

**CHESS**

# On the trot

by Murray Chandler

**Y**OU HAVE to concede that these Soviets have stamina. Eduard Gufeld, grandmaster and leading Soviet coach, played 421 games on his recent nationwide tour, sponsored by Amstrad Computers and the Farmers' Trading Company. Even discounting the 21 games against Amstrad computers (score: 18 wins and three draws to Gufeld), this tally still beats my 396-game record from 1983. And whereas I crawled home to bed with suspected brain damage, the jovial Gufeld trotted on to Australia and Singapore for three more weeks of the same. If he told any of you his secret during the exhibitions and lectures in Christchurch, Dunedin, Wellington, Wanganui, Hastings, Hamilton and Auckland, please write to me straight away.

Gufeld's score against the humans in his 11 simultaneous exhibitions (where the grandmaster takes on 30-40 opponents at the same time) was also excellent. He won 374 games, drew 24 and lost only two — to Peter van Dijk in Christchurch and Russel Dive in Wellington. In one-to-one clashes with four New Zealand Olympiad team members he drew with Vernon Small and Ortvín Sarapu and beat Jonathan Sarfati and Tony Love. Thanks to assistance from the New Zealand Chess Association regional coordinators it was a well-publicised and well-run promotion, of the type that could easily be repeated annually.

One of our greatest needs in New Zealand is for juniors and club players to have more contact with experienced international players and trainers. A few lectures from a brilliant coach like Gufeld can shape a youngster's whole approach to the game. Drumming home basic principles by dramatic images is good teaching technique and one of Gufeld's favourite anecdotes concerns a young English player attending his chess school in Moscow. The junior, a good tactician but with doubtful positional sense, suggested a bishop retreat from d3-b1 in one position. Although the move gave some attacking chances it would also have shut White's rook, still at a1, right out of play. "Pick up your rook," Gufeld said, "and hold it to your ear." Puzzled, the junior obliged. "Now listen to your rook," said Gufeld, "and tell me: what does he say?" The junior listened for a long time before replying: "He says bad words, maestro, bad words!"

This week's game, kindly supplied to me by Ortvín Sarapu, is Gufeld's sole loss from the Riccarton Mall exhibition in Christchurch. Black's inferior move order in the opening does have the blessing of avoiding main-line theory, and he gains surprising compensation for a lost pawn.

<b>E GUFELD</b>	<b>RUY LOPEZ</b>	<b>P VAN DIJK</b>
1. e4		e5
2. Nf3		Nc6.
3. Bb5		a6
4. Ba4		Nf6
5. 0-0		b5
6. Bb3		Be7?!

7. d4 e×d4?!  
*Black's curious mixture of three systems is definitely dubious. Delaying ... b5 with 5. ... Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 Be7 is normal.*

8. e5 Ne4  
 9. c3  
*Perhaps hoping for 9. ... d×c3 10. Qd5! when White threatens checkmate and Black's knight, but the simplest path to advantage is 9. Bd5 Nc5 10. N×d4 Bb7 11. Nf5.*

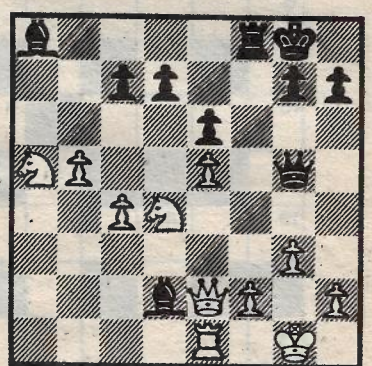
9. ... d3  
 10. Bd5 Nc5  
 11. b4 Ne6  
 12. Q×d3 Bb7  
 13. a4 b×a4  
 14. R×a4 Qc8  
 15. Na3 a5  
 16. B×e6 f×e6  
 17. b5 Nd8  
 18. Nc4 0-0  
 19. Nd4 Nf7  
 20. Bf4 Ng5  
 21. B×g5 B×g5  
 22. R×a5 Bd5!

*So White has won a pawn but unluckily for him van Dijk gains a powerful initiative with his dangerous bishop pair.*

23. Rfa1 R×a5  
 24. N×a5 Bf4  
 25. c4 Ba8  
 26. Re1 Qd8  
 27. g3 Qg5  
 28. Qe2?

*Defending the e-pawn but missing the threatened skewer.*

28. ... Bd2!



*This wins the exchange, as 29. Ra1 (defending the knight on a5) walks into the amusing second skewer 29. ... Bc3, while 29. f4 R×f4! 30. Q×d2? Rf1 ch 31. R×f1 Q×d2 wins the white queen.*

29. Nab3 B×e1  
 30. Q×e1 Qg4  
 31. c5 Bd5  
 32. b6 c×b6  
 33. c×b6 Rb8  
 34. Qc1 Qe4  
 35. f3 Q×e5

*If Gufeld had known the strength of his opponent he might well have resigned here, but in a "simul" it is policy for the expert to make everyone earn their point.*

36. Kf2 B×b3  
 37. N×b3 Qb5  
 38. Qe3 R×b6  
 39. Nd4 Qc4  
 40. g4 Rb4  
 41. Nf5 Rb2 ch

*Always look a Soviet grandmaster's gift-horse in the mouth; 41. ... e×f5? 42. Qe8 is checkmate.*

42. Kg3 Qc2  
 43. Kf4 Q×h2 ch  
 44. Kg5 Qd2  
**Resigns.**