

Chess

Letter bombs

ALTHOUGH THE over-the-board variety is by far the most popular form of chess, the correspondence game can provide much enjoyment for people prevented through isolation or infirmity from playing at clubs or tournaments.

Games naturally take some time to complete and internal games generally take about one year, but if played with overseas opponents they can take several years to complete. Two players, one from England and the other from Australia, play at the rate of but one move per year — posting the move on a Christmas card each December. The other extreme was a correspondence tournament I entered in 1974. I received my list of opponents from Auckland and found myself drawn against a player living opposite me in the same street!

One of New Zealand's most colourful chess players and personalities is Wellington's David Flude. (And that is not solely because of his outrageous shirts bought at the Malaysian teams tourney!) Although he came first equal in the Civic Chess Club's Easter tournament, he is feared most for his correspondence play. He is noted for his swashbuckling, combinative style (reminiscent of 19th century play) and it was this combined with a considerable knowledge of theory that brought him the title of 1973-74 National Correspondence Champion. When I asked for a game to publish Flude gave me this one, which he called, not surprisingly, "The Wildest Game I have ever played"!

NZ Correspondence
Championship 72-73

SICILIAN DEFENCE

D. Flude M. Browne

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| 1. e4 | c5 |
| 2. Nf3 | a6 |
| 3. c4 | d6 |
| 4. d4 | cxd4 |

Or 4... Bg4. 5, dxc5 with advantage to White.

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| 5. Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 6. Nc3 | Nc6 |
| 7. Be2 | Bd7 |
| 8. 0-0 | Rc8 |
| 9. Be3 | Na5 |

Black now wins a pawn, but white has the better development and possibilities of a direct attack on the black king.

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| 10. b3 | b5 |
| 11. Nd5 | bxc4 |

Or 11... Nxe4. 12, Nxb5! and Bb6 winning the Queen is a threat.

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| 12. Nxf6 ch | gxf6 |
| 13. b4 | Nb7 |
| 14. f4 | e5? |

Opening up the position when behind in development is always risky as Flude demonstrates with some remarkable moves.

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| 15. fxe5 | dxe5 |
| 16. Nf3 | |

Threat: Nxe5.

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| 16. . . . | Qc7 |
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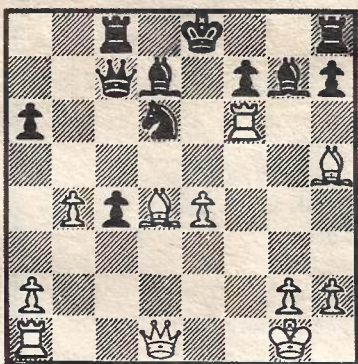
Black "prevents" the sacrifice.

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| 17. Nxe5!!? | |
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Attacking is not for the faint hearted! Now if 17... fxe5 then 18, Rxf7 Kxf7. 19, Qd5 ch with a double-edged position, eg 19... Kg7. 20, Rf1 Be8. 21, Qe6 and wins, or 20... Rg8. 21, Rf7 ch Kh8. 22, Rxd7 Qb8. 23, Rxb7 etc.

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| 17. . . . | Qxe5 |
| 18. Bd4 | Qc7 |
| 19. Bh5! | Nd6 |
| 20. Rxf6 | Bg7 |

BLACK



WHITE

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| 21. Rxf7! | Nxf7 |
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On 21... Bxd4 ch. 22, Qxd4 Nxf7. 23, White turns down a whole rook by instead of 23, Qxh8 ch playing 23, Bxf7 ch! Kxf7. 24, Rf1 ch Kg8. 25, Qd5 ch Be6. 26, Qxe6 ch Kg7. 27, Qg4 ch Kh6. 28 Rf6 ch mate.

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| 22. Bxf7 ch | Kxf7 |
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| 23. Qh5 ch | Ke7 |
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(Kg8 24, Qd5 ch etc.)

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| 24. Qg5 ch | Ke8 |
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| 25. Qxg7 | Rf8 |
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| 26. Bc5! | |
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The end of a beautifully calculated combination.

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| 26. . . . | Qxc5 |
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| 27. bxc5 | Rxc5 |
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| 28. Rd1 | Rc7 |
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| 29. e5 | Rb7 |
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| 30. e6 | Bc8 |
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| 31. Qd4 | Bxe6 |
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| 32. Qd8 ch | Kf7 |
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| 33. Rf1 ch and White won. | |
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The only solution to last week's problem (16/2k4b/P7/16/2N2PKp/8) is: 1. Nd4 ch! Kc5. 2, Kh1!! zugzwang! Black has no worthwhile move... Kxd4. 3, a6 wins, and a bishop move will fail to a knight fork.

(The shorthand notation above is a simple description of the placement of the pieces on the board. Looking at the board from White's point of view: 16 means two empty horizontal columns on the far side of the board (eight in each column). In the third column there are two empty squares, then the black king, four empty squares then a black bishop. In the fourth column there is a white pawn on the first square, then seven empty squares. White pieces are in capital letters. The full diagram is shown in last week's issue.)

MURRAY CHANDLER