

CHESS NOTES by J.H.J.

TWO WEEKS ago I left you with the study by Simkhovitch: 8; 3k4; 2p5; 8; p1p5; PpP5; 1P2B3; r1NK4; and it was White to move and draw.

White has a material equality but Black has a strong latent threat in Rb1 followed by Rxb2 when the passed pawn would certainly win for Black.

1, Bg4+, Kd6 (the Black King can go to any legal square without spoiling the point of the study); 2, Bf5!, Ra2! (with the winning threat Rxb2!); 3, Nxa2!!, bxa2; 4, Kc1, A1=Q+; 5, Bb1! (1/2:1/2). The White King will manoeuvre on the squares c2 and c1 effectively incarcerating the Black Queen.

Even non-Chess players noticed that there was no connection between the aborted game and the attached position of the previous column. For those who are interested, the game (the point of which was to keep playing in a bad position when equal in material and holding some chance for counterplay) stopped with the pieces so: 4r2r; 2nqppbk; pp1n2pp; 2pP4; 2P1NBP1; 3B4; PP1QRPP1; 4R1K1; and White had just made the move 23, Ne4. Play continued: 23, . . . Nxe4; 24, Rxe4, Rhg8 (this is not good as White can now play for Re3 and Rh3. A better try was Bf8); 25, Kf1? (at last a chance!) b5; 26, Bxc7 (and now White is pursuing a mirage in Black's time-trouble — two minutes to reach move 36); . . . Qxc7; 27, d6?, Qxd6; 28,

R4e3??, bxc4; 29, Bxg6+, Qxg6 (of course! White wanted fxg6; 30, Qxd6, exd6; 31, Rxe8, winning the exchange); 30, Rxe7, Rxe7; 31, Rxe7, Qb1+; 32, Ke2, Qxb2; 33, Rxf7?? (although Black's Queen is en prise); . . . Re8+; 34, Kd1, Qb1+; 35, Qc1, Re1+; 36, Kxe1, Qxc1+; (1:0).

I will hold over a report of the League Annual General Meeting until next week. Suffice it to say that the new season is upon us!

Finally I will leave you with a reprise of last week's study by A. Selesniev: it is White to move and draw.

