

"It's nothing to worry about, Mrs Grilph just cut down on heavy shoplifting."

Chess

The purple people-beater

THE ANNUAL congress at Hastings, England, lived up to its worldwide reputation once again this year by turning out some gruelling chess and some appalling weather. As usual, there were several events running concurrently: the Premier 15-player Grandmaster tournament, Challengers tournament, and

various Christmas and New Year specials.

Sweden's Ulf Andersson capped his fine victory in Argentina recently by winning the Grandmaster event with 9½ points, ahead of second placegetters Jonathan Speelman (England), Istvan Csom (Hungary), and Evgeny Vasu-kov and Alexander Kochiev

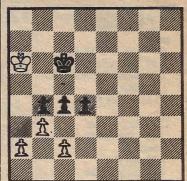
(USSR), all on 81/2. Speelman, last year's British champion, played innovatively as always, only this time he combined it with an impressive tally of points which left him just half a point short of the GM norm.

I went to Hastings in the hope that a last minute nonarrival might create a vacancy for a late entrant in the Premier, but as all the participants turned up I played instead in the Challengers tournament, an (approximately) 100-player event with a reputation for being one of the strongest open Swisses in the world. This year the strength in depth was high, with hordes of highly rated players flocking from the continent

Austrian Olympiad player Walter Wittman and I took an early lead with 4½/5 each, but in round seven he met disaster clothed in purple trousers and matching bow tie. Dark horse Igor Zilber, now living in Israel but formerly of Riga in the USSR, went on to beat me and win the tournament, although in the early rounds, at least
— his mode of dress attracted more attention than his chess!

The other New Zealander at Hastings, Aucklander Paul Spiller, had a patch of bad luck in the final round. But can you blame him? For two weeks we had been subjected to blizzards, kneedeep snow and ice, and temperatures as low as minus 7.2. Then Paul gets paired against some English invited and the kild at lish junior, and the kid attacks him for six hours, and suddenly in a pawn ending plays ...c4 to reach the diagrammed position.

Nasty English Junior

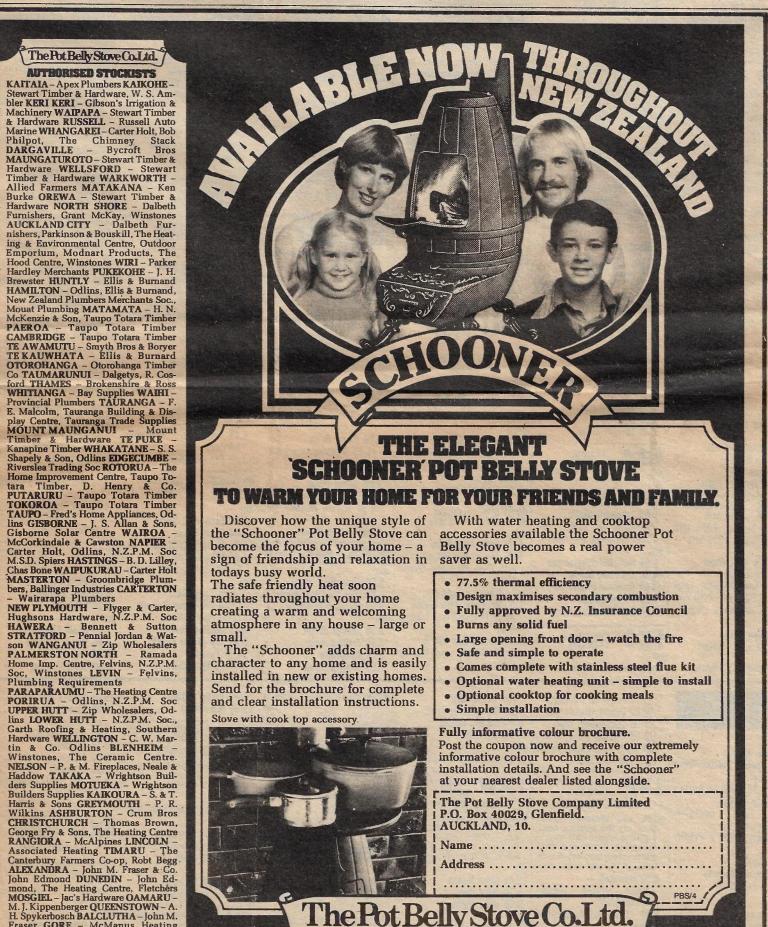


Fatigued New Zealander

White to play: can he draw? Well, 1...d3 is threatened, but with 1.b×c4 Kc5 2. Ka5 K×c4 3.Ka4 Kc3, the d-pawn will queen. So fatigued New Zealander resigned.

This was unfortunate, because the position is in fact a fairly straightforward draw, which I noticed as I was hovering around watching the game - but ohhhh, powerless to say anything!

The correct defence goes: 1.b×c4 Kc5 2.Ka7! (2.Ka5 and 2.Kb7 work just as well, but the text painfully shows just how drawn the endgame was) 2...K×c4 3.Kb6 Kc3 4.Kc5 Kxc2 5. Kxd4, and drawing. The trick was to chase the d-pawn.



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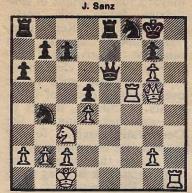
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McManus



A. Kosten

Sanz was one of the many pre-tournament favourites who were quickly swallowed who were quickly swallowed up in the depths of the tourney. In round seven he surfaced nearer the top boards, only to succumb to a kingside mating attack.

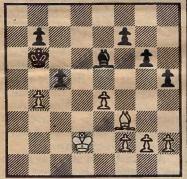
1.Rh8 ch! Resigns. Mate is unpreventable after 1...K×h8

2.R×f8 ch! R×f8 3.Qh5 ch, followed by 4.Qh7 mate.

A DECEPTIVE position oc-curred in a recent club match between Charlton and Gravesend in the Kent County Cup. My own club, Charlton, won the match, but on board two a hectic time-scramble resulted in the following position being sent up for adjudication.

What should the result come back as? (By the way, White is claiming a draw.)

L. S. Blackstock (Charlton)



C. R. Chandler (Gravesend)

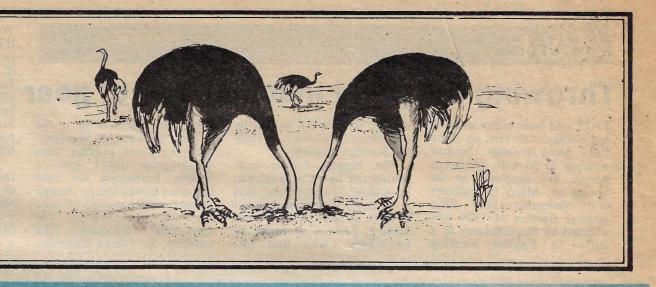
White to move. Who is bet-

Amusingly, the position (by pure accident!) turns out to be a winning one for Black. If Chandler tries 1.Kc3 the position would be dead drawn if it were not for 1...Bg4!, swapping bishops in order to reach a simple pawn endgame where Black has an outside passed pawn, eg, 2.B×g4 h×g4 3.f4 g×f3 ep 4.g×f3 c×b4 ch 5.K×b4 g5! 6.Kc4 Kc6, and Black's King trundles off to the kingside, while his outside b-pawn decoys the White monarch.

So Chandler must prevent
...Bg4 but the tempi wasted
allow Blackstock's King a domineering post, viz, 1.b×c5 ch K×c5 2.h3!? Kd4! and once again the b-pawn gallops up the board — and with Black's king and bishop ideally posted, the decoy on the greenide must allow a the queenside must allow a decisive penetration White's kingside pawns.

MURRAY CHANDLER

"We have to be careful . . . Arnold is starting to wonder where I keep disappearing to."







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