

Leading reading

SINCE the ignominious flop of *International Chess* some time ago, I have been hesitant to recommend any new magazines and publications that suddenly appear. A label of "caveat emptor" need not be applied to the selection commented on this week, however, as all are long-running and reliable publications even though their editors have recently changed.

Still good value for money is the New Zealand Chess Association's organ *New Zealand Chess*, published every two months. After a successful ("but hectic") year's editing Paul Spiller is now bowing out and putting Auckland television reporter Robert Smith in the seat of power. The latest issue has round-by-round reports of both the Burroughs New Zealand Championships and the Malta Olympiad, as well as a reasonable coverage of foreign events in general. *New Zealand Chess* is available at \$5 a year (six issues) from the Administration Officer, NZCA, PO Box 8802, Symonds Street, Auckland.

It is difficult to imagine the international scene without the second journal discussed this week. Despite the tragic death of editor Freddy Reilly last year, *British Chess Magazine* has now reached its centennial year of publication. Appropriately enough the monthly has just been purchased by the British Chess Federation (slow but sure!) and the format remains similar. *BCM* can be ordered from BCM Ltd, 9 Market Street, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex, England, at £11.40 air freight or £17.28 airmail (12 issues).

Also with new ownership, as readers of *New Zealand Chess* will already be aware, is *Modern Chess Theory*. Under Grandmaster Ray Keene and The Chess Player Ltd, *MCT* once more presents an up-to-date survey of all that is fashionable in the openings. A highly specialised publication, *MCT* is strictly for the serious competitor. Inquiries to The Chess Player Ltd, 12 Burton Avenue, Carlton, Nottingham, England.

All of *MCT's* contributors — and much of its readership — are leading masters. The importance of the opening in the modern chess struggle can be seen from the following game between two top Grandmasters. It was played in the Wijk aan Zee tournament in Holland which resulted in a double home success for GMs Jan Timman (an *MCT* contributor) and this week's winner, Gennadi Sosonko.

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE

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|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| G. SOSONKO (Holland) | F. GHEORGHIU (Rumania) |
| 1. d4 | Nf6 |
| 2. c4 | e6 |
| 3. Nf3 | b6 |
| 4. g3 | Ba6 |

Currently considered safer than 4...Bb7 (see Kasparov-Marjanovic in this column a few weeks ago). The idea is to decoy the White knight from its best square, c3.

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| 5. Nbd2 | Bb7 |
| 6. Bg2 | c5! |

More solid is 7...Be7, aiming to complete development.

7. e4!

An interesting recent idea. On 7...Nxe4, 8.Ne5! is strong — if 8...Nc3 then 9.Bxb7! Nxd1 10.Bxa8 and the knight on d1 is trapped. White winning rook and two pieces for the queen.

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| 7. ... | cxd4 |
| 8. e5 | Ng8 |
| 9. 0-0 | d6 |
| 10. Nxd4! | |

Sosonko's innovation and an improvement on 10.Nb3 or 10.exd6.

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| 10. ... | Bxg2 |
| 11. Kxg2 | a6 |

The problem is that after 11...dxe5 12.Qf3 Nd7 13.Nb5! it is embarrassingly difficult to prevent Qxa8 in an acceptable manner.

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| 12. exd6 | Bxd6 |
| 13. Qf3 | Ra7 |
| 14. Ne4 | Rd7 |
| 15. Rd1 | Ne7 |
| 16. Ng5 | Ng6? |

The only hope was 16...0-0, although 17.Qe4 g6 18.N(either)xex6 fxe6 19.Nxe6 is one strong White possibility.



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| 17. Ndxe6! | Qf6 |
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On 17...fxe6 18.Rxd6! wins the piece back, as 18...Rxd6? allows 19.Qf7 mate. As a direct result of his superior opening Sosonko is now able to transpose into a winning endgame.

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| 18. Qxf6 | gxf6 |
| 19. Ng7 ch | Kf8 |
| 20. Nf5 | Bxg3 |
| 21. Rxd7 | Nxd7 |
| 22. hxg3 | fxg5 |
| 23. Bxg5 | f6 |
| 24. Rd1 | Ke8 |
| 25. Be3 | h5 |
| 26. Kh3 | h4 |

Gheorghiu must have assumed he would regain this pawn.

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| 27. gxh4 | Nde5 |
| 28. Rd6 | Kf7 |
| 29. Rxb6 | Rh5 |
| 30. Rb7 ch | Kf8 |
| 31. Bh6 ch | Kg8 |
| 32. Rg7 ch | Kh8 |
| 33. Rxg6! | |

A rude surprise. On 33...Nxg6, 34.Kg4 regains the exchange. Black could resign now.

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| 33. ... | Rxf5 |
| 34. Bg7 ch | Kh7 |
| 35. Rxf6! | |

That's four extra pawns.

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| 35. ... | Rh5 |
| 36. Bf8 | Nxc4 |
| 37. b3 | Ne5 |
| 38. Rxa6 | Resigns |

MURRAY CHANDLER