

# Beating up the oldies

OLEG ROMANISHIN of the Soviet Union played sparkling attacking chess at the Hastings Premier Congress to take first place with 11½/14 points. He scored one loss, three draws and 10 (!) wins, eventually winning by an amazing two point margin. The young Grandmaster, who celebrated his 25th birthday during the event, played to win his last round game despite being already assured of first prize. From the word go Romanishin scythed through the field, producing colourful games even against players of such experience as former world champion and fellow countryman Vassily Smyslov. England 1976-1977

### RUY LOPEZ

O. Romanishin V. Smyslov

- 1. e4 e5
- 2. Nf3 Nc6
- 3. Bb5 a6
- 4. Ba4 d6
- 5. O-O Bd7
- 6. c4!?

*Usual here is 6. c3, preparing d4, but Romanishin tries a lesser known path.*

- 6. . . . Nf6
- 7. Nc3 Bg4

*In moving this piece twice, Black is now a tempo down on a line after 5 . . . Bg4. Better is 7 . . . g6 or 7 . . . Be7.*

- 8. h3 Bxf3
- 9. Qxf3 g6?!
- 10. d4!

*Obvious and strong — the side ahead in development should always play to open the position. Smyslov doesn't care to assist him.*

- 10. . . . Nd7
- 11. dxe5 Ndx5
- 12. Qe2 Bg7
- 13. Be3 O-O
- 14. Rad1

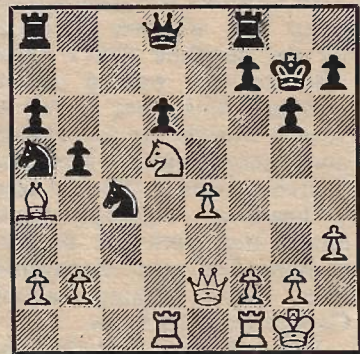
*So Black has castled, but White's position is definitely much superior. Smyslov's next move seems to be an error, but what to do?*

- 14. . . . Na5
- 15. c5 b5
- 16. cb6 cxb6
- 17. Nd5

*A radioactive knight!*

- 17. . . . Nec4
- 18. Bd4 b5
- 19. Bxg7 Kxg7

### V. SMYSLOV



### O. ROMANISHIN

- 20. b4! bxa4
- 21. bxa5 Nxa5
- 22. Rcl

*Romanishin simply plays positionally to force Smyslov's capitulation.*

- 22. . . . a3
- 23. Qd2 Rb8
- 24. Qc3 ch

*The fallout begins: Black cannot try 24 . . . f6 because of 25. Nc7.*

- 24. . . . Kh6

- 25. Nf6 g5
- 26. f4 gx4
- 27. Rxf4 Resigns.

Rarely can Smyslov have received such a trouncing from a player 30 years his junior.

★ ★ ★

ANOTHER RUSSIAN has also been doing rather well of late; the International Association of Chess Journalists voted overwhelmingly in favour of world champion Anatoly Karpov's receiving the 1976 Chess Oscar for his consistently outstanding play

last year. Previous winners of the Oscar are Larsen (1967), Spassky (1968, 1969), Fischer (1970, 1971, 1972); Karpov has collected every award since then, the top 10 places in 1976 were Karpov, Larsen, Mecking, Hort, Petrosian, Polugayevsky, Portisch, Korchnoi, Tal and Tseshkovsky.

★ ★ ★

THE PLACINGS for the 1976 Cutty Sark Grand Prix have now been worked out. Most successful on the 1976 English Circuit was Dave Rumens,

who wins the \$1000 first prize. Rumens, scored 186.9 points out of 200 and finished first in 13 events during the year. The top 10 placegetters receive whisky and bonus points for 1977. Second was A. J. Mestel (England) 177.8; third, M. Chandler (New Zealand) 177.3; fourth, M. Fuller (Australia) 176. Tony Miles, the world's youngest Grandmaster and last year's winner, finished seventh on 169.8.

MURRAY CHANDLER