

Australia's greatest

CECIL JOHN Seddon Purdy, Australia's greatest chess figure ever, died from a heart attack in November while playing in a tournament in Sydney. At 73 he was still actively participating in a game he had virtually nursed into existence in Australia and contributed to greatly in New Zealand.

An International Master, Purdy won the Australian Championships four times and the New Zealand Championships once, in 1924. But it was at correspondence chess that he excelled, winning the world championship throughout the years 1953-58.

Purdy was founder/editor of the *Australasian Chess Review* in 1929 (later to become *Check* and then *Chess World*) and he soon established himself as one of the wittiest writers of the game. He will be dearly missed by the generations he has helped through his books and lectures, and in a way it was fitting that he should be taken while playing the sport he loved, and had devoted his life to. His last words were "what about the game?"

I have taken the following game from one of his magazines, *Check*, which was renowned worldwide for the high quality of its articles, many of which Purdy wrote himself.

Australian Championships
Sydney 1945
FRENCH DEFENCE

C. J. S. PURDY	A. HARRIS
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e5	c5
5. a3	Bxc3 ch

6. bxc3 Ne7
7. Qg4

Although a major variation nowadays, at the time this move was considered ineffectual. The modern line sees Black sacrificing his kingside pawns for active play with 7...Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 etc.

7. . . . Nf5!
8. Bd3 h5
9. Qh3!?

An attempted improvement over 9.Qf4 Qh4, as in Bogoljubov-Flohr, Nottingham 1936, which had led to very little for White. White now threatens 10.g4, and if 9...c4, then 10.Bxf5 exf5 11.Qg3.

Harris's next move, however, creates vast Black-square weaknesses — current theory recommends 9...cxd4.

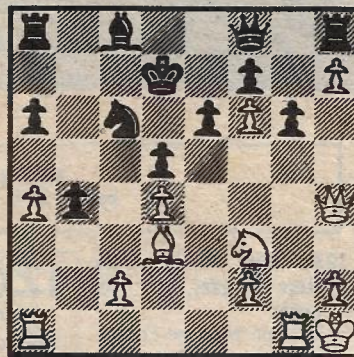
9. . . . g6?
10. Nf3 Qa5
11. 0-0 Nc6
12. Bg5

Exploiting the dark-square weaknesses, and ignoring any pawn-grabbing ideas Black might have.

12. . . . cxd4
13. Bf6 Rg8
14. g4 Ng7

If 14...hxg4, then 15.Qh7; and if 14...Nh6, then 15.gxh5. After Purdy's next move, vacating the g-file for his rook, there is no defence.

15. Kh1! Kd7
16. Rg1 Ne8
17. gxh5 Nxh6
18. exf6 Qd8
19. Qh4 Rh8
20. h6 Qf8
21. h7 a6
22. cxd4 b5
23. a4 b4



24. Bxg6

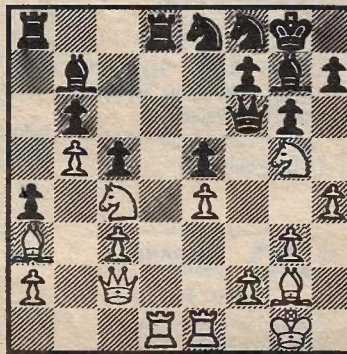
The clinching combination. After 24...fxg6 25.Rxg6 White has a winning attack.

24. . . . Nd8
25. Ne5 ch Kc7
26. Bx17 Resigns

The last tournament Purdy ever completed was the Sydney International, won by English Grandmaster Raymond Keene and Australian Ian Rogers on 7½ points out of 10. The 1977-78 New Zealand champion, Craig Laird, also participated, scoring 4½ points for 5th equal place. The *Australian Chess Player's Quarterly* plays "spot the killer" in this apparently innocuous position.

Sydney 1979

C. MORRIS (Australia)

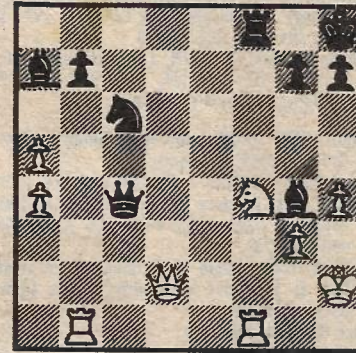


C. LAIRD (NZ)

Laird played 1.Re3! with the unstoppable threat of 2.Rf3, as 1...Qe7

allows 2.Nxb6. Morris attempted to defend with 1...Nd6 but was crushed by 2.Rxd6! Rxd6 3.Rf3 Qd8 4.Nxf7! Rd1 ch 5.Kh2 Qd7 6.Nxb6 and Black's whole position falls apart.

Problem



N. Popov — Novopashin, USSR 1979. White to move.

Nearing the end of a forcing sequence of moves, Black had evidently reasoned that after 1.Ng6 ch 2.Rxf8 ch Kh7 his three minor pieces would give good chances against the two rooks. But he had missed a thunderbolt of a move — what was it?

SOLUTION: 1.Ng6 ch hxg6 2.Rxf8 ch Kh7. Thus far all planned, but now 3.Qh6 ch!! Black resigns. If 3...Kxh6, then 4.Rh8 checkmate; and 3...gxh6 4.Rxb7 ch also leads to forced checkmate.

MURRAY CHANDLER

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.