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 ubgfh.com.

I must mention Van Kiet Chan who won the intermediate event defeaing Andreas Sophocleous in the final. Van 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 play 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 thing is when a club leader is forced to play a heart, but if West had time to cement the position. Had he had time to cement all from an initial holding of 10x. 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.

**Board Silly**

Here is 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 seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself.

Your move

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

**Chess Jon Speelman**

Today’s short and violent game comes from the World Youth Championship 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 Valbhav (India) and Matthias Bluebaum (Germany) – Alexandr Bortik (Ukraine) who made 9.5/11 ahead of Valbhav 9.

Bortnyk, an IM born in 1996, won eight and drew three with out 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 Bortnyk knocked him with a series of hammer blows.

**Bridge Maureen Hiron**

**Love all; dealer South**

North
- A9876
- B37
- A75

South
- A876
- B65
- A9865
- B54
- B3

“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, avalanche 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 seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself. Declarer could run the heart seven, ten and dummy’s king. An extra seven now presented itself.

**Get the Picture Answers**

(see opposite)

**Quiz Answers**

(see page x)

1. First

2. Second

3. Third

4. Fourth

5. Fifth

6. Sixth

7. Seventh

8. Eighth

9. Ninth

10. Tenth

11. Eleventh

12. Twelfth

13. Thirteenth

14. Fourteenth

15. Fifteenth

16. Sixteenth

17. Seventeenth

18. Eighteenth

19. Nineteenth

20. Twentieth

21. Twenty-first

22. Twenty-second

23. Twenty-third

24. Twenty-fourth

25. Twenty-fifth

26. Twenty-sixth

27. Twenty-seventh

28. Twenty-eighth

29. Twenty-ninth

30. Thirtieth

31. Thirty-first

32. Thirty-second

33. Thirty-third

34. Thirty-fourth

35. Thirty-fifth

36. Thirty-sixth

37. Thirty-seventh

38. Thirty-eighth

39. Thirty-ninth

40. Fortieth

41. Forty-first

42. Forty-second

43. Forty-third

44. Forty-fourth

45. Forty-fifth

46. Forty-sixth

47. Forty-seventh

48. Forty-eighth

49. Forty-ninth

50. Fiftieth

51. Fifty-first

52. Fifty-second

53. Fifty-third

54. Fifty-fourth

55. Fifty-fifth

56. Fifty-sixth

57. Fifty-seventh

58. Fifty-eighth

59. Fifty-ninth

60. Sixtieth

61. Sixty-first

62. Sixty-second

63. Sixty-third

64. Sixty-fourth

65. Sixty-fifth

66. Sixty-sixth

67. Sixty-seventh

68. Sixty-eighth

69. Sixty-ninth

70. Seventieth

71. Seventy-first

72. Seventy-second

73. Seventy-third

74. Seventy-fourth

75. Seventy-fifth

76. Seventy-sixth

77. Seventy-seventh

78. Seventy-eighth

79. Seventy-ninth

80. Eightieth

81. Eighty-first

82. Eighty-second

83. Eighty-third

84. Eighty-fourth

85. Eighty-fifth

86. Eighty-sixth

87. Eighty-seventh

88. Eighty-eighth

89. Eighty-ninth

90. Ninetieth

91. Ninety-first

92. Ninety-second

93. Ninety-third

94. Ninety-fourth

95. Ninety-fifth

96. Ninety-sixth

97. Ninety-seventh

98. Ninety-eighth

99. Ninety-ninth

100. One-hundredth