

North meets South

IT TOOK New Zealand chess more than 100 years to organise what is a traditional fixture in many other sports — a match between the North and South Islands. The first such match was arranged by the Upper Hutt Chess Club and held in June, on the day after the club's annual 40-40 tournament.

The games were played with considerable gusto and little precision: the rapidity with which won games turned into draws or losses made it difficult for onlookers to keep up with the state of play. The final twist came when Fenella Foster won a drawn game on bottom board to give the match to the North, 5½-4½.

Most of the players had taken part in the 40-40 tournament, a very popular event (160-odd entries this year) in which competitors have 40 minutes each for each of the five games. So play is fast, but still recognisable as chess, and fun. No precious grading points are at stake, and precious egos are not so severely wounded as in "real" tournaments. This year's 40-40 was won by Paul Garbett and Tony Carpinter, who won their first four games and drew with each other in the final round.

Results of the North-South match were (North names first): P. Garbett ½, V. Small ½; L. Aptekar 0, A. Carpinter 1; D. Beach 1, A. Dowden 0; B. Watson 1, A. Love 0; P. Stuart ½, M. Freeman ½; W. Leonhardt ½, A. Johnston ½; M. Whaley 0, B. Carpinter 1; J. Sarfati 0, W. Gibson 1; Z. Frankel 1, D. Watts 0; F. Foster 1, R. Ferguson 0.

The following game, in which Tony Carpinter blatantly swindles former New Zealand champion Lev Aptekar, was typical of the match:

SICILIAN DEFENCE

L. APTEKAR	A. CARPINTER
1. e4	d6
2. Nc3	g6
3. f4	Bg7
4. Nf3	c5
5. Bc4	e6?

A careless move, induced by some cunning opening play by White, who has side-stepped Black's attempt to play the Pirc and headed for what looks like a form of the Closed Sicilian. Black forgets that White can still play an Open Sicilian with d4; he had to play 5...Nc6 to control d4.

6. d4	cxd4
7. Nxd4	a6

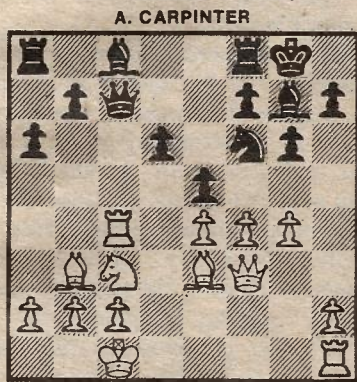
Necessary to prevent 8.Ndb5, with an embarrassing attack on the d-pawn. Thanks to his fifth move, Black now has a weak pawn structure, with "holes" on d6 and f6.

8. Be3	Nf6
9. Qf3	0-0
10. 0-0-0	Qc7
11. Bb3	Nc6
12. g4!	

White's pawn-storm on the kingside is much more dangerous than anything Black can do on the other wing for the time being. The move played is not bad,

but it does allow Black to stir up complications, and 12.h3 might have been a useful preparation for g4.

12. ...	Nxd4
13. Rxd4	e5
14. Rc4	



L. APTEKAR	Bxg4
14. ...	
15. Rxc7	

Obscure and unnecessary, from White's point of view, complications arise from 15.Qg2 Qa5.

15. ...	Bxf3
16. Rf1	Bg4?

Black could not play 16...Bxe4 17.fxe5 dxe5 18.Rxf6 Bxf6 19.Nxe4, but much better than the move played was 16...Bg2 — if 17.Rg1 then 17...Bxe4 is now possible, while 17.Rf2 Ng4 18.Rxg2 Nxe3 is not too bad for Black.

17. fxe5	dxe5
18. Bg5	Ne8
19. Rxf7	Rxf7
20. Rxf7	Kh8
21. Rxb7	h6?
22. Be7	Nf6?
23. Rb6	Nd7
24. Rxg6	h5
25. Bd5?!	

With two extra pawns and a dominating position, White, of course, has an easy win, but now he allows Black to grab the f-file and start wriggling.

25. ...	Re8
26. Bg5	

Not 26.Ba3 Nf6 trapping the rook.

26. ...	Rf8
27. Be3?	

Psychologically, perhaps the most difficult moment in chess comes when an opponent one thought was dead starts twitching back to life. Evidently rattled by the changing circumstances, White allows his rook to be trapped.

27. ...	Rf3
28. Kd2	Nf6
29. Nd1?	

White is losing the exchange, but he could have kept the h-pawn by 29.h4 and still been in the game.

29. ...	Rh3
30. Nf2	Rxh2
31. c4	Kh7
32. Rg5	Bh6
33. Ke1	Bxg5
34. Bxg5	Kg6
35. Be3	Bc8

Black is now on top, but White is not finished until his blunder on move 40.

36. b4	Ng4
37. Ke2	Rg2
38. b5	axb5
39. cxb5	h4
40. Kf3??	Rg3 ch
41. Resigns	

BERNARD CARPINTER

Murray Chandler is on holiday.