

Fun and games at Biel

by Murray Chandler

THE BIEL chess festival in Switzerland is a must for any New Zealand enthusiast touring Europe. Apart from immediately winning a Swatch (for being the competitor from farthest away) you'll have an impressive choice of tournaments. Running concurrently with the top grandmaster group are Open, Women's, Junior and Veteran tournaments. This year there was also a novel "world mixed" event, where six leading international women took on six top Swiss men. Although ratings of the two sides were roughly equal, the Swiss men won by 44 points to 28.

Chief organiser Hans Suri is the dynamo behind Biel's 20-year success story. In 1968 his budget was 8000 Swiss francs — this time it was 465,000 (about the same in NZ dollars). Each July chess posters go up all over town and the local inhabitants flee on holiday as the 1000-strong invasion of mostly Swiss, German and Yugoslav players begins. Over the years some nice traditions have evolved. In the huge congress halls, where all events are played, there are chess videos to watch and chess computers to try out. If you win your day's game in the Open section you get a free meal in the restaurant. But my lasting image from this Biel festival is of Vlastimil Hort, not the slenderest of grandmasters, scaling a giant pyramid set outside the railway station in an exhibition match with Nana Alexandria.

The winner of the 1987 grandmaster group was Boris Gulko, the Soviet dissident who was allowed out of the USSR only last year. In last place was Zsuzsa Polgar, the remarkable 18-year-old Hungarian woman. In between were players such as myself, who wish to forget certain games as quickly as possible. Here is a brisk Gulko win against the Argentine grandmaster Daniel Campora.

CATALAN OPENING

B GULKO **D CAMPORA**

- 1. d4 d5
- 2. c4 e6
- 3. Nf3 Re7
- 4. g3 Nf6
- 5. Bg2 0-0
- 6. Qc2 c6

The beginning of an unusual plan to block the queenside; normal and better is 6. ... dxc4.

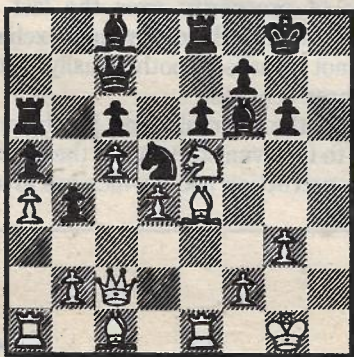
- 7. 0-0 .b5
- 8. c5 a5
- 9. Nbd2 Nbd7

1. Gulko	US	x	½½	01	½½	½½	11	1½	½1	9
2. Romanishin	Sov	½½	x	½1	½½	½½	½½	½1	1½	8½
3. Campora	Arg	10	½0	x	1½	½½	½½	01	11	8
4. Chandler	Eng	½½	½½	0½	x	½1	½1	1½	½0	7½
Hort	W Ger	½½	½½	½½	½0	x	1½	10	½1	7½
6. Hubner	W Ger	00	½½	½½	½0	0½	x	½½	½1	5½
7. Lobron	W Ger	0½	½0	10	0½	01	½½	x	0½	5
Polgar	Hun	½0	0½	00	½1	½0	½0	1½	x	5

- 10. e4 Nxe4
- 11. Nxe4 dxe4
- 12. Qxe4 Ra6

Campora can hardly have intended to misplace his rook like this. He presumably noticed too late that on 12. ... Nf6 White can safely capture with 13. Qxc6 Bd7 14. Qb6. After 14. ... Qxb6 15. cxb6 Rab8 16. Ne5 Rxb6 17. Nxd7 Nxd7 Black has regained his pawn but the bishop pair gives White a clear endgame edge.

- 13. Re1 Re8
- 14. h4 Nf6
- 15. Qc2 Nd5
- 16. a4 b4
- 17. Ne5 Qc7
- 18. Be4 g6
- 19. h5 Bf6
- 20. hxg6 hxg6



21. Bxg6
The bishop sacrifice is a logical consequence of White's superior position. Black's knight has a fine outpost on d5, but his other pieces are very awkwardly positioned.

- 21. ... fxg6
- 22. Qx6ch Kf8
- 23. Re4!

Chasing the Black King immediately doesn't work: 23. Bh6 ch Ke7 24. Qh7ch Kd8 25. Nf7ch Kd7 26. Nd6 ch Re7! defends.

- 23. ... Ke7
- 24. Bg5! Rf8
- 25. Rf4!

Very nice strategy. Campora's King still cannot flee and the rook is immune from capture (25. ... Nxf4 26. Qg7ch).

- 25. ... Qd8
- 26. Rxf6 Nxf6
- 27. Re1! Qd5

Black is otherwise helpless against 28. Re4 and 29. Rf4.

- 28. Qg7ch Ke8
- 29. Bxf6 Ra7
- 30. Qg6ch! Raf7
- 31. Nxf7 Rxf7
- 32. Re5 Qf3
- 33. Qg8 ch Resigns.

On 33. ... Rf8 34. Rxe6ch Bxe6 35. Qxe6 checkmate. Gulko's quiet follow-up with 27. Re1 (while a whole rook down) is most aesthetic.

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