

Alternative chess

TO RAISE funds for overseas travel, the recently crowned New Zealand Champion Craig Laird and I undertook a five-day exhibition in Wellington's Cuba Mall during late January. Organisation was necessarily hurried (Craig was due in Tokyo on February 14) but Burroughs Computers, Philip Morris, ANZ Bank and the *Listener* all contributed generously at short notice.

Making alternate moves Craig and I played tandem on 27 boards against the general public and we completed 340 games, losing just 14.

An interesting simple game occurred when Craig and I attempted an exercise in co-ordination against a promising young Civic chess club junior, Leonard McLaren.

CARO-KANN DEFENCE

L. McLaren M. Chandler
C. Laird

(M = Murray, C = Craig)

1. e4 c6 (M)
When Craig had his was we would play his favourite Nimzowitch Defence; when I had mine it would be a Sicilian. This could be called (in more ways than one) a compromise defence.

2. d4 d5 (C)
3. e×d5 c×d5 (M)
4. Bb5 ch

More usual is 4. Bd3

4. . . . Bd7 (C)
5. B×d7 ch Q×d7 (M)
6. Nf3 Nf6 (C)

Surely 6. . . Nc6 Craig!

7. 0-0 Nc6 (M)
8. Bg5?! Ne4 (C)
9. Be3 e6 (M)
10. Ne5 N×e5 (C)
11. d×e5 Be7 (M)

Probably 11 . . . Bc5 is better.

12. Qg4 Bc5!? (C)

Oh well, better late than

13. B×c5 N×c5 (M)
14. Q×g7 0-0-0 (C)
15. Qg4 Rdg8 (M)

From Craig's and my point of view Black has reached an ideal position. In exhibitions against multiple opponents it is often a good idea for the stronger side to sacrifice material, even if somewhat dubiously, in order to gain the initiative. This is based on the principle it is far easier to attack than to defend.

16. Qb4 Qc6 (C)

17. Qc3?
Necessary was 17.Nd2. My next move shows one of the problems of playing alternate moves, as I miss Craig's idea completely.

17. . . . Kb8? (M)

17. . . . R×g2ch!

18. b4? R×g2ch! (C)

This man's on the right track!

19. Kh1

If 19.K×g2 White loses his queen to 19 . . . d4 dis.ch

20.Qf3 Rg8ch. By now of

course I was fully tuned in to what was happening and took about 10 seconds to find . . .
19. . . . d4! (M)
20. Q×c5

Having already sacrificed a knight, Black finishes by giving away a further rook, with a double check!

20. . . . Rg1 d ch!! (C)

21. White resigns
On 21. K×g1 Rg8 is finis. A game for the spectators!

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One of Victor Korchnoi's seconds in his candidate's matches against Polugayevsky and Spassky was the English Grandmaster Raymond Keene. Keene became, at the Haifa Olympiad, only the second British player to gain the coveted GM title and he has now written a book *Becoming a Grandmaster* (pub. B. T. Batsford).

He explains the practical realities of a young player vying for the title, and considerable space is devoted to Keene's crucial tournaments and games.

But the book also has some additional features seldom found in chess books that make the reading most refreshing. Apart from the sprinkling of anecdotes, Keene has included passages on chess as sport, popularisation of the game, and an interesting section on sociology, in which Keene explains the value of chess in society, and particularly the value of chess in schools.

My only complaint is that Keene's quiet, positional style does not easily lend itself to combinations and I could not find a suitable "White to play and win" for this column.

Instead here is a position from the Korchnoi-Spassky match at the end of the disastrous 13th game.



Korchnoi suddenly went berserk giving away a piece and his queen in successive moves. 1.B×f5? R×f5 2. Q×f5?? B×f5 3. Resigns. He stumbled from the hall in a daze and it was then that rumours of mysterious "death rays" began circulating. Korchnoi said, "I was influenced by something stronger than me — I do not know what". However, Keene came up with a typical witticism: "The only ray Korchnoi suffers from is me, Ray Keene!"

MURRAY CHANDLER