

# Strauss waltzes in

FOLLOWING on the heels of the Lloyds Bank Masters tournament in London, the Benedictine International in Manchester has actually attracted more Masters. Fourteen of the 56-player field hold International Master or Grandmaster titles — and the foreign contingent is so large that the only English titled

player is Women's Master Jana Miles, getting in some last-minute practice before her important Interzonal tourney in Rio.

As I write, I am leading with 2/2 having beaten the English wonderboy, 14-year-old Nigel Short, and Grandmaster Yair Kraidman of Israel. Level with me are

David Strauss (USA), Rosendo Balinas (Philippines), Carlos Cuartas (Colombia) and Keith Arkell (England).

With most of the competitors staying at Manchester University's Allen Hall, where the tourney is also being played, the Benedictine International has a fine communal spirit. Any interesting games are afterwards enthusiastically analysed by large groups in the bar, usually amid much hilarity!

In round two, David

Strauss won one of his best ever games, against Welshman George Botterill, with the help of a deep tactical combination.

## QUEEN'S GAMBIT

<b>G. BOTTERILL</b>	<b>D. STRAUSS</b>
1. d4	d5
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	c5
4. cxd5	exd5
5. Nf3	Nc6
6. g3	Nf6

Strauss is playing the Tarasch defence of the Queen's Gambit Declined, characterised by active piece play for Black in return for the isolated centre pawn he receives.

7. Bg2	Be7
8. O-O	O-O
9. Bg5	cxd4
10. Nxd4	h6
11. Be3	Re8
12. Qa4	Bd7
13. Qb3?	

Uncharacteristically, Botterill loses his way in the opening. Correct is 13.Rad1 Nb4 14.Qb3 a5 15.a4 with a slight advantage to White.

In the bar we analysed the fantastic variation 13...Rc8 (after 13.Rad1) 14.Nb3 b5!?! — eg 15.Qxb5? d4! (the Irishman Delaney's variation) 16.Bxc6 Rxc6! 17.Rxd4 Rxc3 18.Rxd7 Rxb3! when Black's rampant rook has won a piece! It seems though that White can simply ignore the pawn with 15.Qa6.

13. . . .	Na5
14. Qc2	Rc8
15. Rfd1	

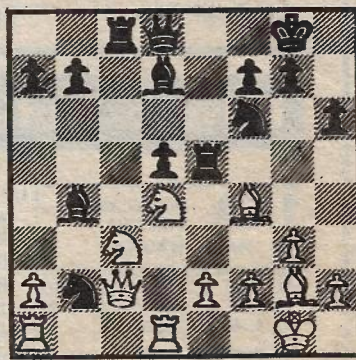
Botterill afterwards considered 15.Rad1 more accurate.

15. . . .	Bb4
16. Nf5?	Re5!

Showing White's 16th up as a faulty move. Botterill's idea was to reply here with 17.Bh3, hoping for the line 17...Ne4 18.Rxd5! Rxd5 19.Qxe4 and among other things Black's bishop on b4 is hanging. But he noticed now that Black can first exchange with 17...Bxc3! 18.bxc3 Ne4 when 19.Rxd5 Rxd5 20.Qxe4 Bxf5 21.Bxf5 Rxc3 leaves Black the exchange up.

17. Nd4	Nc4
18. Bf4	Nxb2!

STRAUSS



BOTTERILL

19. Bxe5

The alternative is 19.Qxb2 Bxc3 20.Qxb7 Re7! and Black wins material because of the threat of 21...Ba4 with a discovered attack on the queen. On 21.Bd6 simply 21...Re8 22.Ra1 Ba4 and then the bishop falls victim to the discovery.

19. . . .	Nxd1
20. Rxd1	Bxc3
21. Qb3	Qe8!

Botterill's previous move attacked two pawns in an attempt to recover his material, but Strauss has a resource. White's bishop on e5 is attacked and he cannot prevent his queen and rook being skewered.

22. Bxf6	Ba4
23. Qb1	Bxd1
24. Qxd1	

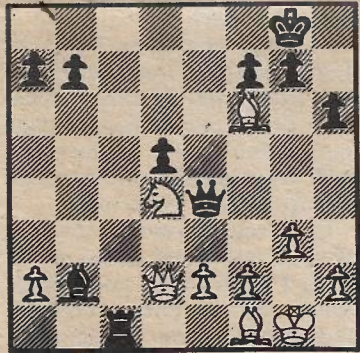
And now if Black chooses the obvious recapture with 24...gxf6 White replies 25.Nf5! — and may even be winning. Black cannot meet both threats of 26.Nxh6ch and 26.Qxd5 — apart from the major problem of 26.e4! with the killing Qg4 to follow.

Strauss is normally a positional player, but the combination he now embarks on is quite inspired.

24. . . .	Bb2!
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Threatening to win the Queen with 25...Rc1.

25. Qd2	Rc1ch
26. Bf1	Qe4!!



Brilliant! All is clear when one notices the variation 27.Qxb2 Rxf1 ch! 28.Kxf1 Qh1 checkmate!

This, combined with the threat of 27...Qb1, enables Strauss to win the exchange in safety and the rest is just mopping up.

27. Nf3	Rc2
28. Qa5	Bxf6
29. Qxa7	d4
30. Qa8ch	Kh7
31. Kg2	Qd5
32. a4	d3
33. Qe8	

Or 33.exd3 Bd4.

33. . . .	d2
34. e4	Qd8
35. Qxd8	Bxd8
36. Be2	Ba5
37. Nd4	Rc1
38. Nb3	Bb4
39. Resigns.	

MURRAY CHANDLER