

CHESS NOTES

by J.H.J.

WAS IT Tartakover who offered the aphorism that the winner of a game of chess is the person who makes the second last blunder? In any case I might add that if you are prone to blunder then at least be sure to arrive at the position with a material plus . . . you might still survive!

This week it is "spot the blunder" with the solutions at the end.



White: F. C. Kingdon (to move) the game continued: 22, Rxe1, Ra5; 23, e5, Kf8; 24, exd6, exd6; 25, Bc6, Rxa3; 26, Re8+, Kg7; 27, Rd8, Ne7; 28, Rxd6, Nxc6; 29, Rxc6, Rxc3; 30, Rd6, Ra8; 31, Ne3, R8a3; 32, d4, cxd4; 33, Rxd4, Rd3; 34, Rf4, Ra2; and Black later forced an exchange of rooks and went on to win the ending in a further 16 moves.



White: J. E. Arney and with Black to play the game went: 19, . . ., g5; 20, Ne2, Rae8; 21, Rad1, Re6; 22, Nd4, Rg6; 23, f3, f4; 24, e4, g4; and now Black had two minutes to reach the time-control at move 30.

25, hxg4, Rh6; 26, Nf5, Rxf5; 27, exf5, Qh2+; 28, Kf2, Qg3+; 29, Ke2, Rh2; 30, Rf2, Ne4; and in this interesting position a draw was agreed.

And those blunders?

Well in position one 28, Rxd6 is a blunder losing a piece and 28 . . . Nxc6 compounds it. Simply 28, . . ., Ra6 saving 22 moves and several hours' effort.

The second position was a comedy (tragedy!) of errors by both players.

23, . . ., f4 starts the rot. Better 23, . . ., Qh6 intending to play Qg7 or g4. 25, hxg4 allows Black too much counterplay down the h-file.

29, Ke2 loses while White has to be careful after 29, Kg1 if Black attempts to win rather than take the perpetual check. Black can't quite win 29, Kg1, Qg3; 30, Rb1, (not 30, Qf2, Qh2++) so that if 30, . . ., Rh2 (with the intention 31, . . ., Qh4 mating) White counters 31, Qf2.

Finally 29, . . ., Rh2. When Black has missed 29 . . . Qxg2+; 30, Rf2, Qxf2+; 31, Kxf2, Rh2+; 32, K moves, Rxb2 and Black should win.

Perhaps some would argue whether the first position contained a blunder since the oversight didn't actually cost a win. In that case I coin the word 'blustake' — something less than a blunder yet more than a mistake.