

Chess

Thumbs up for a plum of a win

THE LONDON contingent's annual trek to the Blackpool Chess Congress was to no avail this year, as it was a Northerner who carried off first prize with a maximum five point score. Jeff Horner beat myself, Rumens and Simon Webb in successive rounds — though none of us knew quite how! Another of his victims was hippy Dave Patrick, who was winning but managed to lose his queen for a rook and a minor piece. Patrick played a better game in round four, but it was by then, of course, too late.

Weekender, Blackpool 1977. SICILIAN DEFENCE

D. Patrick	P. O'Connor
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	e6
3. d4	cid4
4. Nxd4	a6
5. Nc3	Nc6
6. Be3	Bb4?!

Equality is offered by the Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings in a line beginning 6... Nf6 7. Bd3 d5!?

7. Nxc6	bxc6
8. Qd4	Bxc3 ch
9. bxc3	

Patrick doubles his pawns in order to be able to answer 9... Nf6 by 10. e5.

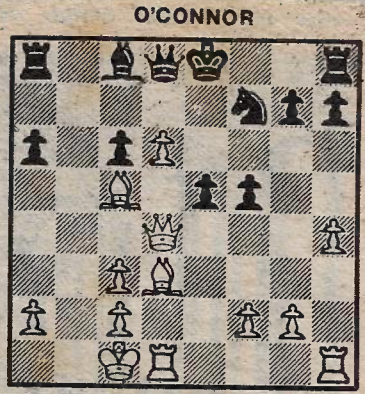
9...	Qf6
10. e5	Qg6
11. Bd3	f5

After 11... Qxg2 12. 0-0-0 no amount of wriggling is going to help Black with his backward development.

12. Qd6	Nh6
13. Bc5	Qg5
14. h4	Qd8
15. 0-0-0	Nf7
16. Qd4	d5

Patrick has complete domination of the black squares so O'Connor decides to give up a pawn for some degree of freedom.

17. exd6	e5
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18. Bc4!

This offer of the queen is stronger than simply retreating with, say, 18. Qe3 Bd7 19. Bc4 Qf6. If O'Connor accepts the queen Patrick had analysed in depth the most critical varia-

tion: 18... exd4 19. Rhel ch Be6 20. Rxe6 ch Kd7 21. Re7 ch Kc8 (or 21... Qxe7 22. dxe7 Ne5 23. Rxd4 ch Ke8 24. Be6! with f4 to follow) 22. Be6 ch Kb8 23. Kd2! dxc3 ch 24. Kel and the threat of Rbl ch is too strong.

18...	Bd7
19. Rhel	Qf6
20. Rxe6 ch!	

Again Patrick chooses the most forceful method of realising his advantage. The prosaic 20. Bxf7 ch and 21. Rxe5 also wins, but it's more fun this way!

20...	Nxe5
21. Rel	Kf8

On 21... Kd8 follows 22. Rxe5 Re8 23. Bb6ch Kc8 24. f4! with a winning bind.

22. Rxe5	Re8
23. Re7!	Rxe7

After 23... Qxd4 the zwischenzug 24. Rf7 ch! Kg8 followed by 25. Bxd4 means curtains for Black.

24. dxe7 ch	Ke8
25. Qf4!	Qh6

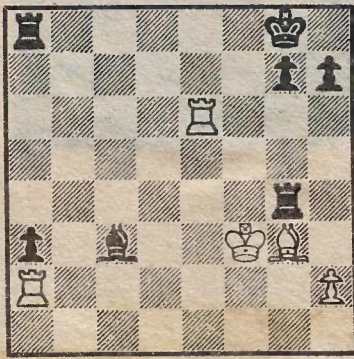
Pinning White's queen against his king like this is the only move to avoid mate, but Patrick has a nice finish.

26. Qxh6	gxh6
27. Bd4!	Resigns

A fine game for a tournament played under fine conditions. The spacious playing area was in the aptly named Castle Motel, where the buildings are shaped like giant rooks!

WELL, IT'S LAST round Sunday and all you want to do is get your game over cause you're out of the money and you've played lousy and you're two pawns up...

CHANDLER



COCKCROFT

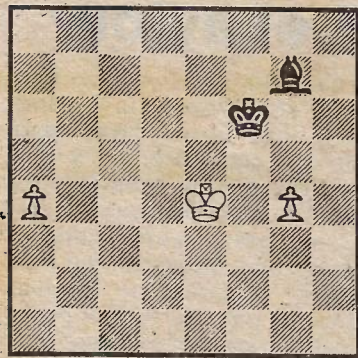
This was the situation I was in. Here 1... Rb4 seems to be an easy way to finish the game, as after 2. Ree2 Rb2 3. Bd6 Rxa2 4. Rxa2 Bb2 leaves White's rook hopelessly misplaced.

However White has the annoying move 2. Bd6 which seems quite strong. In fact it loses due to the placement of White's King, of all pieces.

From the diagram, play proceeded; 1... Rb4 2. Bd6 Rb6! 3. Re3 (If 3. Rxa3 Rxa3 4. Re8 ch Kf7 5. Rf8 ch Kg6 6. Bxa3 then now I have 6... Rb3! and a discovery on the White king will be fatal) 3... Bd4! 4. Rexa3 Rxa3 5. Bxa3 Ra6! The point. 6. Ral and 7. Bb2 to break the pin is impossible because my bishop just happens to control that diago-

nal, and White's other hope, 6. Rd2, fails because 6... Rxa3 is actually check; so after 6. Ke4 Bc5 my opponent resigned.

WHITE is to play and win in this not-too-difficult problem for those who cannot solve it a quick refresher course on my article, "Last rites", in the Listener of April 9 will be of assistance.



Solution: Normally of course a bishop and king can easily restrain two pawns but here White can take advantage from the unfortunate placing of Black's king with 1. a5 Bf8 3. g5 ch! Bxg5. Recognise the position? 4. Ke4! Bb4 5. Kf3! and wins as the a pawn just rolls through to a8.

MURRAY CHANDLER