

Short caught

THIS YEAR's British Championship was one of the most sensational ever. The stage was set when Grandmaster Tony Miles flew in from an international in Argentina and decided to exercise his special last-minute entry option, apparently because he was so pleased at the appeal for funds to provide him with

an assistant at his Interzonal tournament. More quietly, at the other end of the scale, 14-year-old Nigel Short scraped in because the selected field was then extended to 48 players.

Miles began impressively, demolishing GM John Nunn in round four to take sole lead. He then jockeyed for

position with International Masters Jonathan Speelman and Robert Bellin until in round eight the sensational happened. As White against Short, Miles selected an indifferent line against the French defence and was thrashed off the board.

Turmoil reigned! Short had great talent and an already formidable reputation — but no one had foreseen this. He couldn't possibly win the British Championship at 14... could he?

The press and public

flocked to see. To some of the top established players they represented vultures come to witness the greatest "humiliation" of British chess for years!

Next up was defending champion Speelman, amusingly described along with Miles as "having the physique of a boxer" in public information leaflets. Short defeated Speelman as well to take the sole lead on seven points, and Miles, possibly still shattered from the previous day, ruined a better

position and succumbed to John Littlewood. In round 10, as Black in a French again, Short drew with Nunn.

In the last round he met 27-year-old Robert Bellin, also on 7½ points. Bellin stood to win the championship on tie-break if they drew the game as he had faced stronger opposition earlier in the event. Against Bellin, Short rattled off his moves like a machinegun in the opening and gained a 1½-hour advantage on the clock. With typical determination Bellin found a line Short had miscalculated and Short agreed a draw in a worse position — pipped at the post. Nunn won his last game to join them.

Final standings: 1st-3rd, R. Bellin, N. Short, J. Nunn, 8/11; 4th, A. J. Miles, 7½; 5th-13th, G. Botterill (Wales), M. Chandler (New Zealand), M. Haygarth, M. Hebden, P. Large, J. Littlewood, P. Littlewood, N. Povah and J. Speelman, 7/11. Those lower down included A. J. Mestel and J. Penrose on 6.

Short's win over Miles must be regarded (at present!) as a somewhat freak occurrence but the game does demonstrate the mature style he is capable of.

FRENCH DEFENCE

A. J. MILES	N. SHORT
1. d4	e6
2. e4	d5
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e×d5 (?)	e×d5
5. Bd3	Nc6

Miles's fourth move has changed the double-edged Winawer variation into an insipid line of the exchange variation. Now if 6.Ne2 then 6...Bg4 is one way to equality, as in Becker-Nimzovich, Karlovy Vary 1929.

6. a3 B×c3 ch!?

Soviet Grandmaster David Bronshtein retreated the bishop in his game with Szabo in 1958, and actually gained the initiative after 6...Be7 7.Be3 Nf6 8.h3 Na5 9.b3?! 0-0 10.Nf3 b6 11.0-0 c5 12.Ne5 Bb7 13.Ne2 c4 14.Bf5 c×b3 15.c×b3 Ne4. Exchanging as Short does, however, seems quite natural and does saddle White with doubled pawns.

7. b×c3	Nf6
8. Bg5	Qe7 ch
9. Ne2	Bd7
10. 0-0	h6

Necessary, as if 10...0-0-0, then 11.Nf4 is strong.

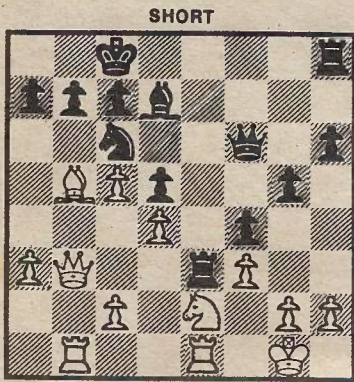
11. Bf4	0-0-0
12. c4	Be6
13. c5	

Eliminating the doubled pawns with 13.c×d5 is unsatisfactory because of 13...N×d5 14.Bd2 Bg4! threatening...N×d4 in numerous variations.

13. . . .	g5
14. Bd2	Ne4
15. Rb1	f5
16. f3	N×d2
17. Q×d2	f4
18. Bb5	Bd7
19. Rfe1	Qf6
20. Qc3?	

Initiating a faulty plan. White could still obtain a reasonable position by bolstering the d-pawn with 20.c3, eg 20...Rde8 21.Nc1 and White has the plan of swapping bishop for knight on c6 and playing Nd3-e5.

20. . . . Rde8
21. Qb3 Re3!



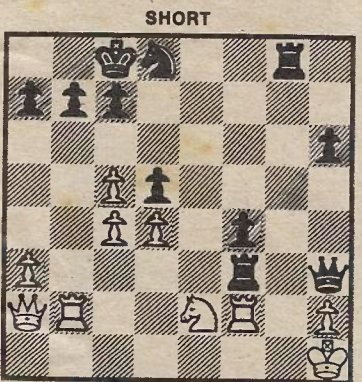
MILES

The refutation of Miles's idea — Black can ignore the attack on his d-pawn because if 22.Q×d5 then 22...Be6 traps the queen.

22. Bd3 Nd8
23. c4 Bf5
24. B×f5 ch Q×f5
25. Qa2 Rhe8

Threatening 26...R×e2 27.R×e2 R×e2 28.Q×e2 Q×b1 ch winning a piece. Black's pressure on the open file is murderous and although Miles musters some defence his position is lost.

26. Rb2 g4
27. Rf1 g×f3
28. g×f3 Rg8 ch
29. Kh1 Qh3
30. Rf2 R×f3!



MILES

31. Ng1 Re3

Also possible is 31...R×f2. In both cases White cannot touch Black's attacked queen because of mate threats on the first rank.

32. Rg2 Qe6
33. R×g8 Q×g8
34. c×d5 f3
35. d6

Hoping for an exchange of queens. When Short avoids this, Miles sacrifices a pawn to bring Short's king to a more exposed position, but Black's own attacking threats are too strong.

35. . . . Qg5
36. d7 ch K×d7
37. Qb1 Ne6
38. Qh7 ch Kc6
39. Qf7 N×d4
40. Qc4 Q×c5

He doesn't mind an exchange of queens this time, now that he's three pawns up!

41. Qa4 ch b5
42. Qd1 Qd5
43. Rf2 Re2
44. Qc1 ch Kb7

45. N×e2 f×e2 ch
46. Rg2 Nc2!
47. Resigns

Black gains a second queen.

I find this game a classic example of the fine flowing style of a junior playing well. Short moved quickly and calculated merely the essential lines — and an uninhibited junior playing like this can be devastating, as proved also by the USSR's 16-year-old Garri Kasparov.

MURRAY CHANDLER