

Freestyle

I'M IN a rut. Just before the Civic Easter Tournament I decided that a limited opening repertoire restricted my understanding of certain positions. Crumbs, I had never even played a Kings Indian defence!

So what to do? I had a reasonable general knowledge of most openings, but before I

attempted a new opening I would usually have to wade through all of the theoretical material and latest tactical nuances, — an enormous task. Instead I found a solution — zero preparation! I decided that I would play whatever opening gambit came into my head, and aim for interesting games instead of merely trying to win.

It worked. Against a fairly impressive line-up of B. Kay, J. Jackson, B. Carpinter, K. Jensen, P. Green, V. Small and M. Evans I scored 6½/7.

Of course, I didn't win just because I had ditched all the lines I knew well! I had been studying the recent style of Korchnoi and in order to put his middlegame ideas into action during Easter, I felt I had to avoid stereotyped ideas.

One of the most exciting games was a mammoth struggle against former Olympiad player Bernard Carpinter.

Wellington Cultural Centre, 1978

ENGLISH OPENING

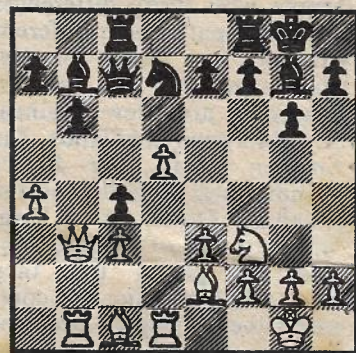
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| B. Carpinter | M. Chandler |
| 1. Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 2. c4 | c5 |
| 3. Nc3 | d5 |
| 4. cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 5. e3 | Nxc3 |
| 6. bxc3 | g6 |
| 7. d4 | Bg7 |

The opening has now been transformed into some sort of Grunfeld Defence. Vernon Small told me that he had this position against Sarapu at the New Zealand champs last Christmas, and that Sarapu had played 8.Bc4. Carpinter decides on a more passive continuation.

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| 8. Be2 | O-O |
| 9. O-O | Nd7 |
| 10. Rb1 | b6 |
| 11. a4 | Qc7 |
| 12. Qb3?! | |

The Queen is misplaced here. Better is 12.c4.

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| 12. ... | Bb7 |
| 13. Rd1 | Rac8 |
| 14. d5 | c4 |



Initiating a very Korchnoi-like series of combinations.

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| 15. Qc2 | Nf6 |
| 16. e4 | e6! |
| 17. Ba3! | |

An important zwischenzug.

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| 17. ... | Rfe8 |
| 18. d6 | Bxe4! |
| 19. Qxe4 | Nxe4 |
| 20. dxc7 | Nxc3 |

Now the reason for White's 17.Ba3 becomes apparent; the multiple fork isn't nearly so effective now that the rooks are connected.

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| 21. Bxc4 | Nxb1 |
| 22. Bb5!?! | |

An amazing move which sidesteps the unclear, but probably slightly better for Black 22.Rxb1 Rxc7, when I have a rook and two pawns in exchange for the two pieces.

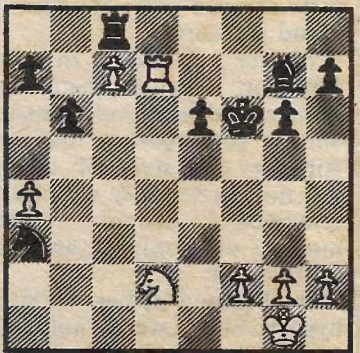
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| 22. ... | Nxa3 |
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I also considered 22... Nc3 but after 23.Rd7 Nxb5 24.axb5 just how does Black make progress?

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| 23. Bxe8 | Kf8!? |
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Obviously not 23... Rxe8 24.Rd8, but after the logical 23... Rxc7 I was worried about 24.Ng5 with the idea of taking on f7 whereupon my remaining bishop and knight would combine poorly against White's rook.

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| 24. Bxf7! | Kxf7 |
| 25. Rd7 ch | Kf6 |
| 26. Nd2 | |



In my analysis I considered only 26.Nd4 e5 27.Nc6 Ke6 28.Rxg7 Kd6 with advantage. Suddenly Bernie produced a 26.Nd2 and my thoughts began racing — a piece up and I'm almost lost! Luckily there is a resource...

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| 26. ... | Bf8 |
| 27. Rd8 | Rxc7 |
| 28. Rxf8 ch | Ke7 |
| 29. Rh8 | Rc1 ch? |

Black should play 29...

Kd6 with a winning endgame, but I wanted my piece back.

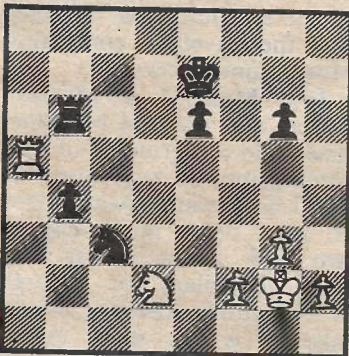
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| 30. Nf1 | Nb1 |
| 31. Rxh7 ch | Kd6 |
| 32. Rh8 | |

And now 32... Kc7 doesn't work owing to 33. Rh7 ch Kc6 34. Rh8!

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| 32. ... | Nc3 |
| 33. g3 | Nxa4 |
| 34. Rg8 | b5 |
| 35. Rd8 ch! | Ke7 |
| 36. Rb8 | a6 |
| 37. Kg2 | Rc6 |
| 38. Nd2 | Rb6 |
| 39. Rc8 | a5? |

In time trouble I blundered away my hard-earned pawn.

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| 40. Ra8 | Nc3 |
| 41. Rxa5 | b4 |



The position is marginally better (still!) for Black owing to his outside passed pawn. Things went much as expected in adjournment analysis.

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| 42. Nb3 | Nd5 |
| 43. h4 | Rc6 |
| 44. Rc5 | |

I had reached this position in my study over dinner and decided by a process of elimination Black has only one winning attempt.

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| 44. ... | Rxc5 |
| 45. Nxc5 | Kd6 |
| 46. Nb3 | Nf6! |
| 47. Kf3 | Kd5 |
| 48. Kf4 | |

Overlooking the strength of Black's reply. Perhaps 48.g4!?

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| 48. ... | Ne4 |
| 49. f3 | e5 ch! |
| 50. Kg4 | Nc5 |
| 51. Na5 | |

Or 51.Nd2 Ne6! restraining White's king.

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| 51. ... | b3 |
| 52. Nxb3 | Nxb3 |
| 53. Kg5 | Nd4 |
| 54. Kxg6 | Nxf3 |
| 55. h5 | e4 |
| 56. h6 | Ne5 ch! |
| 57. Kf5 | |

57.Kg7 Ke6 followed by 58... Nf7, or 57.Kf6 Ng4 ch.

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| 57. ... | Nf7 |
| 58. h7 | Nh8 |
| 59. Kf6 | Kd6 |

Wasting a tempo but after 10 hours play that day I was almost asleep...

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| 60. Kg7 | Ke7 |
| 61. Kxh8 | Kf7 |
| 62. g4 | e3 |
| 63. g5 | e2 |
| 64. g6 ch | Kxg6 |
| 65. Resigns | |

After 65.Kg8 both sides will Queen but Black mates in one afterwards.

Results of Easter ... M. Chandler (Pencarrow) 6½; P. Hawkes, P. Green 5; D. Beach, M. Evans, J. Sarfati 4½...