

# Getting organised at the weekend

THE FIRST City of London "Weekender" congress deserves recognition in a way that has little to do with the actual playing. Organisationally, the event broke new ground, being arranged — as a financial venture — by two private individuals, Bill Bonds and Boyd Parker, enthusiasts from the Charlton

Chess Club in Kent. Most weekenders are organised by clubs, which means that helpers are often unpaid and all profit is channelled back into the club. This is fine, except that clubs, understandably, are loath to organise more than one event a year — which in the past has left gaps in the chess

calendar during months like February.

This tournament seemed a test of whether anyone had the organisational skill and energy to run a large private tournament and still receive popular support. More than 750 entries poured in as confirmation.

On to the actual results:

Open section (144 competed): 1st, H. J. Plaskett 6/6. 2nd, M. J. Basman 5½/6. 3rd-equal, M. G. Chandler, L. S. Blackstock, A. J. Kosten and K. C. Arkell, all 5/6.

Grandmaster John Nunn also competed, but scored only four and a half points — and afterwards gave a talk which had rather unfortunately been entitled "Success at Chess"! He was most entertaining, however, and demonstrated puzzles and problems, and some of his most exciting games. One dashing example

was from this tournament.

## TROMPOVSKY'S ATTACK

K. Wicker J. Nunn

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| 1. d4   | Nf6 |
| 2. Bg5! | Ne4 |
| 3. Bh4  | c5  |
| 4. f3   |     |

White's unusual system is known, although not played very often. Nunn cited the normal line 4...g5!? as the sort of move nobody would play if it hadn't been played before and wasn't the accepted theoretical move! Instead he tried a more "natural" course of retreating his knight, on the ground that White has created serious black-squared weaknesses with 4.f3.

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| 4. ...  | Nf6 |
| 5. c3   | d5  |
| 6. dxc5 |     |

An interesting decision, as White has a real chance of holding onto this pawn.

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| 6. ... | Nc6 |
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Accurately played — after 6...e5 White has 7.e4 dxe4 8.Qxd8 ch.

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| 7. Nd2 |  |
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An unclear alternative was 7.b4, in order to try and hold the pawn. Black would then have to undermine the pawns as soon as possible with ideas of ...a5...b6 and ...d4

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| 7. ... | e5 |
| 8. e4  | d4 |

If 8...Bxc5, then 9.Nb3, planning 10.Bxf6 and 11.exd5.

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| 9. cxd4? | Qxd4 |
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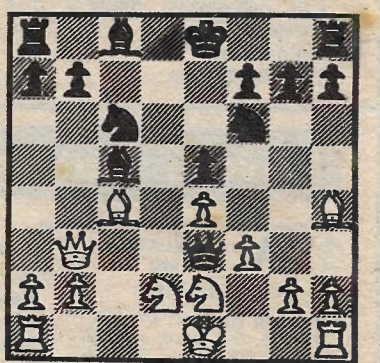
Wicker should have played 9.Nb3 but underestimated Nunn's reply. With an attack on b2 and c5, Black is assured of regaining his pawn. Wicker decided on development.

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| 10. Bc4 | Bxc5 |
| 11. Ne2 | Qe3  |

11...Qxb2 12.Rb1 Qa3 13.Rb3 Qa5 14.Rb5 is not worth considering for Black.

Nunn's 11...Qe3, however, is a real pest to White — he cannot easily castle or get his pieces to more effective squares. Not unnaturally Wicker decided to offer a queen swap, but met a startling reply.

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| 12. Qb3 |  |
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| 12. ... | Nd4! |
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This in effect gains two free moves in development, as 13.Qxe3 Nc2ch wins for Black — eg. 14.Kf2? Bxe3 ch; 14.Kf1? Nxe3 ch 15.Kel Nc2 ch; and 14.Kd1 Nxe3 ch 15.Kcl Nxe3 — the most mundane continuation, winning a pawn. In addition, 13.Bxf7 ch meets simply 13...Kf8. So...

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| 13. Qd3 | 0-0 |
| 14. Rc1 |     |

Now White is threatening to capture the Queen.

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| 14. ...  | Qh6 |
| 15. Bf2? |     |

Better was 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Bxf7 ch Qxf7 17.Rxc5 Qxa2, with pawns flying everywhere; but a draw is likely. White could also experiment with 15.Bxf7 ch!? immediately, but has to contend with 15...Rxf7 16.Bxf6 Nxe2!? (planning 17...Bd4).

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| 15. ... | Rd8! |
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Although the rook is unprotected Nunn has terrible threats on the d-file, with 16...Nxf3 ch — or if 16.0-0, then 16...Nxe2 ch and the Knight on d2 is hanging.

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| 16. Nxd4 | Bxd4 |
| 17. Bxd4 | Rxd4 |
| 18. Qe2  |      |



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| 18. ... | Nxe4! |
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This crushes any chance of resistance. Nunn explained that he arrived at the move in a clockwise direction: "First I looked at 18...Nh5, thinking it would be nice to get a knight to f4, and then I looked at 18...Ng4, thinking it would be even nicer on e3. Except he doesn't have to accept the knight there, so finally it struck me I could take his e-pawn!"

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| 19. fxe4 |  |
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19. Nxe4 is not possible because of 19...Qxc1 ch.

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| 19. ... | Bg4 |
| 20. Qf2 |     |

The Queen is tied to protecting the knight, which itself is caught in an embarrassing pin against White's rook. Nunn exploits this ruthlessly.

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| 20. ... | Rxe4 ch |
| 21. Kf1 |         |

Now 21.Nxe4 Qxc1 is checkmate!

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| 21. ... | Rf4   |
| 22. Nf3 | Rxf3! |

The final stroke.

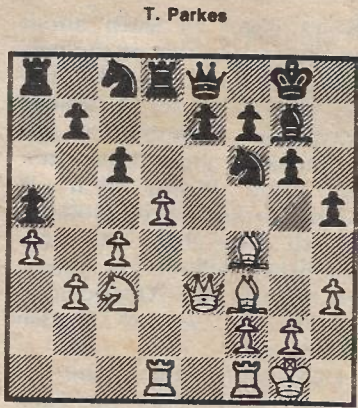
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| 23. gxf3 | Qxc1 ch |
| 24. Kg2  | Qxc4    |

24...Bh3 ch, leaving Black the exchange and two pawns up, is also possible, but Nunn preferred simply three pawns extra. But of course, in any case, White has little alternative but ...

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| 25. Resigns |  |
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Michael Basman won a crazy last-round game of mixed fortunes to come second. Unfortunately I drew my game and dropped to the waiting bunch below on five points.

The following position is from the finish of my second-round game.



T. Parkes

M. Chandler

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| 1.dxc6  | Rxd1   | 2.cxb7! |
| Rxf1 ch | 3.Kxf1 | Ra6     |

(3...Nb6 leads to 4.Qxb6; eg 4...Rb8 5.Bxb8 Qxb8 6.Qc6 Ne8 7.Qc8 Be5 8.Bc6 Kf8 9.Bxe8. In the game, however, I get a second Queen!)

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| 4.b8=Q  | Nd7  | 5.Qc7          | Re6 |
| 6.Qd2   | Bxc3 | (a last trick: |     |
| 7.Qdxd7 | Rel  | mate)          |     |

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| 7.Qxc3 | Resigns. |
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MURRAY CHANDLER