

Taste joys of this speedy game

OVER THE last few seasons speed chess has gained in popularity. Indeed only recently I.T.V. gave a prime time spot on Saturday early evening viewing to stage the prestigious Dockland Speed Challenge between G.M. Short (England) and G.M. Kasparov (Russia) which the World Champion (K) won comfortably.

Speed Chess, where the rate of play is half an hour each for the complete game, has the attraction of immediacy and lends itself to one day tournament Swiss play when 5(+) games are easily completed in six or so hours.

Hampshire recognized this gap in their internal tournament schedule last year by staging a Quick Play team tournament. But due to certain clashes with established congresses and a certain lack of advertisement only seven teams competed.

Readers will know that the event was slightly better supported this year and that, after a rousing struggle, Gosport emerged worthy champions.

This week a game from that event that gives a flavour of the play.

White: J.H.J. Black: A. Faller (Southampton University: 183) Played in round 2.

1. e4, e5; 2. Nf3, d6; 3. d4, cxd4; 4. Nxd4, Nf6; 5. Nc3, a6; 6. Bg5, e6; 7. f4, b5; (the Polungayevsky variation. Surprisingly I have never met this over the board). 8. Bd3, (the critical line is 8. e5!? as in Rodriguez v. Polugayevsky, Biel Interzonal 1985, which went 8. ..., dxe5; 9.

Fxe5, Qc7!; 10. exf6, Qe5+; 11. Be2, Qxg5; 12. Qd3, Qxf6; 13. Rf1, Qe5; 14. Rd1, Ra7!; 15. Nf3, Qc7; 16. Ng5, f5; 17. Qd4, Qe7; 18. Nge4!, h5!; 19. Nd6+, Qxd6; 20. Qxa7, Qe5! (N); 21. Qd4, Nd7!; 22. Qxe5, Nxe5; 23. Kd2, Bd6!; 24. Kc1, Ke7; 25. Rfe1, Bd7; 26. Bf1 better is a4, Rc8; 27. Kb1, g5; 28. h3, h4; 29. Ne2, Bc6; 30. Nd4, Bb7; 31. Bd3, Kf6!; 32. Bf1, Bc5; 33. c3 better is Nb3, Bd5; 34. a3, Ng6!; 35. Rd2, Nf4; 36. Ka1, Rg8 winning; 37. Nc2, g4; 38. b4, Ba7; 39. Ne3, Bxe3; 40. Rxe3, gxh3; 41. gxh3, Rg3!; (0:1) meanwhile ...)

8. ..., Nbd7; 9. Qe2, Qb6; 10. Nf3, (10. Nb3!) Bb7; 11. f5, e5; 12. Be3, Qa5; 13. Nd2, b4; 14. Ne4!?, (14. Nb3!) Qc7; 15. Na4!?, Bc6; (black can just about snatch the e-pawn but White retains a positional edge) 16. Nab6, Rb8; 17. Nxd7, Bxd7; 18. Nd2, Be7; 19. 00, d5!; 20. exd5, Nxd5; (with the threat 21. ..., Nxe3; 22. Qxe3, Bc5) 21. Kh1, a5; 22. Ne4, 00 (?); 23. f6. (Steve Pezet walked past at this point then told the team that I had just won!) Nxf6; 24. Nxf6+, Bxf6; 25. Rxf6, gxf6; 26. Qh5, f5; (both sides were in time-trouble nevertheless Black had to try 26. ..., Rf moves. In that case White could try 27. Bh6, so that if 27. ..., Kh8; 28. Bg5 while the counter to other moves would seem to be 28. Qh4 with the dual threats Qxf6 and Qg3+) 27. Qg5+, Kh8; 28. Qfb+, Kg8; 29. Bh6, (1:0) Faller commented after the game that he had never previously lost with this variation: I can't claim to have been sorry!