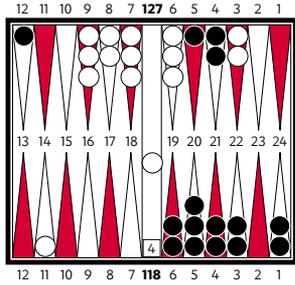


Backgammon *Chris Bray*



It Might Have Been

Over 140 players attended the inaugural UK Open at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. The tournament directors John Wright and Phil Tutchings, with assistance from Ian Tarr, did a brilliant job of running multiple tournaments throughout the weekend. Full results at ukbgf.com.

I must mention Yan Kit Chan who won the intermediate event defeating Andreas Sophocleous in the final. Yan has been blind from birth yet played with a Performance Rating of under 5 which is a quite staggering performance.

In the main event the three guest Japanese players fell early on and the final was contested

between Jason Pack, an American resident in Cambridge, and Martin Birkhahn from Germany. Jason eventually triumphed 13-5 but it could have been so very different.

In the second game Martin (Black) had doubled early on but Jason turned the game around and redoubled to 4. Martin thought for a long time before accepting but eventually did so, although on later analysis the take was found to be a big error. Once again the game turned and Martin was on roll in this week's position.

Martin redoubled to 8 and Jason quickly passed but in fact Martin was far too good to redouble. He committed one of the most common match player errors which is to cash a certain win instead of trying for a gammon. Possibly Martin overestimated the difficulty of extracting his rear checkers but after any 5 or 6 by him and a fan by Jason he is looking very good for the gammon. Of all the words of men, the saddest are "it might have been".

Bridge *Maureen Hiron*

Love all; dealer South

North	♠ A J 8 7 6	♥ K J 7	♦ K J	♣ 8 7 5
South	♠ K Q 5 3 2	♥ A 8 6 5	♦ 10 4	♣ K 3
West	♠ 10 4	♥ 10 3	♦ Q 7 2	♣ Q J 10 9 6 2
East	♠ 9	♥ Q 9 4 2	♦ A 9 8 6 5 3	♣ A 4

"I suppose that I should be grateful that there were no more decisions on this hand for me to get wrong." Said South morosely, after going down.

South opened One Spade over which West interposed Three Clubs – weak. North responded Four Clubs, a value-raise in spades, and South bid Four Spades.

West led the queen of clubs, to East's ace, and on winning the club return, declarer drew trumps, then ruffed dummy's last club in hand.

A good guess in diamonds, or finding the heart queen on-side would see declarer safely home. Or – if hearts broke 3-

3, one of dummy's diamonds could be discarded.

Therefore South continued with a heart to the jack and queen. Back came a low heart, to West's ten and dummy's king. An extra chance now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, playing East for ♥Q9xx. But West was a tricky customer, fully capable of contributing the 10 from an initial holding of 109x. Eventually South played a heart to his ace, then a diamond to the king and ace. One down.

Declarer missed the 100 per cent line. After drawing trumps and eliminating clubs, he was right to play a heart, but if West played low, the seven was the card to insert. Now East is endplayed. If a heart is returned, dummy's jack and king are cashed, and the South hand re-entered with a trump, to discard a diamond on the heart ace. Should West insert the heart 10, dummy's jack is played. On winning, East is again endplayed.

Chess *Fon Speelman*

BOARD SILLY

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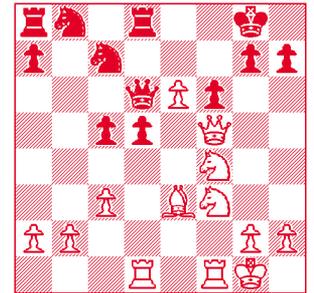
Today's short and violent game comes from the World Youth Championships which took place in Durban last month.

Back in the day, junior tournaments were few and far between but nowadays there are numerous tournaments for different age groups and in Durban there were 12 sections for boys and girls under eight, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18, with over 900 players in total.

Seventy-four of them competed in the top boys under 18 section which was won by the third seed – behind Suri Vaibhav (India) and Matthias Bluebaum (Germany) – Alexandr Bortik (Ukraine) who made 9.5/11 ahead of Vaibhav 9.

Bortnyk, an IM born in 1996, won eight and drew three without loss. His last-round game certainly wasn't his hardest but it was crucial and entertaining.

The exchange of white squared bishops was quite good for Black positionally speaking but it cost time and 10.f5 destabilised the position. Had he had time to cement a knight on e6, he would have had a perfectly good game but if 14... Ne6 15.Nf4 is too quick. 14...f6 was extremely provocative and



Black never got remotely organised, before Bortnik downed him with a series of hammer blows.

Alexandr Bortnik vs

Noel Studer

Durban 2014

Classical French

- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1.e4 e6 | 16.Nf4 Qd6 |
| 2.d4 d5 | 17.dxc5 bxc5 |
| 3.Nc3 Nf6 | 18.Rad1 Rd8 |
| 4.e5 Nfd7 | (see diagram) |
| 5.f4 c5 | 19.b4 cxb4 |
| 6.Nf3 Be7 | 20.Ng5 fxg5 |
| 7.Be3 b6 | 21.Qf7+ Kh8 |
| 8.Be2 Ba6 | 22.Bd4 Rg8 |
| 9.0-0 0-0 | 23.Ng6+ hxg6 |
| 10.f5 Bxe2 | 24.Qxg6 |
| 11.Nxe2 exf5 | Qxe6 |
| 12.c3 Na6 | 25.Qh5+ Qh6 |
| 13.Qd3 Nc7 | 26.Qxh6 |
| 14.Qxf5 f6 | checkmate |
| 15.e6 Nb8 | |

Your move

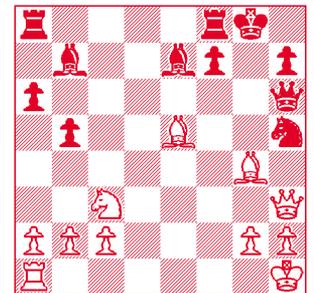
White has played what he imagined to be a promising exchange sacrifice. How did Black to play prove him wrong?

Last week's solution

Titas Stremavicius vs Christof Sielecki Bilbao 2014

The position looks harmless but White Kg1, Qc2, Nc4, Nf3, Ba3, Bg2, Rd1, Re1, Pawns a4, b2, c3, d3, f2, g3, h2.

Black Kg8, Qd7, Nc6, Nf5, Bd5, Bg7, Rd8, Re8, Pawns



a5, b6, c7, e5, f7, g6, h6.
17...Bxf3! 18.Bxf3 Ncd4!
19.cxd4 Nxd4 won on the spot and after 20.Qc3 Nxf3+ 21.Kg2 Nxe1+ 22.Qxe1 e4 White resigned.

Get the Picture Answers

(see opposite)

Quiz Answers *(see page x)*

1. Firstxxx

This week's theme:
xxxxxxx from top
left: xxxxxxxxxx