

And now the book of it

I WAS so impressed by the exciting play in the ninth annual Lone Pine tournament earlier this year — where the field included 27 Grandmasters and 22 International Masters — that I decided to write a book on the event. It has now appeared and contains all the 324 games, many with annotations, as well as round-by-round commentary and scores. The prize fund of more than \$45,000 spurred the players on and I had some difficulty in deciding which of all the speculative sacrifices to give the 75 diagrams to!

Winners at Lone Pine were Vladimir Liberzon of Israel, Florin Gheorghiu of Rumania, Vlastimil Hort of Czechoslovakia and Svetozar Gligoric of Yugoslavia. Viktor Korchnoi also played, resulting in a Soviet boycott, and ironically he at one stage seemed set to walk off with the tournament because there were no top Russians to contain him! But in rounds five and six he was dragged back after suffering losses to Liberzon and William Lombardy of the USA.

Apart from the serious chess there were also a few colourful incidents. In round six Yugoslav Dragoljub Janosevic was nowhere to be seen when it came time for him to complete an adjourned game with Salvatore Matera. It transpired he was winning at poker — and losing at chess — and didn't want to come back to the board! However, organisers who dragged him away from the cards were chuckling afterwards when Janosevic salvaged a draw.

The most impressive performance at Lone Pine was that of 19-year-old American Yasser Seirawan who played all four winners. Seirawan is now an International Master, having just won the world junior championship in Skien, Norway, and is obviously a highly gifted player. His style can be deceptive, and with White he favours innocuous-looking systems in the English opening — as played here against English Grandmaster Tony Miles.

12. e3 0-0
13. fxe4 dxe4

Giving White a passed d-pawn, but the alternative 13...fxe4 13.Bh3 bearing down on the e6 square is uncomfortable for Black.

14. Bh3 g6
15. g4! fxg4!?

White can claim a slight plus also after 15...Nxg4 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Bxg4 fxg4 18.Qxg4.

Miles's idea, with the move order played, is that now 16.Bxg4 would be a blunder on account of 16...Nxg4 17.Bxe7 Nxe3! winning material.

16. Bxf6! gxh3
17. Bxe7 Qxe7
18. Qg4 Bc4
19. Rf2 Rf5

This is one of those deceptive positions I was talking about. Miles told me he thought he was doing OK — presumably he thought his attacking prospects against White's weakened king position compensated for his own weak e-pawn and White's strong passed pawn.

Avoiding all pitfalls, however, Seirawan simply cancels out all Black's tricks.

20. Nxh3

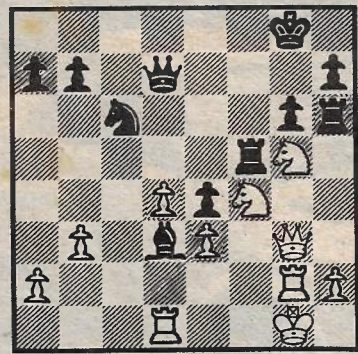
Tactical point number one is that 20.Nxg6? loses to 20...Qg5!

20. . . . Rh5

21. Rg2

And 21.Nxe4? meets 21...Rh4 22.Nf6 ch Qxf6.

21. . . . Rh4
22. Qg3 Rf8
23. Ng5 Rh5
24. b3! Bd3
25. Nd5 Qd7
26. Nf4 Rh6
27. Rd1 Rf5



28. h4!

Apart from completely incarcerating Black's poor rook, which is now looking rather silly on h6, this move sidesteps another devious trap in 28.Nxd3 exd3 29.Rxd3? Ne5!! 30.Rd1 Rxd3! 31.Qxd3 Nf3 ch winning the queen.

After the text, White really does threaten to win a pawn with 29.Nxd3 so in desperation Miles sacrifices a knight for complications.

28. . . . Nxh3
29. exd4 Qxd4 ch
30. Kh2 Qe5
31. Ngh3

Accurate to the end. Also possible is 31.Nxd3 Rxd4 ch 32.Kg1 (32.Nh3? Rxd3 ch!) but 31.Nf3 Rxd4 is very unclear.

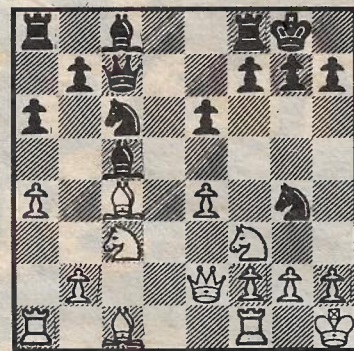
31. . . . Qf6
32. h5 Bb5
33. Rgd2 g5
34. Rd5 Rxd5
35. Rxd5 Qb2 ch
36. Ng2 Rxd5
37. Rxb5 Resigns

The Lone Pine book is available in New Zealand from Paul Spiller, 59 Uxbridge Rd, Howick, Auckland, at about \$4.

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This year's British championship was rather prone to upset results and strange games. After 12 moves Paul Littlewood and Jonathan Penrose reached this position.

J. PENROSE



P. LITTLEWOOD

Black has just played his knight to g4. Not appreciating the subtleties of this move (he should play immediately 13.g3), Littlewood found 13.Ba2?? and after 13...Nd4 had to resign because of the mate threat on h2. What's more, Penrose said he had done this before!

MURRAY CHANDLER

ENGLISH OPENING

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|-------------|-------------|
| Y. SEIRAWAN | A. J. MILES |
| 1. g3 | e5 |
| 2. c4 | c6 |
| 3. Bg2 | d5 |
| 4. cxd5 | cxd5 |
| 5. d4 | e4 |
| 6. f3 | f5 |
| 7. Nh3 | |

This "drunken" knight development is a frequent motif in Seirawan's opening systems.

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|----------|-----|
| 7. . . . | Nc6 |
| 8. 0-0 | Be7 |
| 9. Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 10. Bg5 | Be6 |
| 11. Nf4 | Bf7 |