## Chess

## Sweeping the field

DAVID BEACH scored a massive 10½/11 in the premier reserve of the New Zealand Congress to win by a two point margin. By winning this event Beach qualifies for next year's championship field — the type of com-petition needed to test our promising young players. He

gave us a brief example of class plan in round 5 to share joint first at that stage.

SICILIAN Wellington 1977-78 c. Marshall D. Beach 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 3. d4

4. NXd4

Nc6 cXd4 Nf6

5. Nc3 Pelicans, pelicans, pelicans. Everybody's playing Pelicans! Beach tries a lesser known path with White than the normal 5. Ndb5.

6. Nb3 7. Bc4 d6 8. 0-0 Be6 9. Qd3 BXc3 10.b×c3

Black must castle immediately with 10 . . .0-0. Eg, 11.B×e6 f×e6 12.Rd1 d5! Now his King has an unhappy life in the centre.

11. eXd5 BXd5 12. Ba3

Ugh!

12. . . . BXc4

13. Q×c4 14. Qa4 15. Rad1 Nd7 Oe6 16. Rd6 Now the fun starts 17. Nd4!

MARSHALL



BEACH

17. . . . Qe4

If 17 . . . e×d4 18.Re1 ch wins, eg . . . Nce5 19.R×e5

18. Qb5 Ncb8 It's still hands off, this time because of the loose b-pawn. However, one tends to avoid moves like Ncb8 if at all possible.

19. Rd5! Finally forcing the capture.

eXd4 20. Q×b7 Nb6

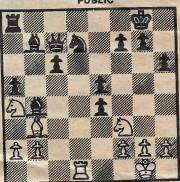
21. R×d4! Qe6 The White queen is immune as well it seems, as after 21 ... Q×b7. 22. Rel ch Kf8

23. Rd8 is checkmate. 22. Rfd1 Nc6 23. Rd6 Qc8

White to play Wellington 1978

24. Rel ch

Resigns



CHANDLER/LAIRD

Solution:  $1.B \times f7$  ch! winning a decisive pawn, as 1 . . .  $K\times f7$  fails to  $2.R\times d7$  ch!  $Q\times d7$  3.  $N\times e5$  ch winning the queen. This position occurred during Craig's and my "Chesso-o-thon" in Cuba Mall, Wel-lington, in which we played over 340 games against the public to raise funds for overseas competition. We both claim credit for the combination — he set it up and I played it.

In my November 19 column I wrote a theoretical article on the rise and fall of 9. . . . Nb6!? Since then it seems to have risen again with some new analysis which seems to

make the whole tactic okay again. In the crucial 10, Be3 line (after 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e×d5 c×d5 4. c4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Nc6 6. Nf3 Bg4 7. c×d5 N×d5 8. Qb3 B×f3 9. g×f3 Nb6! 10 Be3!) Keene in the British Chess Magazine suggests Black can improve on gests Black can improve on Sisniega — Grospeter, World Junior Austria 77, with 10. . . . e6 11. 0-0-0 Be7! (Grospeter played 11. . . . Rc8? to which Sisniega replied 12 Kbl!) 12. d5 e×d5 13. Bxb6 axb6 14. Nxd5

when now, Keene says, Black can castle. Viz, 14. . . . 0-0! 15 Nf6 ch B×f6 16. R×d8 Rf×d8 with an unclear position due to White's exposed king, or 15. N×b6 Nd4! again pressuring the White

So, the old 9. . . . Nb6 won't just lie down and die, but before long I am sure another attempt to stamp RIP on its headstone will be made.

MURRAY CHANDLER