

Mixed double

NEW ZEALAND scored a double international success at the Brighton international tournament in England shortly before Christmas. Jointly with British Grandmaster Jon Speelman, I won the all-play-all international, while in a concurrent match Fenella Foster, the 16-year-old New Zealand women's champion from Wainuiomata, drew her four-game contest with one of England's leading lady players.

Fenella was in Europe after representing us on board one during the Malta Olympiad last year, and I felt it would be interesting if a match were arranged with 18-year-old Carey Groves, probably the fifth strongest woman player in England. The National Bank of New Zealand sponsored what proved to be an interesting tussle. Carey won game one, and forced a draw by perpetual check in game two. Fenella fought back to equalise the score in the third game, taking full advantage of a momentary lapse to penetrate her opponent's position and win three pawns.

The fourth game ended in a quick draw after 25 moves and two hours' play, making the final score 2-2. This was a creditable result for Fenella, who has already represented us in Buenos Aires and Singapore as well as Malta and looks an extremely bright prospect for the future.

The girls' match was played alongside the Competence Computers Brighton International, now in its second year.

Results of the men's international were: 1 equal, IM M. Chandler (New Zealand) and GM J. Speelman (England), 6½ points out of 9; 3-4, IM L. Day (Canada) and IM S. Taulbut (England), 5½; 5 F. van der Vliet (Holland), 5; 6-7, W. Watson and D. Goodman (both England), 4½; 8-9, IM R. Gruchacz and J. Tisdall (both USA), 2½; 10, D. Cummings (England), 2.

After Malta it was nice to play some real chess again. A fluctuating, but interesting, effort came in round three:

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE

M. CHANDLER	R. GRUCHACZ
1. d4	e6
2. c4	Nf6
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e3	c5
5. Ne2	d5

Chandler-Andersson in New Zealand v Sweden, Malta Olympiad 1980, had followed the fashionable continuation 5...cxd4 6.exd4 0-0 7.a3 Be7 8.d5!? cxd5 9.cxd5 Re8 10.g3 Bc5 11.Bg2 d6 12.h3. Andersson now innovated with 12...a6!? and, as White had Maltese flu and Black was a super-Grandmaster, soon won.

6. cxd5?!

The Nimzo has a reputation as one of Black's most solid defences, and here I attempted to steer the game into less 'charted' waters. Unfortunately Robert found the best reply.

6... Nxd5!

7. g3?! cxd4
8. exd4 Bd7

I had expected this, but somewhat more interesting (embarrassing?!) was 8...Nxc3 9.bxc3 Qd5! when White's only alternative to the humble 10.Rg1 appears to be a rather speculative exchange sacrifice with 10.Qa4 ch. It should be noted, however, that this game was played in the morning, a time of day not well known to most chess players. This deviation from our normal 2pm start was made in order to facilitate my departure for West Germany, where I had two club matches to play before returning to the Brighton tournament.

9. Bg2 Bc6
10. 0-0 0-0
11. Nxd5 Bxd5
12. Bxd5 Qxd5
13. Nf4 Qd7
14. d5 exd5?

After 14...e5! 15.Nd3 Bd6 16.Re1 Qf5 Black would certainly stand no worse.

15. Nxd5 Bd6
16. Qb3! Na6

Although the position is simplified, the knight on d5 radiates considerable power and proves a real problem for Black to dislodge. The natural 16...Nc6 would run into difficulties after 17.Rd1! threatening Bf4, and if 17...Qe6 then 18.Qxb7.

17. Be3 Nc5
18. Qc2 Qa4
19. Qe2 Rfe8
20. Rfd1 Rad8

This natural move may not be best — 20...Re6! is more solid. Unfortunately I now had another problem — "train-trouble". To catch my train to Heathrow on time, attack seemed the only solution!

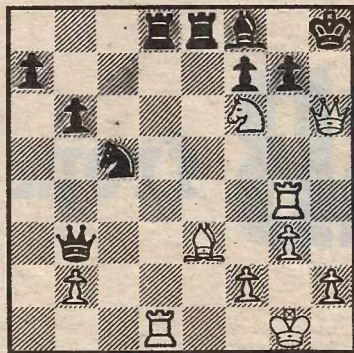
21. Rac1 b6
22. Rc4! Qxa2
23. Rh4 Bf8
24. Qh5 h6
25. Rg4 Qb3?

Phew. After the best defence of 25...Qxb2 26.Qxh6 (not 26.Bd4? Rxd5! 27.Qxd5 Qe2 skewering White's rooks) Re6 Black has at least 15 minutes worth of resistance left — too much leeway for even British Rail.

The text allows an elementary, but not unattractive, queen sacrifice.

26. Nf6 ch Kh8
27. Qxh6 ch Resigns

GRUCHACZ



CHANDLER

On 27...g×h6 28.Rg8 is, of course, checkmate.

MURRAY CHANDLER