

Bouncing checks

THE ANNUAL Glasgow international tournament consisted this year of 12 invited players of five different nationalities. New Zealand, Scotland, England, Wales and Finland were represented.

The favourite was special guest and International Grandmaster H. Westerinen of Finland. He and England's

Dave Rumens shared first place with 4/5 points. Craig Prichett, who beat Grandmaster Kurajica in the London Evening Standard congress had no such luck in his homeland. His hopes were dashed in his crucial fourth round duel with the Finn, who barely stirred from his board during the five hours.

Scotland 1976:

SICILIAN DEFENCE
H. Westerinen C. Prichett

1. e4 c5
 2. Nf3 e6
 3. d4 cxd4
 4. Nxd4 Nf6
 5. Nc3 d6
- The Scheveningen Defence.
6. g4 a6
 7. g5 N(f)d7

8. Bg2 Nc6
9. O-O Be7
10. f4

But not 10. Nxc6 bxc6. 11. f4 e5. 12. f5 h6! with a clear advantage to Black. Mednis — Padveski, Orense 1973.

10. . . . O-O
11. Be3 Re8?!

Both players in the post-mortem thought 11 . . . Nxd4.

12. Qxd4 e5. 13. Qd2 exf4. 14. Bxf4 Ne5. 15. Nd5 Be6 was a better alternative for Black.

12. Qh5

With the idea of mate. The imbalance is created and the struggle of attack versus defence and counter-attack begins.

12. . . . Bf8
13. Rf3 g6
14. Qh4 Bg7
15. N(d)e2 b5
16. Rh3 Nf8
17. Rf1! b4?

17 . . . Ne7 is the correct way for Black to defend his perilous position.

18. Nd1 Qa5
19. f5!

This obvious break was probably good on move 17 as well but Prichett could have chances after 17 . . . exf5. 18. exf5 Rxe3! with several crazy lines, some involving double exchange sacs.

19. . . . exf5
20. exf5 d5

Cuts the bishop's raking diagonal.

21. f6 Bxh3

Here is one Scot who is not mean! Prichett prefers to give up material for active play rather than submit to the ghastly 21 . . . Bh8.

22. fxg7 Ne6
23. Qxh3 Ne5
24. Nd4 Nxc7
25. Nb3 Qb5
26. Bd4 Nf5
27. Rxf5! gxh5
28. Qxf5 Nc6
29. Bxd5

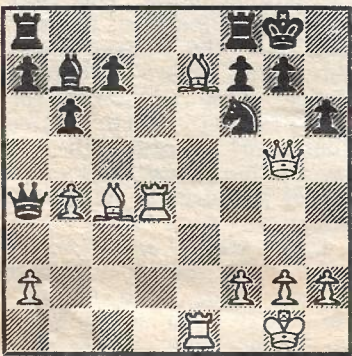
Precise play makes the win look easy. Black's two checks bounce.

29. . . . Re1 ch
30. Kg2 Rf8
31. g6 Qe2 ch
32. Kg3 Ne5
33. gxh7 ch Rxf7
34. Bxf7 ch Nxf7
35. Qe8 ch Qe8
36. Qg4 ch Resigns.

After 36 . . . Kf8. 37. Bc5 ch is finis.

There were plenty of good combinations in my own games at Glasgow; the trouble was that most of them were against me. But here is one position in which my opponent, P. Giulian, playing white, missed a decisive combo, though he kept me sweating for 10 minutes before he moved. Try to spot the crucial move he missed at this point. White to play.

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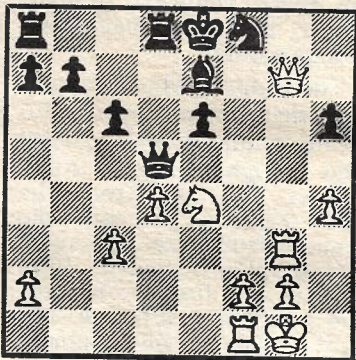


WHITE

SOLUTION. In slight time pressure the Scottish Champion missed the crushing 1. Qxf6!! winning at least a piece. If Black recaptures then 2. Rg4 ch Kx8. 3. Bxf6 ch Kx7. 4. Bd3 ch Bx4. 5. Bxe4 checkmate. He played 1. Qg3 but it was an anxious 10 minutes on my part as I saw the combination immediately I had moved.

Solution to last week's problems.

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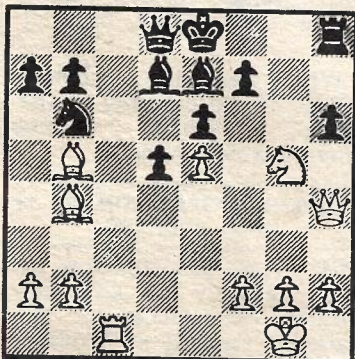


WHITE

Korchnoi — Bronstein

"1. Qxe7 ch! A brilliant move which leads to a rare mate. Black resigns in view of 1 . . . Kxe7. 2. Rg7 ch Ke8. 3. Nf6 mate. The weak side of the black knight is shown here."

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WHITE

Korchnoi — Udovic.

"The fine move 1, Nxe6!! is mainly dependent on the queen's invulnerability (1 . . . Bxh4? 2, Ng7 mate), but also on the inviolability of the bishop on b5. (1 . . . Bxb5. 2, Ng7 ch Kf8. 3, Nf5!! with a decisive pin; if 2 . . . Kd7 then Qg4 is mate). So there remains only 1 . . . fxh6. 2, Qh5 ch Kf8 and now the intervention of the rook 3, Rc3 decides the game 3 . . . Rh7. 4, Qg6! Rg7. 5, Qxh6 Bxb5 or 5 . . . Kg8. 6, Rh3 Kf7. 7, Be2 and White wins 6, Rg3! Black resigns. A display piece."

The book *It's Your Move* by R. Teschner and A. J. Miles, published by Batsford, from which the problems were drawn, is actually in descriptive notation.

MURRAY CHANDLER

Listener Oct 30 1976