Chess

Drawing on inspiration

A DRAW in chess is often looked on with distaste, as if it might be imagined that neither player was trying very hard.

However, a closer look at some draws will show that many have been thrilling battles. Witness the following game, where Australian professional and Olympiad player Max Fuller falls victim to a combination with which his weaker Japanese opponent turns a lost game into a breathtaking draw.

I first met Max in Malaysia, where this game was played, and spent some time talking to the professional, who, though not an international master, manages a modest living from playing.

Malaysia, 1974

SICILIAN DEFENCE

I. Haruyama (Japan)	M. Fuller (Australia)
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. d4	c×d4
4. N×d4	Qc7
5. Nc3	e6
6. Be3	a6
7. Be2	b5
8. O-O	Bb7
9. f4	Na5
10. Bf3?	Nc4
11. Bc1	b4
12. N(c)e2	Nf6

Black has effortlessly obtained the initiative.

13. b3	Nb6
14. Qd3	Bc5
15. c4	d6
16. Kh1	N(b)d7
17. g4	Bb6
18. g5?	

18, Ng3 saves the king pawn — temporarily.

18. . . .	Nc5
19. Qd1	N(f)×e4
20. a3	Ba5
21. a×b4	B×b4
22. Nc2	a5
23. N×b4	a×b4
24. R×a8 ch	B×a8
25. Bb2	O-O
26. Qd4	e5

Nice play, for if 27, f×e5 d×e5. 28, Q×e5 Q×e5. 29, B×e5 N×b3.

27. f×e5	d×e5
28. Qe3	Rd8
29. B×e4	B×e4 ch
30. Kg1	Rd3

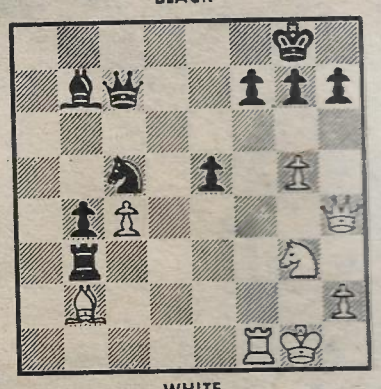
Even the most pessimistic of players would now start counting the points on the score table.

31. Qf2	Rf3
32. Qh4	R×b3
33. Ng3	Bb7?!

Of course the simple R×b2. 34, N×e4 N×e4. 35, Q×e4 Qc5 ch wins easily — but how was Max to foresee White's stunning continuation?

Players are supposed to resign at this point!

BLACK



WHITE

34. g6!	h×g6
35. B×e5!	

A promise of things to come. The bishop is still safe — 35 . . . Q×e5. 36. Qd8 ch Kh2. 37, Qh4 ch with perpetual check.

35. . . .	Qd7
36. B×g7!	K×g7
37. Nh5 ch!	

Brilliant play! If Black declines the Knight (Kf8) then 38, Nf6 wins.

37. . . .	g×h5
38. Qg5 ch	Kf8
39. Qh6 ch	Ke8
40. Qh8 ch	Ke7
41. Qf6 ch	Ke8

An inspired desperado combination. However the perfectionist will claim black could still win after 36. B×g7! with 36 . . . R×g3 ch. 37, Q×g3 K×g7. 38, Qe5 ch Kg8. 39, Q×c5 Qg4 ch. 40, Kf2 b3! when all moves appear to lose for White — eg Qb6 Qf3 ch. 42, Ke1 Qc3 ch. 43, Kf2 Qd2 ch. 43, Kg3 Qg2 ch etc.

This in no way though detracts from the enjoyment I gained from playing through this delightful game — combined with the frustrated look on Max's face after it ended.

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'Listener' Nov. 13th 1976

THE BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP, 1976

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