

Backing Britain's best

THIS YEAR'S London Evening Standard, the world's biggest congress, attracted 1176 entries including a formidable section of title and foreign participants. And two Englishmen, IM Simon Webb and Johnathan Speelman shared first place and £1500 on 5½/6 points each.

New Zealand was represented by Robert Smith, Peter Weir, newly-arrived Bob Gibbons and myself, and although I was the highest scorer on 4½, any score over 50 per cent in a tournament of such strength and depth wasn't exactly a failure. The only grand master in attendance, Bojan Kurajica of Yugoslavia, was defeated in round 1, drew against Robert Smith's dragon in round 2 and drew his final game as well so he scored only four!

A £50 best game prize was also offered, so not even Kurajica was out of the money until the very end. Certainly after I lost in round 4 I made a determined effort to play a masterpiece and was most peeved when even that prize went to someone else. Another unsuccessful entry came from Dutch IM Hans Bohm in his final round game against Robert Bellin (both were on 3 points).

National Bank of Dubai Open. London 1977.

BLACKMAR DIEMER GAMBIT

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| R. Bellin | H. Bohm |
| 1. e4 | d5 |
| 2. d4 | dxe4 |
| 3. Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 4. f3 | Bf5 |
| 5. Bc4 | |

More usual are 5.fxe4 and 5.g4?! The Blackmar Diemer Gambit is considered to be slightly speculative, but a New Zealand player, William Lynn of Nelson, has scored some neat victories with it on occasions.

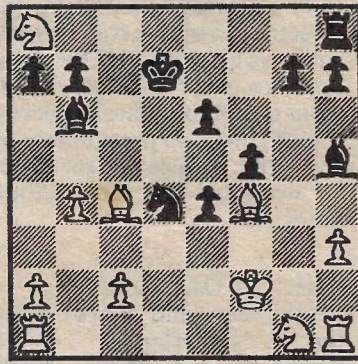
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| 5. . . . | e6 |
| 6. g4 | Nxg4!? |
| 7. fxg4 | Qh4 ch |
| 8. Kf1 | Bxg4 |
| 9. Qd2 | Nc6 |
| 10. Qf2 | Qxf2 |
| 11. Kxf2 | Nxd4 |

Black now has four pawns for his sacrificed piece. In the endgame this would be more than adequate, but in the middlegame pieces have a more decisive role to play and Bohm must get his pawns rolling as quickly as possible.

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| 12. Bf4 | f5 |
| 13. h3 | Bh5 |
| 14. Nb5! | Bc5! |

On 14. . . . Nx b5 15. Bx b5 ch c6 16. Bc4 Kf7 17. Rd1 Black's pawns would be unable to advance. Now, by giving up even more material Bohm keeps his central pawns on the go.

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| 15. Nx c7 ch | Kd7 |
| 16. b4! | Bb6 |
| 17. Nx a8 | |



The point of 16.b4 is shown here, as 17. . . . Nx c2 dis. ch. can be answered by 18. Nx b6 ch. Now we reach the extraordinary situation where Black drops a rook but has five extra pawns.

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| 17. . . . | Rxa8 |
| 18. Kf1 | Nxc2 |
| 19. Rc1 | Nxb4 |
| 20. Rh2 | Nd5 |
| 21. Rd2 | g5! |
| 22. Bxg5? | |

By now Bellin was in time trouble and missed the line 22. Bxd5 exd5 23. Rxd5 ch Ke6 24. Rd6 ch Ke7 (24. . . . Kf7 25. Rd7 ch!) 25. Rh6 with much improved drawing chances.

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| 22. . . . | Rg8 |
| 23. Bxd5 | exd5 |
| 24. Rg2 | f4 |
| 25. Bxf4 | Rf8 |
| 26. Ne2 | Be3 |

Of course the prosaic 26. . . . Bxe2 ch also wins but Bohm prefers his bishop on f4.

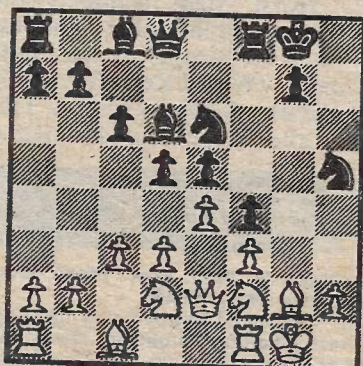
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| 27. Rc7 ch | Ke6 |
| 28. Rxh7 | Bxe2 ch |
| 29. Kxe2 | Bxf4 |
| 30. Rxb7 | Rc8 |
| 31. Rb2 | d4 |
| 32. Rg4 | d3 ch |
| 33. Kf2 | Rc2 ch |
| 34. Resigns | |

On 34. Rxc2 dxc2 35. Rxf4 Black makes the win even more simple by 35. . . . Ke5.

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Since that game didn't win the best game prize I thought I might be in with a chance with the end to my round 4 effort.

M. CHANDLER



OPONENT

We reached this position after my 13th move. I have a space advantage on the king-side and White must be very careful, i.e. 1. Ng4 Bc5 ch 2. Kh1 Qh4! and 3. . . . Ng3 ch wins next move. In view of this and similar lines my opponent

tried to sacrifice a pawn in order to develop his pieces.

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| 1. d4?! | exd4 |
| 2. cxd4 | Nxd4 |
| 3. Qd3 | Bc5 |
| 4. b4 | |

Expecting to get a playable game after the retreat 4. . . . Bb6 5. Bb2 dxe4 6. Ndxe4. However I was tempted by the £50. . . .

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| 4. . . . | Ng3!! |
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And now, 5. bxc5 Nde2 ch etc. or, 5. hxg3 fxg3 6. bxc5 Qh4 when:

(1) 7. Nh3? loses to 7. . . . Bxh3 8. Qxd4 Bxg2 9. Kxg2 Qh2 mate.

(2) 7. Ng4 receives a similar fate by 7. . . . Bxg4 8. Re1 Nx f3 ch 9. Nx f3 Bx f3 10. Bx f3 Qh2 ch and 11. . . . Qf2 mate.

(3) 7. Rd1! gx f2 ch 8. Kf1 b6!! and incredibly White

seems to be lost! i.e. 9. Qxd4 Ba6 ch 10. Nc4 Bxc4 ch 11. Rd3 bxc5 12. Qc3 Qg3! threatening 13. . . . Rx f3! or 9. Bb2 Ne6! 10. exd5 Nf4 11. Qc4 Qg3.

Anyway my opponent didn't like the look of all this so all proceeded as planned.

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| 5. Re1 | Bb6! |
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And now 6. Bb2 can be answered by 6. . . . dx e4 7. Ndxe4 Nde2 ch! winning the

queen, as after 8. Rxe2 Qxd3 White's knight on f2 just happens to be pinned. In the game my opponent played 6. Nf1 but after 6. . . . dx e4 resigned because he has no reasonable moves, but even his timely capitulation didn't help when it came to the best game prize.

And I didn't even win a game of darts between rounds.

MURRAY CHANDLER