

Double Dutch

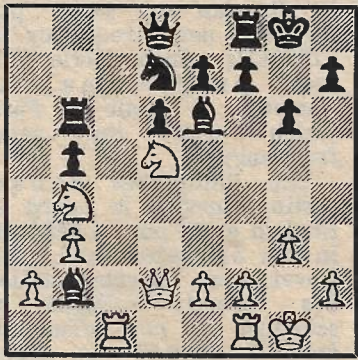
THE WORLD JUNIOR championship was an amusing tournament for some. For a start, it was combined with the European Junior for the first time ever — the highest placed European would get that title. The winners of both the world and the European Junior championships are awarded the title of International Master (IM). Presumably this year if a European had finished first he would have become an IM IM — but a ridiculous situation would have occurred had two non-Europeans come first and second. The first place getter would have become an IM, and so would the third. But the one in the middle . . . tough luck mate, wrong nationality!

However, everything turned out fine with Mark Diesen (US) first and "crazy"(!) Czech, Lubomir Ftacnik second. The strong field included one titled player, IM Kouatly, and national senior champions of Norway, Sweden, New Zealand, Wales and Britain. It didn't help — we all had terrible tournaments. I fell with a bump against Ftacnik, Kouatly and Schussler (Sweden) but Australasia caught British champion Mestel, who lost to Aussie Ian Rogers and myself. I scored six half marks, six and a half points.

Jonathan Mestel remarked at the closing ceremony that few people were happy with their placings. Among these would have to be the Russian Vladimirov, who began really impressively.

Round 1.

M. A. MARRERO



E. VLADIMIROV

1. Rc8! Resigns.

The Puerto Rican must lose his queen, and the Russian was looking strong. But after scoring 5/5 and leading easily with 7/8, Vladimirov crashed and didn't win another game, finishing fourth equal on 8½.

There were several funny incidents in Holland one of them being a game where one player castled illegally and his opponent didn't not-

ice! The only female in the event was a young girl from Japan. In round six she fell for an old Queen's gambit trap.

M. Makano (Japan)	S. Karaosmanoglu (Turkey)
1. d4	d5
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Nf6
4. Bg5	N(b)d7

5. cxd5	exd5
6. Nxd5?	Nxd5!

And Black is a piece up, for on 7, Bxd8, Bb4 ch recovers the queen.

But even the stronger players produced their share of jokes. In the same round Popovic (Yugoslavia) v Kristensen (Denmark) produced the following.

1. e4	c5
2. Nf3	d6
3. d4	cxd4
4. Nxd4	Nf6

5. Nc3	g6
6. Bc4	Bg7
7. Be3	O-O
8. h3	Nxe4
9. Nxe4	d5
10. Bd3	dxe4
11. Bxe4	f5
12. Resigns.	

White will be relieved of a piece after the bishop (e4) moves, 12 . . . f4.

Even brevities like that did not win the mysterious "economy" prize, though. The tournament was sponsored by a gas

company, and to decide who had used their energy most efficiently the enterprising Dutch totalled each players moves and divided that by his score! The winner was Diesen again, but we were kept guessing throughout as to how the economy prize would be decided.

Still there was plenty of Christmas snow and I won one game of table tennis.

MURRAY CHANDLER