

Bob Wade, OBE

I ONCE asked Bob Wade why he didn't write his autobiography, and he replied that if he did he might start living in the past, not the present! I think another problem would be that there is so much to write.

For Bob, now 58, was one of the pioneers of professional chess when he set out from New Zealand in 1946. For over three decades he has met, and scored brilliant successes against, the elite of the chess world, and he has become adviser to the world's leading chess publisher. And this year his services to British junior chess have been recognised with an OBE in the Queen's Birthday honours list.

The OBE is richly deserved. As one of the British Chess Federation junior selec-



Expatriate New Zealander Bob Wade.

tors he has helped such players as Tony Miles, Michael Stean and John Nunn, all of whom have received worldwide recognition by winning Grandmaster titles. Last year he watched the English under-25 team snatch an

amazing first-ever victory over the Soviet team, in the championship in Mexico. Over the years Bob has given many hundreds of talks and exhibitions at schools and junior tournaments — often without charge — in his promotion of chess in general.

Born in Dunedin, Wade won the New Zealand championship three times, first setting out for Europe in 1946 and leaving home for good in 1948. He was based in Switzerland for a while and played in some of the great tournaments in Europe. In those days times were lean for a professional but Bob broke new ground, making it possible for a player such as myself to do it 30 years later. He won the British championship in 1953 and 1970 but nowadays concentrates mainly on his work for B. T. Batsford Ltd, the largest chess publisher in the world with over 100 titles in print. Wade's own publications include *Soviet Chess* and books on the 1951 Botvinnik-Bron-

stein and 1963 Petrosian-Botvinnik world championship matches. His *Playing Chess*, based on the ITV series starring David Nixon, has sold over 50,000 copies.

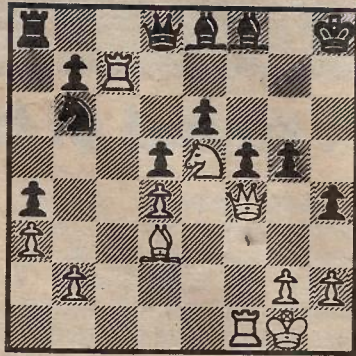
Wade gained his International Master title in 1950, when the titles were introduced, and has drawn with Fischer and defeated Korchnoi. He is an international chess judge. The following game was published by Svetozar Gligoric in his book *Selected Chess Masterpieces* as an illustration of how a superstar can be toppled by a master. Wolfgang Uhlmann, of East Germany, was one of the world's top Grandmasters at the time the game was played.

with massive positional compensation for the two pawns. Uhlmann tries counter-sacrificing the exchange to liquidate the dangerous dark-squared bishop, but his troubles with his king have only just begun.

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| 19. N×h8 | N×c1? |
| 20. Ra×c1 | K×h8 |
| 21. Ne5 | Be8 |
| 22. Rc7! | |

Seizing the seventh rank, as of course 22... Q×c7 drops the queen to 23.Ng6 ch.

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| 22. ... | h4 |
| 23. Qf4 | g5? |



Uhlmann cracks under mutual time pressure. However 23... Bd6 24.R×b7 is only pro-

longing the inevitable.

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| 24. Ng6 ch! | Kg8 |
| 25. Qe5 | B×g6 |
| 26. Q×e6 ch | Kh8 |
| 27. R×b7 | |

Also good enough is 27. Q×g6 Q×c7 28.R×f5 Qg7 29.Qh5 ch Kg8 30.R×g5.

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| 27. ... | Qe8 |
| 28. R×b6 | Bg7 |
| 29. Q×g6 | Qe3 ch |
| 30. Kh1 | Q×d3 |
| 31. Qh5 ch | Kg8 |
| 32. Rd1 | Qc2 |
| 33. Rb7 | Rf8 |
| 34. R×g7 ch! | K×g7 |
| 35. Q×g5 ch | Kh7 |
| 36. Rc1 | Re8 |

37. h3 (l) Resigns

"They all criticised me for not winning more quickly!" lamented Bob, afterwards, as he could have won Black's queen by 37. Q×h4 ch (stopping the back-rank mate), followed by 38.R×c2.

Well, whatever the difficulties, I am sure many people, like myself, will be hoping that Bob Wade's autobiography does appear one day.

MURRAY CHANDLER

Skopje 1968

FRENCH DEFENCE

R. G. Wade	W. Uhlmann
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nd2	

Uhlmann used the French defence in eight out of ten games with Black at Skopje, so one could hardly say he was not well prepared!

3. ...	Nf6
4. e5	Nfd7
5. f4	c5
6. c3	Nc6
7. Ndf3	c×d4
8. c×d4	h5

To stop 9.g4 which Uhlmann believes gives White the advantage after 8... Nb6.

9. a3	Nb6
10. Bd3	Bd7
11. Ne2	a5
12. 0-0	a4?

Instead 12... Be7 would transpose into Matanovic-Uhlmann, also Skopje 1968, which continued 13.Bd2 a4 14.Rc1 g6 15.Qe1 Kf8! with equality, but White may improve on this with 13.b3 g6 14.Kh1 Kf8 15.Rg1 Kg7 16.g4 as in Balinas-Lim Kok Ann, Manila 1968.

13. Qe1! Na5

This allows Wade to smash his way through the centre with a double pawn sacrifice, but the alternative 13... g6 14.Qg3 Na5 15.Ng5 leaves White already threatening 16.N×f7!

14. f5! e×f5

If 14... Nb3 then 15.Bg5.



15. e6!! f×e6

Even worse is 15... B×e6 16.Nf4 Qf6 17.Ng5! and Black's position falls apart.

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| 16. Qg3 | Kf7 |
| 17. Nf4 | Kg8 |
| 18. Ng6 | Nb3 |

On 18... Rh7 comes 19.Bg5