

13.Ba3+ Kd7 14.Nh3

An admission that the opening has not been a success for White. 14.Nf7? Rh7 followed by ... g5 was not a playable alternative - the knight is trapped.

14. ... Bxf1 15.Kxf1

Trying to be clever with 15.Nf4? also leaves the knight stranded after 15. ... Ba6! (but not 15. ... Bxg2 16.Rg1! when White has chances) 16.Ng6 Nc6 17.Nxh8 Nge7 etc.

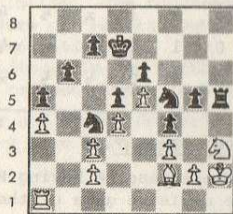
15. ... g5 16.f3 Nc6 17.NE2 Nge7 18.h4?

Perhaps the losing move; not because White opens the h file (a perfectly reasonable idea) but because 18.Bxe7! was White's last chance to exchange his 'bad' bishop. After 18.Bxe7 Kxe7 19.h4, White's queenside pawn structure leaves something to be desired but his inferiority would not be too great.

18. ... Ng6 19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Rxh8 Rxh8 21. Bcl

No better would be 21.g3 f4! 22.Kg2 fxg3 23.Kxg3 Ne7! when White's king will soon be subject to a very nasty attack.

21. ... f4 22.Nh3 Rh5 23.Kg1 Nh4 24.Kh2 Na5 25.Bd2 Nc4 26.Be1 Nf5 27.Bf2 a5!



a b c d e f g h

Black has achieved virtually the ideal position from the 5. ... Bxc3+ opening variation. His two knights dominate the game with potential outposts on c4, f5, e3 and g3. Moreover at any time Black can choose to create a passed pawn with ... c6 and ... b5, supporting it with his king and later his rook. Meanwhile White is condemned to complete passivity.

28.Kg1 c6 29.Be1 Kc7

29. ... b5?! would be slightly premature as White could quickly manoeuvre his knight to the newly weakened c5 square.

30.Nf2

Now White loses a pawn but at least manages to set a trap in the process.

Playing Rb1-a1-b1 ad infinitum until Black found a winning method was not an appetising prospect.

30. ... Nce3 31.Ra2

31.Rc1? Ng3 would have been immediately fatal.

31. ... Nh4!

Avoiding the snare 31. ... Ng3 32.Nh3 Ne2+ 33.Kf2 Nxc3? (Ng3!) Bxc3 Nd1+ 35.Ke1 Nxc3, which would win a pawn but lose a knight after 36.Ra3 Nbl 37.Rb3.

32.Ng4 Nhxg2 33.Bf2 Rh3 34.Bxe3 Nxe3 35. Nxe3 fxe3 36.Kg2 Rh4!

The rook ending is completely lost for White because he will not be able to hold his queenside pawns after ... c5.

37.Ra1

No better were 37.Kf1 Rh2 +, or 37.Rb2 Rh4! planning ... e2 and ... Rxf3. The rest of the game is desperation.

37. ... c5 38.Rg1! cxd4 39.Kf1 dxc3 40. Ke2 d4 41.Kd1 Ke6 42.Kc4 Rf4 43.Rxg5 Rxf3 0 - 1.



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A CASE OF 'FOLLOW THE LEADER'?

The present Under 18 age limit on the Australian Junior Championship may be altered to under 20 if a proposal before the 1986 National Conference is passed.

So why move the Australian Junior to under 20? - simply because the World and Asian Junior Championships are under 20! However, there are a host of questions against such a change:

* In Australian society, 18 is the mark between childhood and adulthood, it is when a person finishes school and acquires full voting and legal rights. Surely this is a more relevant mark to base our state and national junior tournaments on than that used in the international chess scene.

* Our top 18 and 19 year olds may not be able to afford the time, expense and energy to play non-stop for five weeks in both the Australian Championships / Open and the 'Junior'. Unfortunately they may feel forced to play both to help their selection chances. A boycott of the Junior by top 18 and 19 year olds could easily result as they often have their sights more set on winning the senior events.

* By implementing the proposed change, juniors in the privileged age group that happens to be around at the right time will receive two extra shots at the junior title. If later it changes back to 18 another group will almost certainly miss out. The Australian Junior would be left a scarred old dog that has been kicked about more than once too much.

* States organise their junior chess around the school system, hence catering to under 18's. Over 10 years ago N.S.W. gave up running under 20 Championships. They were always weak and poorly attended.

I believe the proposal to change the Australian Junior has not been thought through properly, it should stay under 18. We don't need to send our 18 and 19 year olds back to 'junior school' when they are quite capable of doing well in our senior national tournaments, and selected for international junior events on that basis. The Australian Junior Championship is a tradition with a distinguished 37 year history, let's leave it that way.

Ralph Jackson,
Dulwich Hill, N.S.W.