

# A winning defence

I FIRST MET Peter Goffin, now the president of the New Zealand Chess Association, when we were both selected for a New Zealand team to play in the Asian teams tourney in Malaysia in 1974.

In that event he played his favourite Pirc Defence whenever possible, and it appears that his brief encounter there with Australian Open champ Max Fuller has not deterred him.

Here his defence triumphs

against blind player Terry Free, who represented New Zealand in the World Blind Championships in 1975. Blind players may use special braille sets and clocks. Each time they make a move it is called out to their opponent, who will duplicate it on the board he is using.

Despite having to be careful about such things as not getting into time trouble, Terry Free has deservedly acquired the reputation for being a tough customer.

Auckland Chess Centre Championships, 1976:

### PIRC DEFENCE

T. Free P. B. Goffin

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|--------|-----|
| 1. e4  | d6  |
| 2. d4  | Nf6 |
| 3. Nc3 | g6  |
| 4. Bc4 | c6  |
| 5. Bg5 |     |

More usual are 5 Qe2, 5 Nf3 or 5 f4.

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| 5. . . . | Qa5!? |
| 6. Bxf6  | exf6  |

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| 7. Qf3    | Bg7 |
| 8. N(g)e2 | O-O |
| 9. h4!?   |     |

*I feel this move is a matter of temperament more than anything else. The manoeuvre h4 . . . h5 etc really dates back to Bobby Fischer's dragon slaying days. To forsake the safe 9, O-O . . . R(f)e1 . . . R(a)d1, White must be, as Fischer was, totally dedicated to smashing open the black king side at the earliest opportunity.*

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| 9. . . .     | f5   |
| 10. exf5     | Bxf5 |
| 11. O-O-O(?) |      |

*Would Fischer have played 11, g4!? I wonder? On 11 . . . Bxc2. 12, Kd2! connects the white rooks and gives the black bishop a decided shortage of resting places. Eg, 12 . . . Ba4. 13, b3 b5. 14, Bd3 wins the unfortunate piece. Best is 12 . . . d5 (12 . . . b5. 13, Bxb5). 13, Bxd5 cxd5. 14, Kxc2 with about even chances.*

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| 11. . . . | h5! |
| 12. Qf4   | Qb4 |
| 13. Bb3?  | Kh7 |
| 14. Kb1?  |     |

*Falling in with Goffin's subtle operations. 14, a3! leads to an unclear position after 14 . . . Qb6 (14 . . . Qxb3. 15, cxb3 Bh6. 16, d5! is good for White.) 15, Qxd6 Bh6 ch. 16, f4 Nd7 when the two bishops and plans such as a5 . . . R(f)e8 . . . Bf8 give compensation for the pawn.*

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| 14. . . . | a5 |
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*The point. Now a3 fails to 15, Qxb3.*

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| 15. f3   | a4    |
| 16. Nxa4 | Rxa4  |
| 17. Bxa4 | Qxa4  |
| 18. b3   | Qa3?! |
| 19. Qc1  | Qb4   |
| 20. Qf4? | Bh6   |
| 21. Qh2  |       |

*The departure of White's queen from the defence of his king is serious. Now Goffin elects a short, sharp attack as the simplest way to exploit his material and positional advantage.*

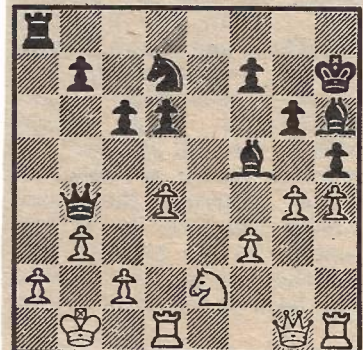
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| 21. . . . | Nd7 |
| 22. Qg1   |     |

*"White seems obsessed with trying to play g4," says Goffin.*

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| 22. . . . | Ra8 |
| 23. g4?   |     |

*One of the hardest things to do in chess is to admit you have chosen the wrong plan. White must play 23, Qe1, for better or . . . well it can hardly be worse! The only reward White receives for accomplishing his plan is that it is the last move he has to play.*

BLACK



WHITE

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| 23. . . .   | Bxc2 ch! |
| 24. Resigns |          |

*The end comes after 24, Kxc2 Rxa2 ch. 25, Kd3 Rd2 ch. 26, Rxd2 Qxd2 ch. 27, king moves d5 checkmate. A neat finish to a game which seemed to me more a struggle between two people than between the white and black sides.*

MURRAY CHANDLER