

# Novel ideas

**MOST WRITERS** — even those who squander good sleeping hours writing about mere board games — occasionally get readers' letters. Now, to tell the truth, I tend not to encourage such spontaneous shows of affection in this particular column. This is not — let me assure you — because my contract mentions nothing about overtime. It is solely because my constant participation in the soul-destroying European chess circuit means that some correspondence will necessarily be out of date when I receive it.

One letter which recently tracked me down featured a slightly unusual request. Mr X (for Mr X was, to add to the mystery, writing under a pseudonym) said that he had had an idea for writing a novel using a chess game as an underlying theme. Could I suggest, he asked, any worthy games of historical or educational significance that he might use.

This intriguing question started me wondering whether other novelists had done the same before. Compare, for example, the striking similarities between Solzhenitzyn's *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* and an Ulf Andersson game. There is the subtle attention to detail; Andersson's opponent usually feels a bit like poor Ivan; and his games certainly drag on for ages. And, indeed, why stop at novels? For years writers of plays or films or government pamphlets may have secretly modelled their so-called original work on the efforts of exploited, woefully under-rewarded chess masters.

Consequently I feel I must insist that the copyright on the following game is strictly observed — despite it being the ideal model for any government economic policy. Both players exhibit praiseworthy indecisiveness, time wasting is rife, and the self-checkmate White manages to trap himself in at the end is strangely appropriate.

The game was played in the Ohra Insurance tournament in Amsterdam. Hort went on to share first place with 17-year-old Nigel Short of England, on seven points from a possible nine. Other leading scores in this 32-player Swiss-system event were: Sosonko (Holland) 6½; Ree (Holland) 6; Miles (England), Yusupov (USSR), Van Wijgerden, Pliester and Bohm. (all Holland) 5½.

## VERESOV OPENING

A. MILES (England)	V. HORT (Czechoslovakia)
1. d4	Nf6
2. Nc3	d5
3. Bg5	Bf5
4. Bxf6	gxf6
5. e3	e6
6. Nge2	Bd6
7. Nb5	Be7
8. Ng3	Bg6
9. c4	c6
10. Nc3	h5
11. Nge2	Bd6
12. Qb3	Na6

When playing White, Miles often steers the opening into uncharted waters. Here 13.Qxb7 is bad because

of 13...Nb4, but Tony's next move tries to prepare this capture.

13. c5? Bxc5!

Miles had either missed this altogether or badly miscalculated the subsequent tactics. 14.dxc5 is certainly dangerous after 14...Nxc5 15.Qa3 Nd3 ch 16.Kd2 Nxf2 when Black has three pawns for his piece and the White king is caught in the centre.

14. Nf4 Be7!  
15. Bxa6 bxa6  
16. Qb7? Qc8  
17. Qb3

An original manoeuvre to shed four tempi.

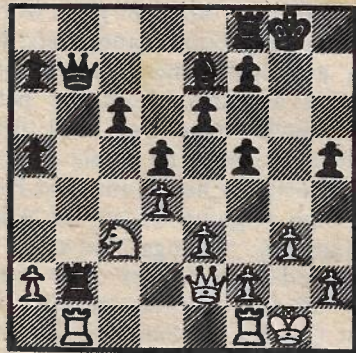
17. ... Rb8  
18. Qd1 Rxb2

According to Miles this natural capture, winning a second pawn, was not best. 18...Bd6 looks a solid alternative.

19. 0-0 Qb7  
20. Nd3 Bxd3  
21. Qxd3 f5  
22. Rab1 0-0  
23. g3 a5  
24. Qe2!

Hort had totally missed this shot, which puts paid to his advantage.

HORT



MILES

24. ... Rxe2  
25. Rxb7 Rc2  
26. Rxe7 Rxc3  
27. Rb1! Rc2  
28. a3 Ra2  
29. Rxa7 Rxa3  
30. Kg2 Ra2  
31. Rb6 a4  
32. Rxc6 Rb8  
33. Rcc7 Rf8

Black's lead has been reduced to just one pawn and the White rooks, doubled on the seventh, are very active. A draw should be the outcome.

34. Re7 a3  
35. Kf3 Ra1  
36. h3 Ra2  
37. h4 Ra1  
38. Kf4

But Tony wants to win in Hort's time-trouble.

38. ... Ra2  
39. f3? Rf2!

Threatening 40...a2.

40. Rxa3 Kg7  
41. Ra6? Kf8!  
42. Rd7 Rg8!

Suddenly catastrophe looms — and there is no way out. A remarkable "smothered mate" by 43...Rg4, using the pin on the f-file, is threatened!

43. e4 and Resigns

43...dxe4 44.Ke3 Rxf3 ch 45.Ke2 Rgxe3 is totally convincing.

MURRAY CHANDLER