

# 'Advice I never follow'

USUALLY ONLY offered by London congresses, the 1976 Leicester "weekender" was an exception and gave good prize-money.

It attracted a number of strong players. D. Rumens was there as usual, as well as Welsh No. 1 G. H. Botterill. S. Hutchings, M. P. Littlewood and S. Reuben were

among those determined to fight for first place. A surprise entry was Dave Patrick who had just returned to England from living in a cave in the Canary Islands.

Going into the final round, pairings were Botterill (4) v Hutchings (4), Littlewood (4) v Patrick (4), and Rumens (4) v Chandler (4).

As expected, Botterill and Hutchings cancelled each other out with a hard fought draw; both of them went through unbeaten. Littlewood v Patrick was won by the latter after a game of mixed fortune — the reasons for Patrick's win in the end varied from tension to telepathy. This left Rumens and me

to battle it out to share first place with Patrick.

H. E. Atkins Memorial tournament:

### BIRD'S OPENING

D. Rumens M. Chandler  
1. f4

"Play the board not the man" is advice I never follow. Rumens has one outstanding strength — his magnificent calculation of tactics — which he exploits with mating attacks. (See Le Blancy v Rumens, Miles v Rumens and Rumens v Bennett from earlier columns.) My whole strategy was based on hinder-

ing an assault on my king. I was determined Rumens was going to have to pay a price for any attack. (As it turned out the cost was two pawns.)

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| 1. . . .  | Nf6  |
| 2. Nf3    | g6   |
| 3. e3     | Bg7  |
| 4. Be2    | O-O  |
| 5. O-O    | c5   |
| 6. d3     | d5   |
| 7. Qe1    | b6   |
| 8. Qh4    | Bb7  |
| 9. N(b)d2 | Nc6  |
| 10. Ne5   | Nxe5 |
| 11. fxe5  | Nd7  |
| 12. d4    | e6   |
| 13. Qh3   | Qe7  |
| 14. Nf3   | f6   |

Once the pawn on e5 disappears White has few aggressive prospects. An important point is that preventing someone from attacking you does not necessarily mean defending or playing passively. Throughout the game

sively. Throughout the game it is Black who forces the pace.

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| 15. exf6   | Bxf6 |
| 16. Bd2    | a6   |
| 17. R(a)e1 | e5   |

In this position I expected no other reply than 18, Bc3. I was stunned when Rumens produced the following move — I thought he had gone crazy.

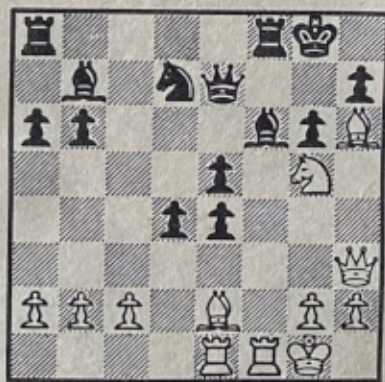
18. e4?!!

Complications can no longer be avoided.

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| 18. . . . | cxd4 |
| 19. Bh6   | dxe4 |
| 20. Ng5!? |      |

Again I did not foresee Rumens's move. I had worked out that 20, Bxf8 forces White on to the defensive but thought this was still his best line. In the post-mortem we looked at 20, Bc4 ch Kh8. 21, Ng5 but Black is still better after 21 . . . b5. The move played allows a "combo" Rumens did not see.

BLACK



WHITE

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| 20. . . . | d3!   |
| 20. . . . | Bxg5. 21, Bxg5 Qxg5. 22, Bc4 ch Kh8. 23, Qxd7 is bad for Black. |
| 21. cxd3  | Bxg5!   |
| 22. Bxg5  | Qxg5  |
| 23. Qxd7  | exd3  |
| 24. Qxb7  |   |

(Forced because of the mate threat on g2.)

24. . . . dxe2?!

In time trouble, I discarded 24 . . . Qe3 ch. 25, Kh1 dxe2 because of 26, Qd5 ch Kh8. 27, Rf3. Simply 27 . . . R(a)d8. 28, Qxd8 Qxf3. 29, gxf3 Rxd8 gives me a rook ending a pawn up.

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| 25. Qd5 ch | Kg7  |
| 26. Qb7 ch | Kh6  |
| 27. Rf3    | Rxf3 |
| 28. Qxf3   | Re8  |
| 29. Rxe2   | e4   |

We each had about two minutes left at this stage to complete our 48 moves. Consequently the standard of play deteriorated somewhat!

If 30, Rxe4, Qc1 ch and Qxb2 ch.

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| 30. . . .  | Kg7    |
| 31. Rc2?   | e3     |
| 32. Qd7 ch | Re7    |
| 33. Qd4 ch | Kh6    |
| 34. Re2    | Qe5?   |
| 35. Qxb6   | Qd5    |
| 36. Qb3    | Qe4    |
| 37. h3     | Qb1 ch |
| 38. Kh2    | Qe4    |
| 39. Qc3    | Kg5!   |

That move took Rumens aback.

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| 40. Qc5 ch | Re5    |
| 41. Qf8    | Qf4 ch |
| 42. Qxf4   | Kxf4   |
| 43. Kg1    | Ke4    |
| 44. Kf1    | Kd3    |
| 45. a4     | h5     |
| 46. b4     | h4     |
| 47. Ra2    | Rd5    |
| 48. Ra3 ch | Ke4    |

Time control passed, order restored, real chess continues.

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| 49. Ra1 | Rf5 ch |
| 50. Kg1 |        |

Or 50, Ke1 Rf2. 51, b5 axb5. 52, a5 Rxg2. 53, Kf1 Kf3 and with threats like 54, e2 ch Ke1. 55, Rg1 ch all roads lead to Rome.

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| 50. . . . | Kd4  |
| 51. Rb1   | Kc4  |
| 52. b5    | axb5 |
| 53. a5    |      |

Rumens always believes in active counterplay but in this instance it only makes Black's task easier.

based on positional considerations only.

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| 16. . . .   | fxe6 |
| 17. Qxe6 ch | Be7  |
| 18. Re1     | Qd8  |
| 19. Bf4     |      |

Threat: Bc7.

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| 19. . . .  | Kf8 |
| 20. R(a)d1 | Ra7 |
| 21. Rc1    |     |

Threatens 22, Rc8. But 21, Bd6 wins at once.

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| 21. . . .   | Ng8  |
| 22. R(c)d1  | a5   |
| 23. Bd6     | Bxd6 |
| 24. Qxd6 ch | Ne7  |
| 25. Nc5     | Bf5  |
| 26. g4      | Qe8  |

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| 27. Ba4  | b3   |
| 28. gxf5 | bxa2 |
| 29. Bxd7 | a1=Q |
| 30. Rxa1 | Ra6  |
| 31. Nxa6 | Qd8  |
| 32. Kf2  |      |

Not the most attacking move on the board!

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| 32. . . .   | Kf7     |
| 33. Qe6 ch  | Kf8     |
| 34. Qxe7 ch | Qxe7    |
| 35. Rxe7    | Kxe7    |
| 36. Nc5     | Rb8     |
| 37. Rxa5    | Rxb2 ch |
| 38. Kg3     |         |

CHAOS eventually won.

MURRAY CHANDLER

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| 53. . . .  | b4  |
| 54. Rc1 ch | Kd3 |
| 55. a6     | b3  |
| 56. Rc6    |     |

This loses out of hand.

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| 56. . . .    | e2     |
| 57. Rd6 ch   | Kc2    |
| 58. Rc6 ch   | Kb2    |
| 59. Re6      | Rf1 ch |
| 60. Resigns. |        |

On 60, Kh2 e1=Q wins the white rook.

There was some comment when the only two bare-foot players in the tournament, Dave Patrick and I, went on stage to collect the trophy.

In 1974, a stir was caused in round two of the world championships when the programme CHAOS (US) beat compatriot CHESS 4-0 with the first example of a positional piece sacrifice ever seen in computer chess.

Stockholm 1974:

### CHAOS v CHESS

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|----------|--------|
| 1. d4    | d5     |
| 2. c4    | dxc4   |
| 3. Nf3   | Nf6    |
| 4. e3    | e6     |
| 5. Bxc4  | c5     |
| 6. Qe2   | a6     |
| 7. O-O   | b5     |
| 8. Bb3   | Bb7    |
| 9. Rd1   | N(b)d2 |
| 10. Nc3  | Bd6    |
| 11. e4   | cxd4   |
| 12. Nxd4 | Qb8    |
| 13. g3   | b4     |

Both programmes were out of the book now.

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| 14. Na4 | Bxe4 |
| 15. f3  | Bg6? |

e5 is "book".

16. Nxe6!  
As in no way could CHAOS have analysed to move 24, this sacrifice must have been