

# Well played, young sir

NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD Jonathan Mestel played brilliant chess (and several practical jokes as well!) at the British championships to become the youngest ever winner.

After an unprecedented nine straight wins in a row he looked certain to beat the long-standing record of 9½/11 points, but surpris-

ingly was held to a draw in round 10 and lost to a determined Andrew Whiteley in the last game.

Grandmaster Tony Miles was never in the running after Mestel beat him, finishing with me on six-and-a-half points.

Mestel's strategy was very similar for each game. Play-

ing quietly, he would find a subtle idea his opponent had not foreseen, in the position and so wrest the initiative. The conclusion was decided by sharp tactics of which he is a superb and speedy calculator.

Portsmouth 1976:

MODERN DEFENCE  
K. P. Neat J. Mestel

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|----------|-------|
| 1. d4    | d6    |
| 2. c4    | g6    |
| 3. Nc3   | Bg7   |
| 4. e4    | e5!?  |
| 5. Nf3   | e×d4  |
| 6. N×d4  | Nc6   |
| 7. Be3   | g)e7  |
| 8. Be2   | O-O   |
| 9. O-O   | f5    |
| 10. e×f5 | B×d4! |

Many players would auto-

matically reject this move because it weakens the squares around the black king, but Mestel aims to give White a weak, isolated pawn.

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|----------|---------|
| 11. B×d4 | N×f5    |
| 12. Be3  | N×e3    |
| 13. f×e3 | R×f1 ch |
| 14. Q×f1 | Be6     |
| 15. Rd1  | Qe7     |
| 16. Bf3  | Ne5!    |

The black pieces are headed for the white king-side.

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|----------|------|
| 17. c5   | d×c5 |
| 18. B×b7 | Rf8  |
| 19. Qe1  | c6!  |

Mestel has transferred his advantages — now he has the weak pawns but very active pieces. If Neat plays 20, Ba6 then 20 . . . c4 gives black a strong attack combined with threats on the bishop. Neat prefers to try for counterplay with tactics.

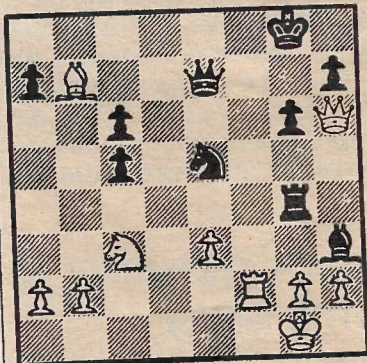
20. Qg3 Rf5  
Again threatening Q×b7 as Black's knight is defended.

21. Rf1 Rg5  
After 21 . . . Q×b7 white regains his piece by 22, R×f5 and 23, Q×e5.

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|---------|------|
| 22. Qf4 | Bh3! |
| 23. Rf2 | Rg4  |
| 24. Qh6 |      |

The combination goes on — this time 24 . . . Q×b7?? 25, Qf8 mate. But Mestel has seen that one move further and forces a quick resignation.

BLACK



WHITE

24. . . . B×g2!  
Decoying the rook from the important f file is the reason for the "sac" which refutes White's combination.

25. R×g2 Rh4!

26. Nd5

With the rook on the f file this move would have worked if Black's bishop were not on g2; eg 25 . . . Qd8 (25 . . . c×d5? 26, B×d5 ch and White wins.) 26, Rf8 ch! Q×f8. 27, Q×h4. But the rook is not on the file and by declining this piece Mestel stops White's queen escaping to g5. (Nf3 ch).

26. . . . Qd8!

Her Majesty has been cleverly trapped and no course remains, bar . . .

27. Resigns.

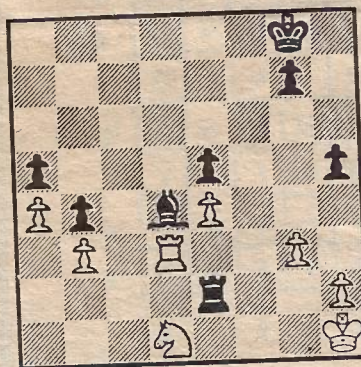
ROBERT BELLIN produced an amusing finish to his first round game, putting his opponent in zugzwang. A situation where you are forced to move and any move you play makes your position worse.

## SICILIAN DEFENCE

C. Lennox R. Bellin

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|----------|--------|
| 1. e4    | c5     |
| 2. Nf3   | d6     |
| 3. d4    | c×d4   |
| 4. N×d4  | Nf6    |
| 5. Nc3   | Nc6    |
| 6. Bc4   | Bd7    |
| 7. f3    | a6     |
| 8. Be3   | e6     |
| 9. Bb3   | b5     |
| 10. O-O  | Be7    |
| 11. a4   | b4     |
| 12. Na2  | Qb8    |
| 13. Qd2  | N×d4   |
| 14. B×d4 | a5     |
| 15. Nc1  | O-O    |
| 16. Nd3  | e5     |
| 17. Be3  | Be6    |
| 18. Bg5  | Qd8    |
| 19. Nf2  | h6     |
| 20. B×f6 | B×f6   |
| 21. Nd1  | Bg5    |
| 22. Qd3  | Qb6 ch |
| 23. Kh1  | B×b3   |
| 24. Q×b3 | Qc5    |
| 25. Rf2  | R(a)c8 |
| 26. Re2  | Rc6    |
| 27. Nf2  | R(f)c8 |
| 28. Rd1  | Qc4    |
| 29. Q×c4 | R×c4   |
| 30. R×d6 | R×c2   |
| 31. R×c2 | R×c2   |
| 32. Nd1  | Rc1    |
| 33. Rd3  | Be3!   |
| 34. g3   | Bd4    |
| 35. b3   | Rc2    |
| 36. f4   | f6     |
| 37. f×e5 | f×e5   |
| 38. Rf3  | Re2!   |
| 39. Rd3  | h5!    |

BLACK



WHITE

White's knight, rook and king have slowly but surely been tied down and now none of them can move without material loss.

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| 40. h3       | g5 |
| 41. Resigns. |    |

White will run out of pawn moves whereupon Rf3 will lose the knight to Re1 ch. Zugzwang!

FOR a combinative battle from beginning to end try the following game played in round six of the Auckland Chess Centre championships.

P. W. Power R. E. Gibbons

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|--------|------|
| 1. e4  | e5   |
| 2. Nf3 | g6?! |

The opening? Well, the "Gibbons Gambit" must be as good a name as any!

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|---------------------------|---------|
| 3. N×e5                   | Qe7     |
| 4. Nf3                    | Q×e4 ch |
| 5. Be2                    | Bg7     |
| 6. O-O                    | Nf6?    |
| . . . Ne7 was called for. |         |
| 7. Nc3                    | Qc6?    |
| 8. Bb5                    | Qb6     |
| 9. Re1 ch                 | Kf8     |
| 10. b3                    | c6      |
| 11. Ba3 ch                | Kg8     |
| 12. Qe2!?                 |         |

A pleasant hour may be spent looking for mates after 12 . . . c×b5. 13, Nd5! Qa6! 14, Qe8 ch N×e8. 15, R×e8 ch Bf8. 16, B×f8. For example: 16 . . . f6. 17, Bh6 ch Kf7. 18, Re7 ch Kg8. 19, R(a)e1! Qe6. 20, R(1)×e6 d×e6. 21, N×f6 mate. A prettier line is Wayne Power's favourite, 16 . . . f5. 17, Bd6 ch!? Kf7. 18, Ng5 ch! K×e8. 19, Nf6 ch Kd8. 20, Nf7 — mate with three minor pieces! Black's best is 16 . . . h6 but 17, R×c8 Kh7. 18, Re1 gives White the better chances.

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|-----------|-----|
| 12. . . . | h6  |
| 13. Bd3   | Kh7 |
| 14. Qe7   | Rf8 |
| 15. Ne5   | Ng8 |
| 16. Q×f7! |     |

A nice offer which obviously cannot be accepted. (R×f7. 17, B×g6 ch Kh8. 18, N×f7 mate.)

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|-----------|----------|
| 16. . . . | Ne7      |
| 17. Q×e7  | Rf6      |
| 18. Bc5   | Qc7      |
| 19. N×g6  | R×g6     |
| 20. Qf7   | Resigns. |

MURRAY CHANDLER