

Down but not out

THIS YEAR'S 36-player, 11-round British Championship had an exciting finish.

After three rounds, only Tony Miles and Jonathan Mestel, the eventual winner, had maximum points.

In their clash in round four Mestel lost the exchange —

but still won! Miles did not fall for "a cheapo" but was just outplayed, a rook for a knight up.

Portsmouth 1976:

RUY LOPEZ

J. Mestel	A. J. Miles
1. e4	e5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. Bb5	a6
4. Ba4	Nf6
5. Qe2	b5
6. Bb3	d6
7. a4	Rb8
8. a×b5	a×b5
9. Nc3	

It is clear that Miles did not know the opening and he

is forced to give up a pawn as 9... b4. 10, Qc4! Qd7. 11, Nd5 reduces him to immobility.

9. . . .	Be7
10. N×b5	O-O
11. Na7?	Ra8!

Ouch! Now White must lose the exchange because

12, N×c6 R×a1. 13, N×d8 R×c1 ch. 14, Qd1 R×d1 ch will leave him a piece down after 15, K×d1 R×d8.

12. N×c6	R×a1
13. O-O	Qe8
14. Nb4	Be6
15. B×e6	f×e6
16. c3	Ra4
17. b3	Ra8
18. Nc2	Qc6
19. Ng5	Qd7
20. d4	h6
21. Nf3	e×d4
22. N(c)×d4	c5
23. Nb5	Ne8
24. Rd1	Nc7
25. N×c7	Q×c7
26. Qc4	Qc8
27. Be3	Kh8
28. h3	e5
29. Nd2	Qa6
30. Qe6	Qe2
31. Rf1	Bg5
32. B×g5	h×g5
33. Nf3	Rf6
34. Qg4	R(a)f8?

Better is 34... Rf4 with a draw in sight. White has been improving his position with each move and is now winning.

35. N×e5!	Q×g4
36. N×g4	R(6)f7
37. e5!	d5

Even though in time trouble Miles sees 37... d×e5 loses the exchange after 38, N×e5 threatening forks on g6, or d7, depending on Black's move.

38. Rd1	Rd8
39. e6!	Rb7

On 39... Re7 White plays 40, Ne5! with more forks, this time on g6, f7 and c6.

40. Ne5	Re8?
41. Nf7 ch	Kg8
42. Nd6	Resigns.

Black's 40... Re8 was of course a blunder, but White is better anyway after 40... Kg8. 41, Nf7 Rb8 (Re8 Nd6). 42, R×d5 R×b3. 43, R×c5.

After the game Mestel threw the knight in the air and exclaimed: "What a beautiful piece!"

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THE TWO GLADIATORS of English chess, Dave Rumens and Jonathan Speelman, have both been playing true to form; sacrificing material left, right and centre! Here Rumens produces another sparkling win, this time against the 1974 £1000 winner of the Cutty Sark Grand Prix, Gerald Bennett.

BIRD'S OPENING

D. Rumens	G. Bennett
1. f4	Nf6
2. Nf3	c5
3. e3	Nc6
4. Be2	g6
5. O-O	Bg7
6. d3	O-O
7. Qe1	b6
8. Qh4	Bb7
9. e4	d5
10. e5	Ne8
11. N(b)d2	Nc7
12. f5	g×f5
13. Ng5	h6
14. N(d)f3!?	

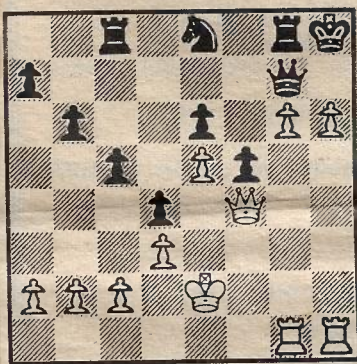
Hardly anyone who was watching the game believed Rumens had any real compensation for his piece.

14. . . .	e6
15. Qg3	h×g5
16. B×g5	Qb8
17. h4	Ne8
18. Bf4	Nd4
19. Kf2!	N×e2
20. K×e2	d4
21. h5	B×f3 ch
22. g×f3	Kh7
23. Rh1	Bh6
24. B×h6	Rg8!?

After 24... K×h6. 25, R(a)g1 Black must step carefully. For example: 25... Kh7? 26, h6! with the horrible threat of 27, Qg7 ch!!

25. Bg5	f6
26. f4	f×g5
27. f×g5	Qc7
28. g6 ch	Kh8
29. Qf4	Qg7
30. R(a)g1	Rc8
31. h6!	

BLACK



WHITE

The white pieces work very hard and are beautifully co-ordinated, every piece being used to its full capacity.

31. . . .	Qe7
32. g7 ch	Kh7
33. Rh5!	Nf6
34. R×f5!!	

Typical Rumens — refuses to regain his material and instead offers even more!

34. . . .	e×f5
35. Q×f5 ch	K×h6
36. Qg6	checkmate.

MURRAY CHANDLER