

Sunday, bloody Sunday

ISLINGTON 1976 was one of the largest English weekenders held last year. Everybody attended, including half the New Zealand Olympiad team.

George Botterill sneaked through the field after an early draw and stole off with first — out of 160 players —

by beating Bellin in round six. We Kiwis had slightly mixed fortunes. In round two our Olympiad team of Chandler, Small and Smith faced formidable opposition with Jamieson, Nunn and Rumens respectively. Small drew with International Master Nunn, staying among the leaders.

But weekenders are blood-thirsty events and two further shared points, a last round defeat to Rumens plus a dose of glandular fever left him well clear of the prize list. A pity, because Vernon was a bit short on the old financial side for doing a chess tour of England!

I came second equal with an amazing total of nine people on 5/6, a loss being to Franklin. My toughest struggle was with Robert Jamieson, who narrowly missed out on a Grandmaster norm while playing board one for Australia at Haifa.

TARRASCH DEFENCE by transposition

M. Chandler R. Jamieson
International
Master

1. e4 c5
2. c3!?

This is an off-beat alternative I often use to avoid highly theoretical lines of the Sicilian defence. Personally I feel the move is by no means inferior and this seems to be borne out by the top grandmasters — when Tal, for example, faced it he thought Black's best to be a transposition to a Tarrasch French. Here Jamieson chooses the same defence.

2. . . . e6
3. d4 d5
4. e×d5 e×d5
5. Nf3 Nc6
6. Bb5 Bd6
7. O-O N(g)e7
8. d×c5 B×c5
9. N(b)d2 O-O
10. Nb3 Bd6

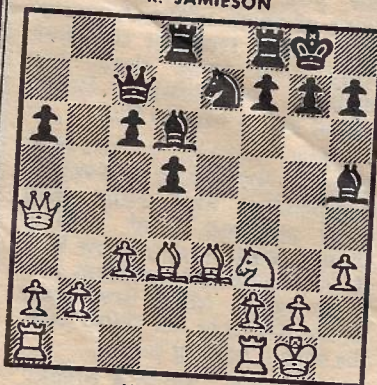
A basic theoretical position I have reached many times. Karpov v Korchnoi, Candidates' Match 1974, had several games in this variation and they found the following to be perhaps White's best.

11. N(b)d4 Bg4
12. Qa4 Bh5
13. Be3 Qc7
14. h3 a6?!

In the 12th game Korchnoi played 14 . . . Na5! and a hard fought draw was reached by 15. Bd3 Nc4. 16. Nb5 Qd7! 17. B×c4 d×c4. 18. R(f)d1 Nf5! 19. Q×c4 B×f3. 20. g×f3 N×e3. 21. f×e3 Q×h3 etc.

15. Bd3 R(a)d8?
16. N×c6! b×c6

R. JAMIESON



M. CHANDLER

17. B×h7 ch

Real hacking weekend chess!

17. . . . K×h7
18. Qh4 g6
19. g4 Nf5!

The best fighting defence. On alternatives, ie 19 . . . f6 White could simply continue 20. g×h5 g5. 21. Qg4 with advantage.

20. g×f5 Qd7
21. Qg5! Rh8

The knight on f3 was of course untouchable (21 . . . B×f3. 22. Qh6 ch Kg8. 23. f6 and mate follows) and Jamieson snatches the pawn

on f5 his king goes walk-about: 21 . . . Q×f5. 22. Qh6 ch Kg8. 23. Ng5 R(f)e8. 24. Bd4 Be5 (24 . . . Re5. 25. f4!). 25. Qh7 ch Kf8. 26. Bc5 ch Bd6. 27. B×d6 ch R×d6. 28. Qh8 ch Ke7. 29. R(f)e1 ch Re6. 30. R×e6 ch! f×e6. 31. Qg7 ch Kd6. (On 31 . . . Kd8. 32. Nf7 ch wins the queen with a fork or discovery.) 32. Nf7 ch Kc5. 33. Qd4 ch Kb5. 34. Qb4 checkmate.

22. Nh4 Be7
23. f6 Bf8
24. Kh2 Kg8
25. f4? Re8?

Both of us underestimated 25 . . . Be2! The bishop will find an excellent post on e4 and White's sacrifice 26. N×g6 is unplayable because of my weak h pawn (26 . . . Q×h3 ch).

26. R(a)e1 Re4
27. f5 Bd6 ch
28. Kg1 Kf8
29. f×g6

It's simplifying time.

29. . . . B×g6
30. N×g6 ch f×g6
31. Q×g6 R×e3
32. Qg7 ch Q×g7
33. f×g7 ch K×g7
34. R×e3 Bc5
35. Rf3

Well, thank goodness that's over. Now, perhaps, the ending is drawn, but this is weekend chess and one has no alternative but to try for a win at all costs.

35. . . . a5
36. Kg2 B×e3
37. R×e3 Kf6
38. Re2 a4
39. Kg3 Kf5
40. h4 c5
41. Rh2 Ke4
42. h5!?

A dangerous plan, but . . .

42. . . . Ke3
43. Kg2 d4
44. c×d4 c×d4
45. Kf1 d3
46. Ke1 Rc8
47. Rh3 ch Kd4
48. h6 Rc1 ch
49. Kd2 Rc2 ch
50. Kd1 Resigns

50 . . . Rc8. 51. h7 Rh8 is hopeless for Black; his rook is passive and his d pawn is lost after 52. Kd2 and 53. Rh4 ch.

MURRAY CHANDLER

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many other countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The horizontal ranks are labelled a to h from White's left. In each vertical file the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move. The en passant move (P x P ep in the descriptive notation) merely states the file and arrival square of the capturing pawn.

Some Examples: P-Q4 (White's move) = d4; P-K4 (Black's move) = e5; N-KB3 (White's move) = Nf3; N-QB3 (Black's move) = Nc6.