

Short caught

THE THIRD annual international tournament in Brighton, England, featured a remarkably compact finish. No fewer than nine of the 10 players ended up within a two-point span and there was a clear winner. Perhaps this shows a virtue of hand-picking a generally well-balanced field, which this time contained three grandmasters, six international masters and one Fide master.

For the tournament to reach the prestigious status of Fide (World Chess Federation) category eight, after meagre beginnings three years ago, must have been personally satisfying for organiser Ray Keene. The biggest headache, unless one has an unlimited budget, is finding sufficient appearance fees and prize-money to attract the top players. For this third, and by now well established, Brighton event, sponsorship from the Hong Kong-based SciSys chess computer firm ensured the participation of the necessary Grandmasters: Jon Speelman from England, Gudmundur Sigurjonsson from Iceland, and Heikki Westerinen from Finland.

The early lead at Brighton oscillated among Speelman, American IM Jon Tisdall, and the English boy prodigy Nigel Short. Starting as he did with 3½ out of 4, 16-year-old Nigel appeared to have real prospects of reaching the magic seven points required for the grandmaster norm. Meanwhile, after an early win over Westerinen, I crawled along with a series of draws feeling distinctly out of the running.

Suddenly Tisdall and Short suffered ghastly losses and Speelman (or Specimen, as *The Times* puts it) went down with a local strain of the "English disease". This woeful affliction, for the uninitiated, was identified in the early 1970s through the heroic efforts of several top English players when playing one another. Symptoms include an irresistible urge to shake hands and write down fractions.

To be fair, Jon's version of the ailment meant he was simply unable to score a decisive result after round three, though he certainly tried. Anyway, this combined state of affairs made my last game against Short of vital importance and induced me to launch a caveman kingside attack. Fortunately it paid off and I was able to sneak out an unexpected half point ahead of the bunch.

Final scores at the Brighton Grandmaster Tournament 1981/82 were: 1 Chandler (New Zealand) 6/9; 2-3 Speelman and Short (both England) 5½; 4-5 Arnason (Iceland) and Tisdall (US) 5; 6-8 Sigurjonsson (Iceland), Westerinen (Finland) and Taulbut (England) 4½; 9 Burger (US) 4; 10 Conquest (England) ½.

FRENCH DEFENCE

M. CHANDLER	N. SHORT
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nd2	Be7

I vaguely recalled that the Russian grandmaster Romanishin had experimented with this move, but I had never met it in a game before. Normal is 3...c5 or 3...Nf6.

4. Nf3	Nf6
5. e5	Ne4!

5...Nfd7 is more akin to a normal French position, but Nigel wants to swap off this king's knight. The idea may well be valid, though I prefer White with his lead in development.

6. Bd3	Nxd2
7. Bxd2	0-0?

A natural enough move, but in fact a serious mistake: Black commits his king too early. 7...b6 planning 8...c5 or 8...Ba6 would avoid what happens next.

8. h4!

Intuitively I felt this must be strong. Already White threatens the "Greek gift" sacrifice with 9.Bxh7 ch and 10.Ng5 ch.

8. ...	h6
9. c3	Nd7
10. Ng5	

The knight cannot be taken (10...hxg5 11.Bh7 ch Kxh7 12.Qh5 ch Kg8 13.hxg5 f6 14.g6), and meanwhile it stops a defensive f5 by Black.

10. ...	c5
11. Qh5	cxd4
12. cxd4	Qb6
13. Bc3	Bb4
14. Kf1	

Black threatened 14...Qxd4. Castling kingside would take the rook out of the attack, and the king is safer on f1 than on the queenside.

14. ...	Bxc3
15. bxc3	Qb2
16. Rd1	Qxa2

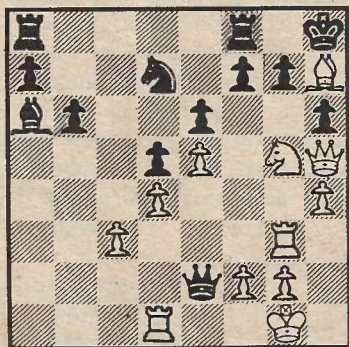
On 16...Qxc3 comes 17.Rh3 and the rook swings over to the g-file with gain of time. So instead Nigel takes the other queenside pawn, but the material gain is incidental — his real idea is to swap bishops on a6.

17. Rh3	b6
18. Bh7 ch!	

Preventing the exchange of bishops and offering further sacrifices to burst through on the king's wing. Less clear is 18.Nh7 when Nigel had seen the best defence: 18...Rd8! 19.Rf3 Ba6 and if 20.Qxf7 ch then simply 20...Kh8 holds.

18. ...	Kh8
19. Rg3	Ba6 ch
20. Kg1	Qe2

SHORT



CHANDLER

21. Nxf7 ch!	Rxf7
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On 21...Kxh7 22.Qg6 ch forces mate next move.

22. Qxf7	Qxd1 ch
23. Kh2	g5
24. Bg6	Nf8
25. Qf6 ch	Kg8
26. Bf7 ch	Kh7
27. hxg5	Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER