

Just a kid

AT THE recent Charlton Congress 12-year-old Nigel Short, thought to be one of England's brightest hopes, played excellent chess to finish second equal on 5 points with David Goodman, Scottish I. M. Craig Pritchett, and myself, behind surprise winner Roger Emerson on 5½/6. Although unusual, Short's result was impressive and he was responsible for the Rumens' downfall in round 6. Of course everyone is saying "future world champ" now!

Anyway, judge for yourself when you see what he did to Australian Olympiad player Max Fuller in round 4.

- London 77.
 N. Short M. Fuller
 1. e4 c5
 2. Nf3 Nc6
 3. Bb5 Qb6
 4. Bxc6!?

Neither Fuller, myself nor anyone else watching the game had seen this move before. It looks so silly — sure, White gains a development lead, but he has conceded the two bishops and Black has no real weaknesses. As it turned out though, the extra development paid off.

4. . . . Qxc6
 5. 0-0 g6?!

Short's strategy of choosing an unusual plan, often a good idea against a more experienced opponent, begins to reap dividends. Fuller should have played 5. . . d6 or 5. . . e6 — of course taking the e pawn by 5. . . Qxe4 is just asking for trouble; opening lines and furthering White's development at the same time.

6. Nc3 Bg7
 7. d4 d6
 8. dxc5 dxc5
 9. Bf4! Bxc3

A horrible move to have to make but White was threatening 10.Nd5.

10. bxc3 Qxe4
 11. Qc1!

Probably the best move of the game. The point is that if White had played 11.Qd2 Black replies 11. . . Bf5! and in addition to winning the pawn on c2 also threatens to gain momentum with . . . Rd8, hitting the white queen.

11. . . . Bf5
 12. Re1 Qa4?!

On 12. . . Qxc2? Short has 13.Qa3! with a winning position. Objectively, best is 12. . . Qc6 but White has enormous pressure.

13. Qe3 Qc6

Fuller had reached out his hand to move 13. . . Rc8 and only at the last moment saw e1.Be5! f6 15.Bxf6.
 e1.Ne5 Qc8



- FULLER**
 15. Nc4! Be6
 16. Qe5! Nf6
 17. Nd6 ch exd6
 18. Qxf6 Rg8

Even the amusing 18. . . 0-0 cannot save Black now still Short can penetrate the black squares, in this instance with 19.Bh6.

19. Bxd6 Qd7
 20. Rad1 Resigns.

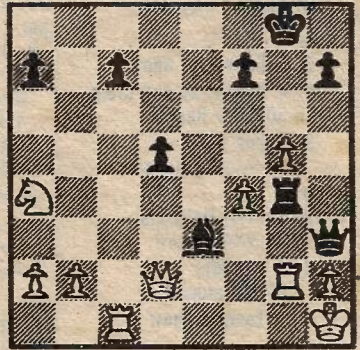
On 20. . . Rd8 21.Bxc5 decides matters while on 20. . . Qd8 21.Rxe6 ch! is finis.

Fuller was obviously off form and 12-year-old Short was playing unusually well, but, I mean . . . he's just a kid isn't he!?

PROBLEM

A small upset occurred in round one of the Ilford Congress when D. Barasi swindled his way to the diagrammed position against one of the higher rated participants, S. Berry. Should Berry, as White, now play 1.Qxd5, or should he pin Black's bishop with 1.Rc3? In the game Berry made the wrong choice — what should he have played and why?

D. I. BARASI
 London 1977



S. BERRY

Ilford results: 5½/6 M. J. Franklin 1st; 5/6 R. Bellin, M. Chandler, H. Plaskett, D. Rumens, 2nd=.

SOLUTION: White should play 1. Qxd5 and take a draw after 1. . . Bxc1 by 2. Qd8 ch Rg7 3. Qf6 ch Kg8 4. Qd8 ch. In the game Berry tried winning a piece with 1. Rc3?? and after 1. . . Qf3! had to resign quite redfaced. Eg. 2. Qe2 Qxe2! 3. Rxe2 Rg1 mate.

MURRAY CHANDLER