

# Mean time at Greenwich

MY OWN CHESS club, Charlton, recently held a chess congress which attracted over 400 players as part of the Greenwich Festival. The tournament was held in a beautiful old 16th century house with magnificent grounds. After a draw in round two, A. J. Miles ploughed through the field until the last round, where he met D. Rumens. Rumens had 5/5 and only needed a draw to win the tournament while Miles was after the full point. And although the queens came off on move 11, the spectators clustered around, standing on chairs and anything else available. A quiet, drawish game was not what they got. Charlton, 1976:

## PONZIANI OPENING

A. J. Miles D. Rumens

1. e4  
Miles made this move, but accidentally left the pawn positioned close to the d4 square. Rumens, a few minutes late and thinking the pawn was on d4, replied 1... Nf6. Then he realised Miles had actually played e4, promptly retracted his knight move and played 1... e5 instead! Consequently, the first five minutes of this vital last round game were spent in great amusement by both players.

- 1. . . . e5
- 2. Nf3 Nc6
- 3. c3!?

Miles probably played this rarely seen move to avoid sharp lines in the Ruy Lopez which Rumens knows so well.

- 3. . . . Nf6
- 4. d4 e×d4
- 5. e5 Ne4?!

"Speculative, not to say hazardous" is the great Lasker's comment on this move.

- 6. Qe2 d5?!
- 7. e×d6 ep f5
- 8. N(b)d2

With advantage to White, say the books.

- 8. . . . B×d6?
- 9. . . . Q×d6 is better.
- 9. N×e4 f×e4
- 10. Q×e4 ch?

And now the grandmaster goes wrong; 10, Bg5 gives him an excellent game. Perhaps he did not expect Rumens to swap queens and play on a pawn down.

- 10. . . . Qe7!
- 11. Q×e7 ch B×e7
- 12. N×d4 N×d4
- 13. c×d4 Be6

Not a very exciting place for a diagram, but how can you assess the position? Can just one or two tempi compensate for the pawn? Well watch, as Rumens demonstrates that they can.

- 14. Bf4 O-O!
  - 15. Be5
- For if 15, B×c7 Bb4 ch. 16, Ke2 R(a)c8. 17, Bg3 Rc2 ch. 18, Ke3 R×b2 and black is winning.
- 15. . . . Bb4 ch
  - 16. Ke2 c5!

Black insists on opening up

the position no matter what the cost, to use his advantage in development. The technique is very instructive.

- 17. a3 Ba5
  - 18. d×c5 Bb3!
  - 19. f4 R(a)e8
- Threat: R×f4.
- 20. Kd3 Rd8 ch
  - 21. Ke3 Bd2 ch
  - 22. Kf3 g5
  - 23. Be2 B×f4?

After playing so well Rumens misses his chance. Correct is 23... g×f4, keeping the two bishops to attack the

white king stranded in the center. In fact White's position would be so unpleasant that had Rumens played the move Miles was prepared to offer a draw. Now the GM doesn't give Rumens another chance.

- 24. B×f4 R×f4 ch
  - 25. Kg3 Kg7
  - 26. R(a)c1 Rd2
  - 27. Bf3 Be6
  - 28. R(h)e1 Kf7
  - 29. c6 b×c6
  - 30. R×c6 Bd5
  - 31. Rd6 Rd3
- Hoping for 32, R×d5 R(f)×f3 ch. 33, g×f3 R×d5 with drawing chances.
- 32. Re5!

Ruthless.

- 32. . . . Rg4 ch
- 33. Kf2!

Miles makes it all look so simple. Why bother with a won rook ending when you can have a piece? 33, K×g4 B×f3 ch. 34, g×f3 R×d6 and black can still play on.

- 33. . . . R×g2 ch

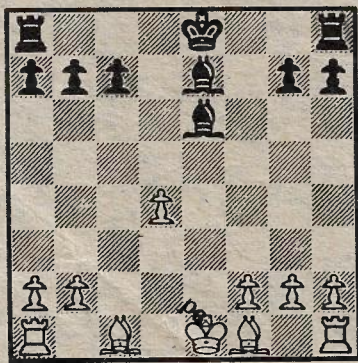
Rumens tries a last minute swindle.

- 34. B×g2 Resigns

An interesting game despite the flaws — in fact they make it even more instructive.

MURRAY CHANDLER

BLACK



WHITE