

How to avoid boredom

by Murray Chandler

THE CHANGE in format for this year's Tilburg transformed the world's most boring super-tournament into one of the most gripping. Why this reduction from the traditional 14-player all-play-all to an eight-man double-round event should have had such a dramatic effect is not totally clear. Most likely it was the choice of participants — all colourful and fighting top grandmasters, not content to leave with just a suitcase of guilders and 90 percent draws. In past years it was suspected that the generous fees and prizes put up by the Dutch Interpolis insurance company might be a cause of the lethargy. This theory has now been refuted, and the \$NZ52,000 prize fund should be safe for next year.

Final results at Tilburg were: 1-3, Hubner (West Germany), Korchnoi (Switzerland), Miles (England) 8½ points; 4, Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) 7; Polugayevsky and Romanishin (both USSR), and Timman (Holland) 6; Dzhindzhishvili (US) 5½. Robert Hubner's joint first is his second top success this year (he won with Ljubojevic at Linares). Considering how little the modest academic tends to play, his world ranking must be rising fast. But the sensation was Tony Miles, who won lying down — literally. A back injury meant that he played much of the tournament stretched out on his stomach on a hospital trolley, in spite of protests from the other participants that this distracted them. In the *Guardian*, columnist Leonard Barden blackly forecast chaos at British events if Miles-followers decide to imitate this latest gimmick.

One unfamiliar face at Tilburg this time was that of the talented Roman Dzhindzhishvili, like Korchnoi a Soviet defector. Dzhindzhi, a huge, shaggy Russian bear of a figure, has a passion for gambling that has, alas, occasionally interfered with his chess career. He had various European abodes before a hasty departure for the US some years back, but all now appears forgiven. In the *Informator* 39 "Best Game" competition (with a \$US1000 prize, coincidentally donated by Interpolis) I voted for Dzhindzhishvili's brilliant zugswang win over Belyavsky as my top choice. Several other judges agreed, but this superb clash was edged out of first place when Soviet ex-world champions Smyslov and Botvinnik failed to award the expatriate a single point.

This week's game features a decisive skirmish between two of the winners. Sometimes, when facing an opponent who specialises in a particular opening, it is debatable whether the best strategy is to avoid it or take the challenge on. Here Hubner, a versatile strategist in both kingpawn and queenpawn, elects to take Miles on by allowing the razor-edged Dragon variation.

SICILIAN DEFENCE

R HUBNER	A J MILES
1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	d6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nf6
5. Nc3	g6
6. Be2	Bg7
7. 0-0	0-0
8. Be3	Nc6
9. Nb3	

The choice of this old line is very cunning psychology on Hubner's part. Recently Miles has played (as White) a variation of the English opening starting 1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. g3 d5 5. cxd5 Nxd5 6. Bg2 Nb6 7. 0-0 0-0 8. d3 Be6. In this game Hubner gets the same position, with colours reversed, a tempo ahead.

9. ...	Be6
10. f4	Qc8
11. Bf3	Bg4
12. Nd5	Bxf3
13. Qxf3	Nxd5
14. exd5	Nb4
15. Qe4	

More accurate than 15. c3 Nd3. Now 15. ... Nxc2 would lose to 16. Rac1.

15. ...	Na6
16. c3	Qc7
17. Rae1	Rae8
18. f5	Nc5
19. Nxc5	dxc5
20. Rf3!	gx f5

This ruins Black's defensive pawn structure on the kingside, but Miles could see no other counter to White's threatened Rh3 and Qh4.

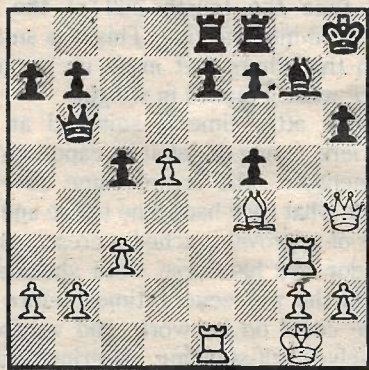
21. Qh4!

Anyway! 21. Rxf5 gives Black breathing space with 21. ... Qd6, intending 22. Rh5 Qg6.

21. ...	Qd6
22. Bf4	Qb6
23. Rh3	h6

23. ... Qg6 24. Rg3 followed by Bh6 is the end.

24. Rg3	Kh8
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25. Re6!	fxe6
26. Bxh6	

Had Miles seen his opponent's rook sacrifice coming but envisaged 26. Rxc7 exd5 27. Bxh6 Rf6! defending?

26. ...	c4ch
27. Kh1	Resigns

There is simply no defence to the attack; 27. ... Rg8 28. Bxg7 double check and mate or 27. ... exd5 28. Bxg7 double check Kg8 29. Bd4 discovered check etc. ■