

Playing with the clock

THE STRONGEST weekend tournament ever held in England has just finished with C. Pritchett of Scotland defeating Grandmaster B. Kurajica (Yugoslavia) in the final round to take the £1000 first prize.

Second equal were six players: M. Chandler (NZ), M. Fuller (Australia), with A. J. Miles, J. Littlewood, J. Speelman and R. Bellin (all from England).

The Evening Standard congress sent one grandmaster, three international masters and several British masters home with nothing but bottle-of-wine consolation prizes.

Max Fuller and I were largely responsible for the downfall of titled players. Fuller crushed A. J. Miles (GM) and J. Nunn (IM) in successive rounds, leaving me to ensure that neither H. Bohm (IM) or G. S. Botterill (BM) reached the prizes.

National Bank of Dubai Open, London 1976:

PIRC DEFENCE

M. Chandler G. S. Botterill
 1. e4 d6
 2. d4 g6

3. Bc4 Nf6
 4. Nc3 Bg7
 5. Qe2 Nc6

"No-one knows" said Leonard Barden at the prize-giving ceremony, "why George Botterill, who has written two books on the Pirc defence, took one-and-a-quarter hours to play his first five moves in this game!"

6. e5 Ng4

An unclear theoretical position, but one which has never arisen in a master game, comes from 6 . . . Nxd4. 7. exf6 Nxe2. 8. fxg7 Rg8. 9. N(g)x2. Botterill knew this position well but preferred to try an alternative which has never been analysed extensively.

7. Nf3

I rejected e6 because of 7 . . . Nxd4. 8. Qxg4 Nxc2 ch. 9. Kd1 Nxa1 and Black is threatening d5. In view of the time Botterill had taken

I preferred to sacrifice a pawn and make him think some more.

7. . . . dxe5
 8. dxe5 N(g)x5
 9. Nxe5 Nxe5
 10. Bb3 Nc6
 11. Be3

The idea of the pawn sacrifice — to open lines and gain a lead in development.

11. . . . Nd4
 12. Bxd4 Qxd4
 13. O-O Qe5
 14. Qc4! O-O

14 . . . Be6. 15. Qb4 Bxb3. 16. Qxb7 O-O. 17. axb3 gives White better chances because of the anaemic black "a" pawn.

15. R(f)e1 Qg5?

Already struggling to make the time control, 54 moves in two-and-a-half hours, the Welsh board one gives back the pawn for a non-existent

attack. I had analysed as equal 15 . . . Qd6. 16, R(a)d1 Be6!

16. Qxc7 e5
 17. R(a)d1 Bg4
 18. Ne4!

White's lead in development is now overwhelming.

18. . . . Qf4
 19. f3 Bc8

The bishop makes a humiliating retreat to defend the "b" pawn.

20. Nd6 h5
 21. Nxf7! Kh7

Obviously 21 . . . Rxf7. 22, Rd8 ch Bf8. 23, Rxc8 is hopeless for Black. My two rooks now come into the game, forcing immediate resignation.

22. Re4 Qf6
 23. Rd6

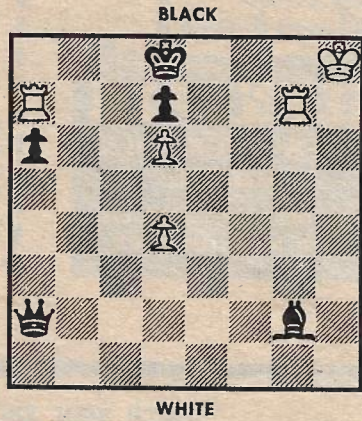
The black queen, hassled throughout the game, can find no shelter. The loss of a piece is forced.

23. . . . Be6
 24. Bxe6 Resigns.

HERE IS a very easy problem composed by W. A. Shinkman. It features a basic

theme, called a Nowotny Interference.

White to play and mate in three moves.



Times: 5 seconds: Master strength. 10 seconds: New Zealand needs you. 30 seconds: Good club player. 1 minute: Not too bad. 10 minutes: You can do better. 20 minutes or more: (a) You will get there in the end or (b) Sure you had the right position? or (c) How's the Scrabble going?

SOLUTION: 1, d5 Qxd5, 2, R8 ch Qxa8, 3, Rg8 mate. OR: 1, d5 Bxd5, 2, Rg8 ch Bxg8, 3, R8 mate.

MURRAY CHANDLER

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Golden Dozen by Irving Chernev, OUP, \$16.10. The 12 players considered by Chernev to be the greatest of all time; 115 games, commentaries. *Great Chess Upsets* by Samuel Reshevsky, Faber, \$10.95. A study of blunders and surprises by 17 top players.