

# Consistently correct

CHESS IS one of a number of games in which the stronger a player becomes the more critical he is of his performance. That could account for the surprising lack of entries contesting the "best game prize" from the top players at the North Island Championships. I cannot believe that none of the top six placegetters played a good game and I am sure that the \$20 prize offered would not be spurned by any of them.

When deciding between the entries I was in a dilemma: should I overlook quite inconclusive play at the beginning of a game to reward a flashy combinative finish, or award the prize to a game played excellently by one side but weakly by the other? Eventually I chose the latter because the game I had in mind was by far the most efficient entry; it also had the most consistent display of correct moves, notwithstanding the poor resistance offered.

North Island 1977  
Wainuiomata  
Hosts: Pencarrow Chess Club  
FRENCH DEFENCE

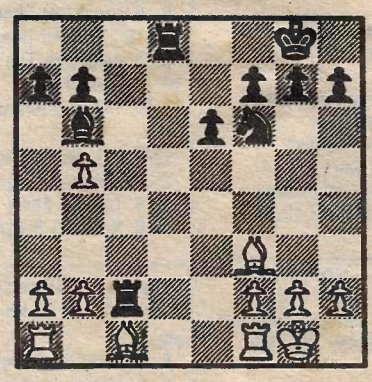
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|---------|----------|
| M. Sims | D. Adams |
| 1. e4   | e6       |
| 2. d4   | d5       |
| 3. Nd2  | dxe4     |
| 4. Nxe4 | Nd7      |
| 5. Nf3  | Ngf6     |

Black is playing the Rubenstein variation of the French Defence, a slightly inferior opening but difficult for White to exploit.

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|------------|------|
| 6. Nxf6 ch | Nxf6 |
| 7. Bd3     | c5!? |
| 8. 0-0!    |      |

A much better plan is 8,dxc5 Bxc5 9,Bg5 Be7 10,Qe2 followed by long castling. A series of dubious moves now puts Sims on the defensive.

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|-----------|------|
| 8. . . .  | Qb6! |
| 9. c3?!   | cxd4 |
| 10. Nxd4  | Bd7  |
| 11. Qb3   | Bc5  |
| 12. Qxb6  | Bxb6 |
| 13. Nb5?! | 0-0  |
| 14. c4    | Bxb5 |
| 15. cxb5  | Rfd8 |
| 16. Be2   | Rac8 |
| 17. Bf3   | Rc2  |



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|--------------|-------|
| 18. Bd1?     | Rxf2! |
| 19. Resigns. |       |

White's final move was a bad blunder but his position is a shambles. 18,Bxb7 meets the same 18, . . . Rxf2! while on 18,Rb1 Black should just continue quietly with 18, . . . Nd5. This week's problem: Why can't White then try 19,Bd1?

Results: 1st, V. Small 7/8; 2nd, L. Cornford 6½ (and North Island Champ because of residential qualifications); 3rd =, L. Whitehouse, H. Bennett, M. Steadman, M. Evans, 6.



The best chess book published in 1976? Difficult, if not impossible, to choose because of the quantity and quality of material. But the subject of chess and humour is a different story. The only one I can discover is William R. Hartston's *How to Cheat at Chess* (Hutchinson), \$5.45.

The little monograph has passages, among others, on chess and sex, "friendly games", physiognomic chess and how to offer draws. If he is going to cheat at chess, the



reader is advised, then he may as well do it properly, and a questionnaire is included to gauge how much the reader has learnt. The book, as you can see here, is delightfully illustrated by Bill Tidy.

What do you do if your opponent's swivel chair squeaks? How do you defend yourself against the neighbour's livestock while on a social visit? These are some of the penetrating questions *How to Cheat at Chess* tries to answer. Although the book is primarily a take-off of the UK and international scene I am sure many local chess personalities would neatly fit many of the stereotypes Hartston presents.



I loved the entire 96 pages. Any totally unethical New Zealand enthusiast will find the book's advice invaluable in tight situations, but it will probably shock the non-chess player who will most likely decide to never take up the game at all.



MURRAY CHANDLER