

# You need the coffee in Alicante

WHO NEEDS an excuse for holding an international chess tournament in one of Spain's most popular tourist resorts? Not the organisers of the VI Memorial Luis Gimeno Brotons international tourney in Alicante.

There was an almost casual air about the event, which was sponsored mainly by the

Hotel Torre Dorada where we stayed and played, and run by a group of noisily enthusiastic locals. Preparation was a day sunbathing on the beach and a "cafe con leche" shortly before 4pm to rouse one's brain for battle.

Notwithstanding the lazy lifestyle, some interesting and attractive chess ensued with

an extraordinarily close battle for first place. I shared the lead with Jaan Eslon of Sweden after five rounds, having already beaten the two Grandmasters present, but then lapsed with a loss and three draws.

Even seven hours after the last round started the final outcome was unclear — if

Spanish champion Angel Martin could beat compatriot Juan Fernandez he would be the outright winner. But Fernandez produced a brilliant rook ending worthy of any maestro for his moment of glory, and drew level with Grandmaster Bellon at the bottom of the tournament.

When we tallied the points at the end we discovered it was Englishman Bill Hartston who had won on tie-break. Hartston had been a frequent visitor to Alicante for international tourneys and won

the event also in 1973.

Here is how I forgot to come first equal in the final round.

## SICILIAN DEFENCE

CHANDLER	LEONTXO
1. e4	c5
2. c3	Nf6
3. e5	Nd5
4. d4	cxd4
5. Nf3	Nc6
6. cxd4	d6
7. Bc4	e6
8. a3	Be7
9. 0-0	0-0
10. Qe2	dxe5?

It is better to maintain White's d-pawn as a target, for example, with 9... Qb6.

11. dxex5	Qc7
12. Qe4	Bd7

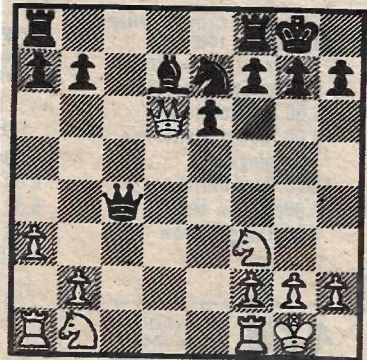
Now I must not take the proffered pawn with 13. Bxd5 exd5 14. Qxd5 as after 14... Na5 or 14... Be6 my weak white squares and lack of development give no hopes of anything more than a draw. However 13. Bd3 is lovely for White — after 13... g6 14. Bh6 followed by 15. Nd2 completes development.

Perhaps I'd forgotten to take my coffee, because the move I was worried about in this line, 13... f5, can be met simply by 14. exf6 e.p. Nxf6 15. Qh4. After a couple of developing moves White will have a huge advantage.

The move I chose, after 20 minutes' thought, allows a combination which I intended to be a deep trap!

13. Bg5?	Nxe5
14. Qxe5!	Qxc4
15. Bxe7	Nxe7
16. Qd8!	

LEONTXO



CHANDLER

I believe Leontxo overlooked this move. Black cannot defend both pieces and 16... Bb5 gives White two pieces for rook and pawn after 17. Nbd2 Qd5 18. Qxe7 Bxf1 19. Rxf1.

Additionally I had calculated a continuation very similar to the game in 16... Nd5 17. Qxd7 Rfd8 (with the idea of 18. Qxb7 Rdb8 19. Qd7 Rd8 etc) and had discovered the crushing 18. Qxf7 ch!! Kxf7 19. Ne5 ch regaining the queen.

But after considerable thought Leontxo found a brilliant way to part with his piece and still draw.

16... Ng6!!	
17. Qxd7	Rfd8
18. Qxb7	

No longer has White the Qxf7 ch! trick and 18. Nbd2 loses to 18... Qxf1 ch with 19... Rxd7 to follow.

### 18... Rdb8

Incredibly White cannot escape the perpetual attack on his queen despite the extra piece. The draw by repetition is forced by 19. Qd7 Rd8 20. Qb7 Rdb8 etc, so bye bye first prize.

19. Draw agreed.

Bill Hartston, noted for his safe style, was the only player not to lose a game. Unfortunately he didn't win many either, so here is his Alicante Evergreen, played in his first game of the tourney in 1973.

### BISHOP'S OPENING

W. R. HARTSTON (England) vs H. WESTERINEN (Finland)

1. e4	e5
2. Bc4	

The Bishop's Opening (BO) is one of Hartston's favourite revived opening lines. He was still playing it this year — only now he claims it to be a sort of stunted Ruy Lopez!

2... Nf6

Hartston-Eslon, Alicante 1979, went 2... Bc5 3. Nc3 d6 4. d3 Be6 5. Bxe6 fxe6 6. Na4 Nc6 7. Nxe5. dxc5 8. Be3 b6 9. Qh5 ch g6 10. Qh3 Qd7 11. Nf3 0-0-0 12. 0-0 h6 13. a3 Nf6 14. b4 with advantage to White.

3. d3	Be7
4. Nc3	0-0
5. f4?	exf4
6. Bx14	c6
7. e5	d5?

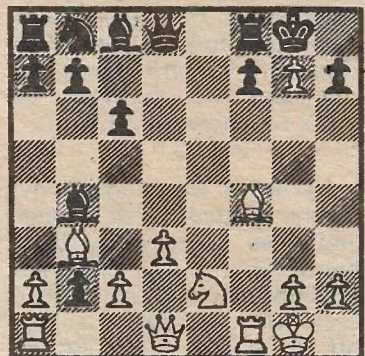
Initiating immense complications. Instead 7... Ne8 is equal, while 7... Nd5! 8. Bxd5 (8. Nxd5 cxd5 9. Bxd5 Qa5 ch) cxd5 9. Nxd5 d6 may be even better for Black.

8. exf6	Bb4
9. Bb3	d4
10. Nge2	dxc3
11. 0-0!	

White has no time for 11. bxc3 because of 11... Re8! and 12... Bg4.

11... cxb2	
12. fxg7	

WESTERINEN



HARTSTON

No, we haven't set the diagram wrong — those pawns really are on b2 and g7! A swap of rooks by 12... bxa1=Q 13. gxf8=Qch Qxf8 14. Qxa1 would now be hopeless for Westerinen as his king remains too exposed, so instead he "loses" his queen for several pieces.

12... Qb8 ch	
13. Kh1	Re8
14. Bxf7 ch	Kxf7

Now Hartston should really

have resisted the temptation to win Black's queen and played 15. Ng3! bxa1=Q 16. Qh5 ch! when 16... Kxg7 gets mated by 17. Bh6 ch and 18. Qxe8, while Black can never survive with 16... Ke7 — 17. Qxe8 ch Kxe8 18. g8=Q ch should win, but even stronger is 17. Bg5 ch first, and if 17... Kd6 then 18. Qxe8 Qxg7 19. Rf6 ch Kd5 20. Qe4 ch Kc5 21. Qe5 mate. But then Evergreens are never perfect.

15. Be3 ch	Kg8
16. Bxb6	Bg4!

Black could get rook and two bits for his monarch with 16... bxa1=Q 17. Qxa1 axb6 but would still have unsolvable defensive problems after 18. Qf6 Be6 19. Nd4.

17. c3

Not 17. Rb1 Bxe2.

17... bxa1=Q	
18. Qxa1	Bxe2
19. Qb1!!	Bx11
20. Qb3 ch	Kxg7
21. Bd4 ch	Kg6
22. Qxb4	c5

Despite having masses of material for the queen Black can never escape his problems

with his king position and gets prettily mated.

23. Qxc5 Nc6

24. Qd6 ch Kh5

The retreat 24... Kf7 allows mate in two with 25. Qf6 ch.

25. Bg7! Bxd3

26. h3!

A delightfully double-purpose move, stopping mate and threatening it.

26... Bg6

27. Qf4 Resigns.

MURRAY CHANDLER