

Chess

Bearded in Brighton

A HUGE HAIRY tidal wave in the form of English IM Jonathan Speelman hit the first Michael Dawes International tournament in Brighton. The tall bearded mathematician stormed the event with 8½/9, two points ahead of his nearest rival, David Goodman — who made an IM norm. Speelman was also responsible for several of the unusually high number of colourful games played.

Brighton marked English Grandmaster Raymond Keene's debut as an organiser, and his idea was to give everyone something to play for — the juniors and Fide-rated players for IM and Fide master norms, and myself for a good score to use in the 1979 £2000 Cutty Sark Grand Prix.

Unfortunately I overpressed in several games, and at the closing ceremony most of the special prizes (for the best winning defence, etc) went to players for their games against me! However, organiser Keene did award me a special wooden chess set for not drawing a single game.

Ineke Bakker, general secretary of Fide, the World Chess Federation, opened the tournament and praised Keene's enterprise and initiative — his final sponsorship came only weeks before the event after a chance meeting with local enthusiast and businessman Michael Dawes. Contributions

from the Friends of Chess, the Slater Foundation and Lloyds Bank ensured an adequate budget, and Brighton looks set to become a significant annual event on the UK calendar.

Results: 1st, J. Speelman (IM, Eng) 8½/9; 2nd, D. Goodman (Eng) 6½; 3rd, A. Whiteley (Eng) 5½; 4th, M. Chandler (IM, NZ) 5; 5th, L. Blackstock (Scot) 4½; 6th-8th, I. Wells (Eng), B. Denman (Scot), D. Cummings (Eng) 3½; 9th, J. Fedorowicz (IM, US) 3; 10th, M. McDonald Ross (Scot) 1½.

The following game did not in fact get the "best defence" special prize (that went to Chandler-Whiteley!) but an apt title for it might be "intuitive attack meets intuitive defence". Employing an almost unknown opening variation of the Nimzo-Indian defence, Speelman refuted my attempt at refutation by virtue of accurate defence and some excellent previous home analysis with Britain's No 1 Grandmaster, Tony Miles.

Brighton, December 1979

M. CHANDLER (New Zealand)	J. SPEELMAN (England)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e3	0-0
5. Bd3	d5
6. Nf3	c5
7. 0-0	Nc6

- 8. a3 Bxc3
- 9. bxc3 dxc4
- 10. Bxc4 Qe7!

An extremely rare alternative to the standard 10...Qc7 which Speelman had been studying with Miles for the latter's Interzonal preparation. It is not clear what advantage a Queen on e7 has over a Queen on c7, so I decided on aggression.

- 11. Ne5!?
 Nxe5 |
- 12. dxe5
 Nd7 |
- 13. f4
 Nb6! |
- 14. Bd3
 Bd7 |
- 15. a4
 |

Otherwise 15...Ba4 prevents White contesting the d-file with his rooks later.

- 15 . . .
 Rad8! |

A fine move — White cannot play 16.a5 because of 16...Bb5.

- 16. Qc2
 Bxa4! |
- 17. Bxh7 ch
 Kh8 |
- 18. Rxa4
 Nxa4 |
- 19. Rf3
 g6 |

Everyone watching thought this was just a random, highly unclear position but in fact the Miles/Speelman analysis had gone this far, ending in 20.Bxg6 fXg6 21.Qxg6 Qh7 22.Rh3 Qxh3. Miles is one of the finest defensive players in the world, and his intuition also seems to be justified in the line I had calculated.

- 20. Rh3
 Kg7 |
- 21. f5!
 . . . |

Speelman pointed out the line 21.e4 Qd7 22.f5 Qd1 ch 23.Qxd1 Rxd1 ch 24.Kf2 Rfd8!, and 25.Bh6 ch? Kxh7 26.Bg5 ch Kg8 27.Bf6 R(8)d2 ch is followed by 28...Rd3 ch, swapping rooks and winning.

- 21 . . .
 eXf5 |

- 22. e4
 Qxe5 |
- 23. Bh6 ch
 Kf6 |

A remarkable position — White's bishops on h6 and h7 and Black's king on the sixth rank! Some moves back I had concluded that 24.Qxa4 gave White the advantage, not noticing the strength of 24...Qxe4! and 25.Qxe4 fxe4 26.Bxf8 Rxf8, when my useless extra bishop is no help against the extra pawns. Consequently I chose to complicate matters by ignoring his loose knight, but Speelman unerringly threaded his way through to the end-game.

- 24. Re3!
 Nxc3! |
- 25. eXf5
 Rd1 ch |
- 26. Kf2
 Qd4 |

Now White is obliged to capture the knight, and the ending is lost.

- 27. Qxc3
 Qxc3 |
- 28. Rxc3
 Rh8 |
- 29. fXg6
 fXg6 |
- 30. Rf3 ch
 Ke6 |
- 31. Re3 ch
 Kd7 |

The right square — 31...Kd6? 32.Bf4 ch or 31...Kd5? 32.Rd7.

- 32. Bxg6
 Rxh6 |
- 33. Bf5 ch
 Kd8 |
- 34. h3
 Rf6 |
- 35. Ke2
 Rd5 |
- 36. Be4
 Rd7 |
- 37. g4
 Re7 |
- 38. g5
 Rfe6 |
- 39. Kf3
 c4 |
- 40. g6
 Rxe4 |
- 41. Rxe4
 Rxe4 |
- 42. Kxe4
 Ke7 |
- 43. h4
 Kf6 |
- 44. h5
 b5 |

45. Resigns

Black's three connected passed pawns can force their way through to Queen.

MURRAY CHANDLER