

On subtlety and brutality

ONE OF the hardest things in chess is knowing, while holding an advantage, when to go straight for the kill by the most direct means available or when a more subtle approach is called for.

The decision requires a feel for position, a combination of deep analysis of the situation at hand and experience developed only by years of tournament play.

My game with the Finnish Grandmaster Heikki Westerinen at Dortmund was an interesting example of the varying pace a game can have, in this case ranging from a quiet, prophylactic king move to an almost brutally direct finishing combination.

MODERN DEFENCE

H. WESTERINEN (Finland)	M. CHANDLER (New Zealand)
1. e4	d6
2. d4	g6

The Modern defence move order, in contrast to the Pirc (1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6), gives both sides greater options. With his next move Westerinen chooses a solid continuation to bolster his pawn centre.

3. c3	Nf6
4. Bd3	Bg7
5. Nf3	O-O
6. O-O	Nc6
7. b4	

Knowing that Westerinen played this line, I had prepared before the game



Grandmaster Heikki Westerinen.

with John Nunn's new book, *The Pirc for the Tournament Player* (Batsford, £4.95) which suggests 7.d5 is slightly better than this queenside expansion.

7. ...	a6
8. a4	e5
9. dxe5	Nxe5
10. Nxe5	dxe5
11. Qe2	Nh5

Now that the situation in the centre has been clarified, Black can begin his kingside counter-play.

12. g3	Bh3
13. Rd1	Qf6
14. f3?	

Westerinen prepares for Be3, which if played immediately would meet 14...Nf4! 15.gxf4 exf4 with the dual threats of 16...Qg5 ch and 16...fxe3. In doing so, though, he creates a small

but significant kingside weakness, and probably preferable is 14.Na3.

14. ...	Kh8!
15. Be3	Rg8
16. Nd2	g5
17. Kh1?	

As far as I know this is a totally new attacking concept. Westerinen's speciality is attack, and here, on defence, his sense of danger lets him down. It was imperative to eject the aggressively posted Black bishop from h3 by 17.Qf2 and then Bf1.

17. ...	Bh6
18. Rg1	Rd8
19. Bc4	g4
20. Bxh6	Qxh6
21. Ra2	Rd7

On 21...gxf3 22.Qxf3 Rxd2 23.Rxd2 Qxd2 24.Qxh5 holds for White.

22. Qf2	Rgd8
23. Nf1	Bxf1!

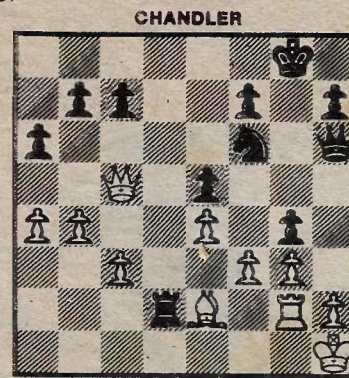
At first sight this looks a strange capture, but the knight is a valuable defender and Black can now penetrate with his rooks. White cannot recapture with 24.Qxf1 because of 24...Nxe3 ch 25.Rxe3 Rdl winning the queen.

24. Bxf1	Rd2
25. Rxd2	Rxd2
26. Be2	Nf6
27. Rg2!	Kg8!

In the last two moves the swift-flowing pace of the game has dropped dramatically to almost a trickle. This king move simply protects the f7 pawn, making White's 28.fxg4 no longer advisable.

28. Qc5
Allowing a crushing finish, but the positional 28...Rc2 threatened to leave

White an untenable position in any case.



28. ...	Rxe2!
29. Rxe2	gxf3
30. Rc2	

On 30.Rel Ng4 31.h4 Qd2 wins instantly.

30. ...	Nxe4
31. Qg1	

After 31.Qxe5 I had planned 31...Qe3! 32.Qe8 ch Kg7 33.Qe5 ch Kg6! 34.Qd4 Qe1 ch 35.Qg1 f2 winning.

31. ...	f2
32. Rxf2	Nxf2 ch
33. Qxf2	Qc6 ch
34. Kg1	Qb6!

The final punch — when material up, pawn endings are the simplest to win.

35. Qxb6	cxb6
36. g4	h5
37. g5	Kg7
38. Kf2	Kg6
39. h4	Kf5
40. Kf3	e4 ch
41. Ke3	Ke5
42. Resigns	

MURRAY CHANDLER