king finds himself in greater danger here than on R1, but the outcome is no longer in doubt after 22 . . . P-R4 23 R-Q1 R-K1 24 R-Q5 B-B4 25 P-QR3 B-Q3! (Lein).

(h) Stopping 23 . . . P-KN4.

(i) If the rook stays on the first rank, then Black executes her threat of R-Q5 and P-KN4.

(j) Black's end-game mating attack can be postponed only a few more moves: 30 K-R3 (30 B-N3?? RxPmate) B-B7ch 31 B-N3 BxBch 32 PxB R-R7mate!

### WHERE TO PLAY CHESS

The Hayward Chess Club, Palma Ceia Park (corner of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way in old Palma Ceia village).

The Cherryland Cafe, 22472 Meekland Ave. (corner of A St. and Meekland Ave.), Hayward. Evenings, 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The Fremont Chess Club, 36025 Fremont Blvd. (Westridge Park Community Center). Thursday, 7-11 p.m.

The Livermore Chess Club, Fourth and J Streets (in the old library of the Carnegie Building). Evenings, the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month.