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## The Best Game of Volume 85

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Chess Informant Editor

*Alexey Dreev Annoates*

The Gruenfeld Defence has generally been an infrequent guest at top class events. Among those who have tried to persevere despite some severe blows, one name certainly stands out – Peter Svidler. His more or less consistent choice of opening weapons over the years has made him an extraordinary figure among the elite: most of his peers tend to be "universal", or at least versatile, hoping to get the best of the modern trends in opening theory by playing the critical positions with both colors. On the other hand, Svidler's strength often lies in the profound understanding of the systems he regularly employs, so we can only hope that he will get more invitations to the super class events (remember – he emerged with 2713 Elo points on the April 2003 FIDE rating list), where his repertoire would have to stand some severe testing from the likes of Kasparov, Kramnik, Anand, Leko, etc.

This month's featured game was voted the best game of *Chess Informant* 85. I have borrowed one of the most often-cited quotes in chess history just to demonstrate how demanding top class chess can be. When Rudolph Spielmann claimed that a chess master "should play like a book in the opening, like a magician in the middlegame, and like a machine in the endgame," he was hardly referring to the game Dreev – Svidler from the European Champions Cup held in Kallithea last year. Svidler was playing like a book, until he was faced with an unpleasant novelty leading to many anxious moments for him in the middlegame. Dreev's computer-like sequence surely leaves an impression of sheer magic, as Black never managed to create some compensation for the material losses on the ever vulnerable queenside, so there was no endgame in sight. The game itself represents a fusion of Dreev's outstanding opening preparation and dazzling tactical skills, once again showing his immense strength, which should invariably place him among the 2700+ giants, where he definitely belongs – his recent success in Dos Hermanas where he confidently withstood the favorite's challenge, followed by the ruthless sweep of the tailenders in the final rounds speaks strongly in his favor. Let's just hope that the organizers

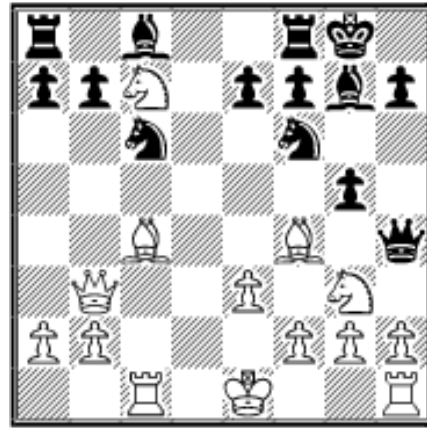
*Secret Matches:  
The Unpublished  
Training Games  
of  
Mikhail Botvinnik*

**DESET NAJBOLJIH PARTIJA PRETHODNOG TOMA • ДЕСЯТЬ ЛУЧШИХ ПАРТИЙ  
ПРЕДЫДУЩЕГО ТОМА • THE BEST TEN GAMES OF THE PRECEDING VOLUME • DIE  
ZEHN BESTEN SCHACHPARTIEN AUS DEM VORIGEN BAND • LES DIX MEILLEURES  
PARTIES DU VOLUME PRÉCÉDENT • LAS DIEZ MEJORES PARTIDAS DEL TOMO  
PRECEDENTE • LE DIECI MIGLIORI PARTITE DEL VOLUME PRECEDENTE • DE TIO  
BÄSTA PARTIERN I FÖREGÅENDE VOLYM • 上一卷最优秀的十盘棋 •  
الأشواط العشرة الأنهم الواردة في العدد السابق**

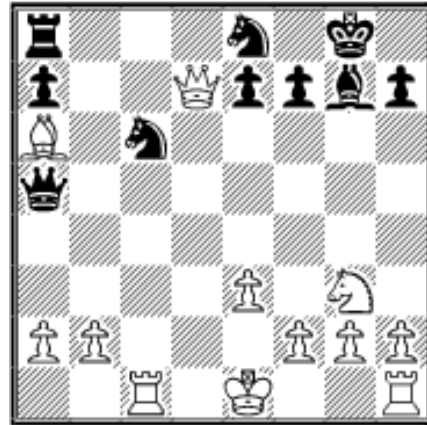
***Dreev 2676 — Svidler 2690***  
**Kallithea 2002**

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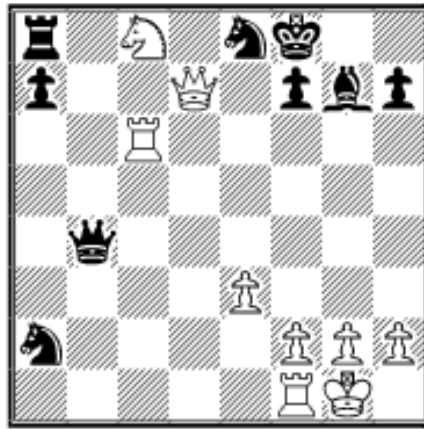
13...e5]



**14. Bg5! N** [14. Nf5 Bf5 15. Bg3 Nd4! and Black is superior] **14...Qg5**  
**15. Na8 Bd7 16. Qb7 Rb8 17. Qc7 Ra8** [17...Rc8!? 18. Ne4 Ne4? 19. Qd7 Rd8 20. Qc6 Qa5 21. Kf1 Qd2 22. Be2; 18...Qa5!?!; 18...Qf5!?!] **18. Ba6!** [Krasenkow] **18...Ne8** [18...Nb4? 19. Qb7 and White is winning; 18...Nd8 19. 0-0 Ne6 20. Qb7 and White is superior; 18...Qd5!?!] **19. Qd7 Qa5**



**20. b4!** [20. Qd2 Qa6 21. Nf5 Ne5 22. Rd1 Bf6] **20...Nb4 21. 0-0 Qa6**  
 [21...Na6 22. Qe7 and White is superior] **22. Nf5 Na2** [22...e6 23. Ng7 Ng7 (23...Kg7? 24. Qd4 and White is winning) 24. Rc7 Rf8 25. Ra7 and White is superior] **23. Rc6! Qa5** [23...Qb5 24. Ng7 (24. Nh6 Kf8 with the idea 25. Rf6? Qf1) 24...Nb4 25. Nf5 (25. Ne8!? Qc6 26. Qe7 Re8 27. Qb4) 25...Nc6 26. Ne7 Kg7 27. Nc6] **24. Ne7** [24. Ng7 Kg7 25. Qb7 Rd8 26. Ra6 Qd2] **24...Kf8 25. Nc8** [with the idea 26. Qb7, 26. Qe7] **25...Qb4?** [25...Qe5 26. Qb7 Rb8 27. Qa7 Rb2 (27...Nb4 28. Rc5 and White is winning) 28. Nb6 Qe7 29. Nd7 Kg8 30. Rc8 (with the idea Qa8) f5 and White is superior]



**26. Rc4!** [26...Qa3 27. Re4 and White is winning; 26...Qc4 27. Qe7 Kg8 28. Qe8 Bf8 29. Ne7 Kg7 30. Nf5 Kg6 31. Qa8 and White is winning] **1 : 0** [Dreev]

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