

FURNESS ON CHESS

The third part of the late Richard Furness's reminiscences of his life in chess. Part one appeared in the May issue, and Part two in June. Games annotations are by John Saunders.

I have covered some memorable time scrambles. I recall the following in "The British" at Swansea in 1995. The time limits were 40 in two hours, 60 in three hours. Both players were down to two minutes and about to stop scoring, I began recording at move 29. With a few brief pauses, they rushed through to move 45, then looked at each other and then at me. They started flashing out moves again, then paused, looked at each other and continued once more. Eventually they stopped and watched a flag fall. "Have we made the time control?" one of them asked. "Which one?" I replied. I told them they had made 67 moves and were well beyond the second time control, having made a total of 76 moves between them in four minutes.

Former British Champion Alan Phillips told me that at one event he noticed two players diligently continuing a game with only a king each. He advised them the game was a draw. "Go away. Leave us to play our game in peace", was their indignant reply. Meeting one of the players the next day he enquired as to the result. "Oh, I lost as usual", said the player sadly.

TIME GENTLEMEN PLEASE

On a personal note, I recall a club game I played in the Manchester League as long ago as 1977. As the evening progressed, my opponent established a blockade of empty beer glasses on each side of the board. To a non-beer drinker the sight and stink of these objects was revolting. Not surprisingly he eventually said he needed to visit the Gents, which was downstairs and some distance from the room where we were playing. He asked if I would stop the clock after I had

made my move. I nodded my agreement although I was not too happy about it. I was, after all, having to tolerate his smelly empty glasses. However he returned before I had made my move.

Soon after this I blundered and obtained a significantly inferior position. My opponent continued to consume his drink but now his time as well. He had ten moves to make and only a few minutes remained on his clock. Again he felt the need for a trip downstairs. He repeated his request that I stop the clock when I had made my move.

This time I was less agreeable and indicated that with the time control so close, I could not do this. I had a considerable amount of time left on my clock and looked long and hard to find a saving move. My opponent, standing on the other side of the board and hopping from one leg to the other, could wait no longer. "Will you take a draw?" he gasped. I could have considered his offer for a full ten minutes, but generously shook the proffered hand and my opponent fled.

OAKHAM MASTERS

Moving back to the international scene brings me back to those memorable Oakham Young Masters tournaments of 1990 and 1992. The star-studded casts included young players such as Anand, Adams, Akopian, Shirov, Tiviakov, Ulibin, Kramnik, Bologan, Gdanski, Rublevsky, Volzhin and many others. Female players included Alisa Galliamova, Svetlana Matveeva and Ketevan Arakhamia. Although very high-powered, the events were trouble free.

Bill Hartston was the Press Officer at the 1990 event and his fascination with words

led him to put the pairings into his computer and then run his spell checker. The strange foreign names proved a challenge and some intriguing alternatives were produced. You can perhaps work out which of the above names came out as an old slang expression for a lunatic asylum.

After receiving the official Soviet entry the status of the 1990 event was assured, but then as the Tournament Organiser I had a problem. I received a request to play from a 13-year-old from Leningrad. He was unknown and unrated. My concern was about how the Soviet Chess Federation would react if I accepted such a private entry. Would they withdraw their powerful delegation? I took the risk and accepted the youngster who turned out to be a delightfully polite and well-mannered boy who spoke perfect English. He also played fine chess and entered the final round needing only a draw for an IM norm despite being unrated. Unfortunately his opponent was Michael Adams who won the game. Who was the youngster? Within six years he had won the Russian Championship twice. It was Peter Svidler.

Oakham Young Masters 1990

□ Peter Svidler

■ Andrew Ledger

Caro Kann B15

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 ♘d2 dxe4 4 ♘xe4 ♘f6 5 ♘xf6+ exf6

One of the snags with this recapture is that White can get an endgame in which he is a 'virtual pawn' ahead if Black's four kingside pawns are neutralised by White's three.

6 c3 ♗f5 7 ♖f3!?

An unusual move. 7 ♘e2 is more usual but there is nothing wrong with the text.

7...♗d7

7...♗e6 and White can play 8 ♘e2 followed by ♗d3, with a slight edge.

8 ♘e2 ♗e7 9 ♘g3 ♗g4 10 ♖d3 ♗e6?

10...0-0 is better, when 11 h3 ♗e6 12 ♗e2 leaves White with only a slight edge.

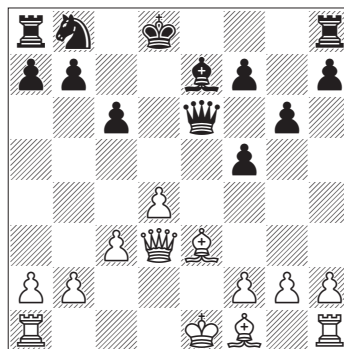
11 ♘h5! g6

It may not be immediately obvious what is wrong with 11...0-0 as 12 ♖g3 g6 is nothing special. But the big idea is 12 ♗h6! and Black is close to being lost, e.g. 12...gxf6 13 ♖g3+ ♗g4 14 ♗e2 f5 15 h3 ♗d6 16 f4 ♖e6 17 hxg4 fxg4 18 ♖xg4+ ♖xg4 19 ♗xg4 with a clear advantage to White.

12 ♘g7+ ♗d8 13 ♗e3 f5

White's decision to leave his knight on g7 and blithely continue developing is perhaps an early indication of Svidler's sense of humour. Black would like to be able to move the e6 bishop somewhere out of range so that the knight would remain trapped, but it is not possible. But perhaps Black should still try 13...♗d5 14 c4 ♗b4+ 15 ♗d2 ♖e7+ obliging White's king to move.

14 ♘xe6+ ♖xe6



15 d5!

White decides to simplify down to a position where he has the queenside pawn majority and two bishops operating in tandem. Very mature play from the 13-year-old Svidler.

15...♖xd5 16 ♖xd5+ cxd5 17 0-0-0 ♗c7 18 ♖xd5 ♘d7 19 ♗b5 ♘f6 20 ♖d4 ♖ad8 21 ♖hd1 ♖xd4 22 ♗xd4 a6 23 ♗c4 ♖f8 24 ♖e1 ♘e4 25 ♗d5 ♗g5+ 26 ♗c2 ♘d6 27 a4 a5 28 ♗d3 ♖d8 29 g3 ♖d7

29...♘b5!? is an interesting possibility, but White should still be able to maintain an advantage after 30 ♗e5+ ♗b6 31 c4 f6 32 ♗d4+ ♘xd4 33 ♖xd4 etc.

30 f4 ♗d8 31 c4 b6 32 ♖b1 ♗e7

32...♘b7 looks a more resilient defence.

33 b4 axb4 34 ♖xb4 ♗c8 35 ♖b5 ♙d6 36 a5 bxa5 37 ♖xa5 ♙e7 38 ♖b5 ♗d6 39 ♙b6+ ♚c8

A blunder but after 39...♗b8 40 ♖b1 ♗b7 41 ♙e3 White is winning comfortably.

40 ♖a5 1-0

ON THE ROPES

Peter spent much of his time away from the board walking around the other games and running his hand along the rope which separated players from spectators. Suddenly he would race to my computer and ask if he could enter the next result which he had spotted before the players had left their board. Then he would return to his rope-handling patrol. At the prize-giving he was given a special prize; a two-foot long length of the rope which he accepted with pride. When we next met he told me he still had his rope souvenir. Several years later he sent me a postcard which said, "My very best wishes to the man in whose tournament I started my modest career (no kidding!)". He has always been a fine gentleman.

The Oakham Young Masters of 1992 was hailed as the strongest junior tournament of all time. Besides Shirov and Adams it included the three medal winners from the previous World Junior Championships (Akopian, Ulibin, Tiviakov) and the world Under 16 Champion (Kramnik), plus a host of other talented players.

Oakham Young Masters 1992

□ Alexei Shirov

■ Vladimir Kramnik

Queen's Gambit Accepted D20

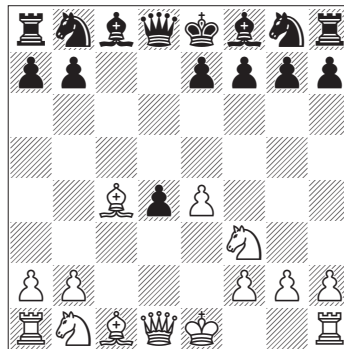
1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4 c5 4 ♗f3

4 d5 looks more feisty and in keeping with the Shirov style.

4...cxd4 5 ♙xc4?

"I don't really believe this sacrifice" was Anand's comment on the Mega Database disk. It was first played by Dokhoian against Yakovich in 1986, successfully on that

occasion. Dokhoian is Kasparov's 'second' these days but this line has never appeared in the repertoire of Gary Kimovich. Nor that of anyone else of note. 5 ♖xd4 ♖xd4 6 ♗xd4 ♙d7 7 ♙xc4 ♗c6 leads to equality.



5...♗c6 6 0-0 e6 7 a3 ♙d6

Guarding against the possibility of 8 e5.

8 b4 ♗f6

8...a6 is more circumspect.

9 b5 ♗a5 10 e5

10 ♙d3 e5 and Black is just a pawn up. White decides to mix it.

10...♗xc4 11 exf6 gxf6 12 ♖xd4 ♗e5 13 ♖e4 ♙d7 14 ♗c3

14 ♖xb7? ♖b8 15 ♖e4 ♙xb5 and if the f1 rook moves, the bishop goes to c6 with devastating threats.

14...♖c8 15 ♙b2 ♗c4 16 ♖ad1

A sign of desperation. If 16 ♙c1 perhaps 16...♖a5!? when Black has good piece play as well as an extra pawn.

16...♗xb2 17 ♖xd6 ♖xc3 18 ♖xb7 ♖c7 19 ♖a8+ ♙c8 20 ♖a6 ♖c1 21 ♗d2 0-0! 22 ♖xa7 ♖c3 23 ♖xc1 ♖xc1+ 24 ♗f1 e5 25 ♖f3 ♙e6 26 ♖g3+ ♗h8 27 ♖e3 ♖xe3 28 ♗xe3 ♖b8 29 a4 f5

Despite Black's less than optimal play, White remains completely lost.

30 f4 exf4 31 ♗f1 ♙b3 32 ♗d2 ♙xa4 33 ♖xf7 ♖xb5 0-1

"I just slept", admitted Shirov in the bulletin.

Part Four of Richard Furness's reminiscences will appear in the August issue.