

Kidding around

THE NORTH London Junior Chess Congress attracted some 400 entries, split up into under-21, u-18, u-14, u-12, u-10 and u-8 sections. I played in the FIDE recognised International U-21 together with another New Zealander, Robert Smith who is still in Europe after playing in the Olympiad in Haifa. I won the event with

6/6, followed by J. Plaskett and R. Carthy on 5.

London 1977.

SICILIAN DEFENCE

J. C. Benjamin M. Chandler

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| 1.e4 | c5 |
| 2.Nf3 | e6 |
| 3.d4 | cxd4 |
| 4.Nxd4 | Nc6 |
| 5.Nc3 | Qc7 |
| 6.g3 | |

This is a popular continuation against the Taimanov as it avoids the sharper lines of other variations whilst still allowing White good winning chances. With accurate play, however, Black's resources should be adequate.

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| 6... | a6 |
| 7.Bg2 | Nf6 |
| 8.0-0 | Be7 |
| 9.Re1 | |

One of the more trappy varia-

tions, and indeed if Black now plays the obvious 9...0-0 White has 10.Nxc6 dxc6 11.e5 with better chances. Black's road to equality after 9.Re1 lies in exploiting the fact that the rook no longer defends the f pawn.

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| 9... | Nxd4! |
| 10.Qxd4 | Bc5 |
| 11.Bf4!? | |

More usual are 11.Qd1 and 11.Qd3. I have had 11.Bf4

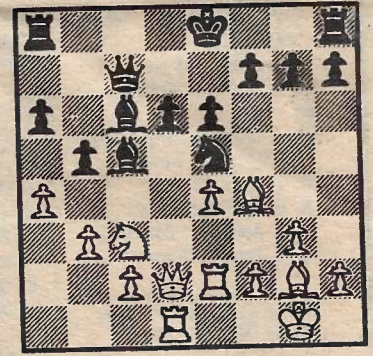
played against me before but I feel that it is slightly misplaced here.

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| 11... | d6 |
| 12.Qd2 | Ng4! |
| 13.Re2 | Ne5 |
| 14.b3 | |

Benjamin was obviously worried about my knight hopping into c4, but although the weakness created by b3 cannot be immediately exploited (14...Bb4? 15.Nd5!) in the long run it forces White to adopt a plan not in keeping with the usual Sicilian type position.

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| 14... | b5 |
| 15.Rd1 | Bb7! |
| 16.a4 | Bc6! |

M. CHANDLER



J. C. BENJAMIN

Black wants the position fluid on the queenside, hoping that, eventually, the rook's file will be opened. Here I felt White might try 17.Nd5! to which I had planned to reply 17...Qb7! but what he played, undermining the two bishops' fairly supple position, must be bad.

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| 17.Bxe5? | dxe5 |
| 18.axb5 | axb5 |
| 19.Qd3 | Qb7 |
| 20.Red2 | 0-0 |
| 21.Qe2 | b4 |
| 22.Na4 | Bd4 |

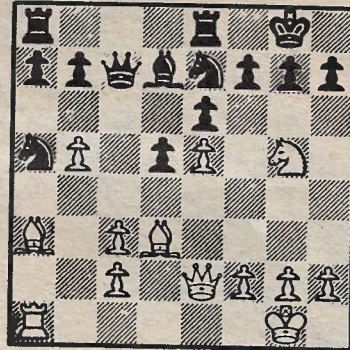
played in a day and problems such as accommodation do not arise. Everybody is welcome, entry forms and other details are available from: The Secretary, Mr P. K. Lamb, Avro Rd, Whiteman's Valley, Upper Hutt. Entries close June 10.

This year there will be an "A" Grade, a "B" Grade and two "C" Grades, which means everyone can be in with a

chance of winning a prize.

Here is a combination played by last year's "B" Grade winner P. Preece, after he had tied up his opponent's pieces. In this position should Black (E. Hunt) defend with (a) g6 (b) Ng6 or (c) h6? In the game he made the wrong decision and lost quickly, can you do better?

MURRAY CHANDLER



SOLUTION: 1...g6 is the best defensive try, although Black is left critically weak on the dark squares. In the game Hunt played 1...Ng6 (1...h6 2.Qh5 Ng6 transposes) and play proceeded 2.Qh5 h6 3.Nxh6! Kxh7 (or 3...Nf4 4.Nxh6 ch Kh8, 5.Nf7 double ch Kg8 6.Bh7 mate) 4.Qxg6 ch Black resigns, as on 4...Kg8 5.Qh7 ch Kf7 then 6.Bg6 is mate.

Black can collect the pawn (with ...Bxa4 and ...Rxa4) anytime so I thought I would first improve my position.

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| 23.Qc4 | Rfc8! |
| 24.Rxd4 | |

Benjamin tries sacrificing the exchange for some counterplay. On 24.Qe2 I had in mind 24...Bb5 25.Qf3 Bxa4 26.bxa4 Rc3 followed by 27...Rxa4.

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| 24... | exd4 |
| 25.Qxd4 | Bxa4 |
| 26.bxa4 | Qe7 |

Of course, not 26 Rxa4?? 27.Qd8 ch with a back rank mate to follow

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| 27.e5 | Rxa4 |
| 28.Be4 | g6 |
| 29.Qb6? | |

By this stage Benjamin was in severe time trouble but the position is an easy win anyway.

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| 29... | b3 |
| 30.Bc6 | Rc4 |
| 31.cxb3 | R4xc6 |
| 32.Qa7 | |

Blunder or last hope I don't know, but with half an hour left on my clock I wasn't likely to miss it.

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| 32... | Qxa7 |
| 33.Resigns | |

Once again this year Upper Hutt Chess Club are to hold their annual Dominion Breweries 40-40 tournament, to be held on Saturday, June 25 in the excellent Civic Hall at Upper Hutt. This year they are hoping to top 200 entries and if the response is anything like it was the year I played in it, they may well do so. It is called the 40-40 tournament because each player is allocated 40 minutes in which to complete the whole game. That means the whole congress can be