

A win for both and a draw for Nunn

EASTER brought a spate of weekenders to England, and as a consequence the strong players were few and far between at each event. I attended the Thames Valley congress and finished third. The joint winners, Dave Rumens and John Nunn, both scored 6½/7 points, dropping the half-point apiece in their exciting individual encounter — in which, much to the delight of the spectators, the tradition of giving was maintained throughout.

London 1977

RUY LOPEZ

J. Nunn (IM)	D. Rumens
1.e4	e5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.Bb5	f5!?

Typical Rumens! The Schlieman is one of the sharpest lines at Black's disposal, but Nunn goes straight down a main line.

4.Nc3	f×e4
5.N×e4	d5
6.N×e5	d×e4
7.N×c6	Qg5

I was sitting on the next board and both players obviously knew what they were doing, but the spectators seemed very interested in this aggressive opening play. White's discovered check is relatively harmless in this position.

8.Qe2	Nf6
9.f4	Qh4 ch
10.g3	Qh3
11.Ne5 dis ch	c6
12.Bc4	Bc5
13.d3	Ng4
14.Nf7	Bf2 ch

15.Kd1	e3
16.Qf3	

Up to here, all theory. Nunn was following a game he had seen in 1974 between Kavelek and Ljubgevic. Ljubgevic played 16 . . . N×h2 and lost quickly but Rumens tries another continuation.

16 . . .	Nf6
17.f5!	Rf8!

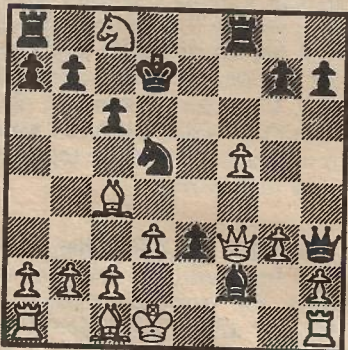
Rumens spent a long time deciding on this rook move. The point is that after 18, B×e3

Black has the resource 18 . . . Qg4! Nunn tried another move, but confessed to me a few minutes later that he had completely overlooked the strength of Rumens's next two moves.

18.Nd6 ch	Kd7
19.N×c8	Nd5!

Now if 20, B×d5 Black wins by 20 . . . R×f5! 21, Qe4 Re5! But one good knight move deserves another (and this is a well-travelled knight indeed)

RUMENS



NUNN

20.Ne7! Rae8!

Don't worry if you don't understand — the crowd didn't either.

21.B×d5	c×d5
22.B×e3	

By 22.Q×d5 ch K×e7. 23.Q×b7 ch White obtains a few checks and a lost game.

22 . . .	B×e3
23.Re1!	R×e7
24.R×e3	R×e3

I wondered at this stage if

Nunn had miscalculated the ending after 25, Q×e3, as it seems to be winning for Black, eg. 25 . . . Re8 26, Qf2 Qg4 ch. 27, Kd2 Qb4 ch. 28, Kd1 Q×b2. 29, Rcl Qc3! and White is all bottled up. But nobody has been recapturing pieces so — why start now!

25. Q×d5 ch	Ke8
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26. Qb5 ch	Draw agreed
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Even the perpetual is unclear, as in many lines White is forced to capture the rook on e3, but then his king can find refuge on the unlikely square of c3. The most critical variation for both sides is 26 . . . Kf7. 27, Qd5 ch Kf6. 28, Qd6 ch Kg5 29, Qf4 ch Kh5 20, Q×e3 Qf1 ch 31, Kd2!

Q×al when White has enough in return for his rook — the precarious position of the Black king combined with the Black queen's inability to assist in defence. Eg 32, Qf4 g5 33. g4 ch Kh6 34, Qd6 ch Kg7 35, Qe7 ch etc.

Both Rumens and Nunn were selected to play for the

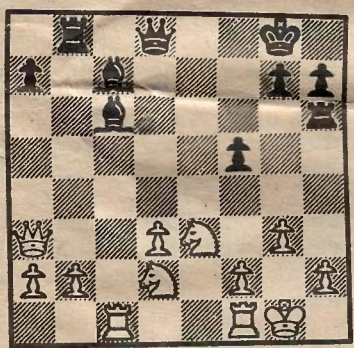
English team at the European teams championship in Moscow. Although Rumens declined to play, Nunn was due to leave Heathrow (he hoped — courtesy of British Airways!) the day after our tournament ended.

MURRAY CHANDLER

Problem

This week's problem is fairly hard but the key move should be easy to find. Black is to play and win. Hungary 1976.

BRANDICS



KARSA

Solution: Black wins by penetrating with a queen offer, 1 Qh4! 2, Rfel (if 2, g×h4 Rg6 ch. 3, Ng2 R×g2 ch. 4, Kh1 R×h2 ch, followed by 5 Q×h2. Rhl mate). 2 . . . Q×h2 ch. 3, Kf1 B×g3! 4, Nd1 (or 4, f×g3 Q×d2 and wins) 4 . . . Bg2 ch. 5, Ke2 Qh5 ch. 6. White resigns.

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.