

The Chess Scene has been formulating in my mind since about 1970 when I first met the late Colin Burton, a 200-level player from the Birmingham League. He provided me with food for thought, when he explained his approach to the game. He emphasised that the most important thing a chess player must have to progress his game is 'a plan'. He went on to say that a player's game was improved by having some knowledge about how the game of chess was organised at local, national and world level.

Colin was a lecturer at a teacher training college. He also had a part time occupation as a stand-up comic on a local theatre circuit. He could crack a joke with a shrug of his shoulders. I have watched him in action during the heat of battle over the chess board, when with perfect timing, I heard him say to his opponent, 'One of us is going to win this!'

Another line I heard him deliver the following when one of his own games was under scrutiny: 'I've been nursing this position for the past three hours. Nobody is going to tell me it's lost in three seconds!' Based on Colin's ideas, the main object of *The Chess Scene* is to provide a streamlined approach to playing the game of chess. It guides the enthusiastic novice chess player along practical paths, providing a learning curve across identifiable plateaux to initially achieve a chess playing grade of around 125 (Plateau One), and then on to Plateau Two to hopefully achieve a grade of around 150. It is designed to be an easy read, with ample diagrams to assist.

The Chess Scene is about **hard factual undeniable tactical circumstances that demand to be known and played correctly – the bread and butter of the serious chess player.**

During a game with Player A at a North of England chess tournament, I found myself having to consider the possibility of being required to win the game by delivering check mate with a King, Bishop and Knight against King. It didn't happen and in our post-game analysis I was asked if I knew how to do it. This was a cornerstone moment for me. I found all the thoughts that I had been harbouring coming together for the purposes of a book, which I initially entitled *Do You Know How to Do It?*

At first, I struggled with the idea of writing a book about chess, but the germ of an idea was borne and fermenting. I found myself waking up during the night with ideas bouncing around in my head, or having a penny drop whilst I was driving. All based on Colin's plateaux-based method of coaching.

What gives me the right to write a book about chess? I would claim to play exciting chess. Well I would, wouldn't I? I have no clever game plan. My intention with either colour is to sacrifice a Pawn and attack, although I guess I lose more than I win. I have a little to shout about. I am an enthusiast.

As my experience as a chess organiser, coach and arbiter became more applicable to the book so the specific chess training title *Do You Know How to Do It?* became less relevant. A new title, for what was more of a coaching manual and based on the thoughts of Colin Burton became more applicable – *The Chess Scene* came to mind.

The Chess Scene costs £14.99 plus pp from Amazon or a signed copy is available from the author at aa.chess@sky.com