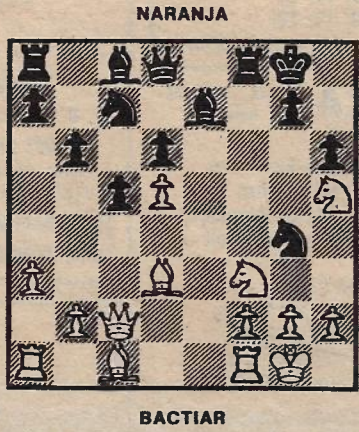


# Chasing the titles

HALFWAY THROUGH the Marlboro Asian Grandmasters' Chess Classic in Manila, two players were well placed to achieve their title norms, Arovah Bactiar (Indonesia), needing 8/13 for his international master title, and Renato Naranja (Philippines) chasing 9½ to qualify for GM status. They met each other at a crucial stage and in a much publicised game, Naranja was wiped out, losing a piece in just 17 moves. Pressure perhaps?

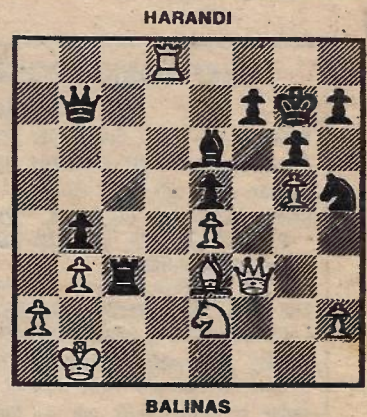


In this position Naranja played 5... Ba6? calculating the variation 16.Bh7 ch Kh8 17.Qg6 Bf6! when the knight on g4 is indirectly protected because the White queen is tied to protecting the bishop on h7. Bactiar however simply captured 16.Bxa6. Naranja played the planned 16... Qe8 (16... Nxa6 17.Qg6 threatening mate and the knight) with the idea of 17.Nxg7 Kxg7 18.Bd3 Qh5! and 19... Rxf3 is a serious threat. But 17.h3! Ne5 (17... Qxh5 18. hxg4 hits the queen and

next move White simply retreats his attacked bishop on a6) 18. Nxe5 dxe5 19.Be2 and "Nats" was minus a bishop.

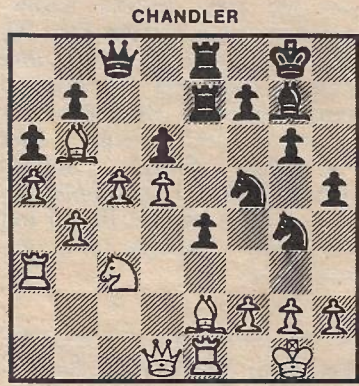
When the emphasis in problem solving is on accuracy rather than speed, a helpful method is to write your solution down. Here are some positions from current tournament play where the player to move found a combination to gain a decisive advantage.

1. Marlboro GM Classic, Manila 77; Harandi (Iran), Balinas (Philippines).



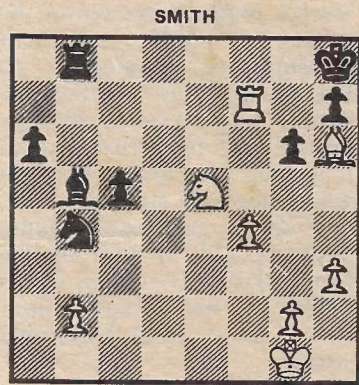
Black to move. He found a way to win material with a fine sacrificial offer.

2. Marlboro GM Classic, Manila 77; Chandler (NZ), Sharif (Iran)



Here five times champion of Iran is on the receiving end of a combination which nets Black two pieces for a Queen. Black to play.

3. Now for some local talent and it's spot the mating pattern time from E. Green-R. Smith, first match game Auckland 1977.



4. USSR 1976 Chekov



The victor when I participated in my first World Junior in Yugoslavia in 1975 was the talented Russian Vassily Chekov who has since become quite respected in chess circles. Here he is the victim of a surprising idea that goes against the characteristics of the position. White to play.

- Solutions:**  
 1. Harandi correctly leapt in with a 1... Bxb3!! calculating the line  
 2. Nxc3 bxc3  
 3. axb3 Qxb3 ch  
 4. Kc1 Qb2 ch  
 5. Kd1 c2 ch

6. Kc1 cl = Qch  
 7. Bxc1 Qxc1 ch  
 Followed by 8... Qxg5 with a probably won endgame. In the game Balinas tried capturing the bishop,  
 2. axb3 Rxb3ch  
 3. Kc2 Ka2 Ra3ch! 4.kb2 Qa6! and mates  
 3... Rxe3!  
 4. Qxe3 Qc7 ch  
 5. Kb3 Qxd8

- And now 6. Kxb4 can be met by 6... Qd1! planning 7... Qe1 ch and 8... Nf4.  
 \* \* \*  
 2.  
 1... Nxf2  
 2. Kxf2 Bd4 ch  
 3. Qxd4 Nxd4  
 3. Kf1 Ne3ch  
 4. cxd6 Qf5 ch!  
 4... Nc2 5.dxe7 Nxa3  
 6.d6 Qxc3? 7.d7

5. Kg1 Nxe2ch  
 And Black won easily by later advancing his king-side pawns in a mating attack.  
 \* \* \*  
 3. White wins simply with  
 1. Ng4 Nd5  
 To stop 2.Nf6 but nothing is further from Green's mind  
 2. Bg7 ch Kg8 and resigns!  
 Smith suddenly registered

- the coming 3.Nh6 checkmate.  
 \* \* \*  
 4. Chekov's rook doesn't appear too misplaced in this example but nevertheless it is lost after Peresipkin found 1. Nd6!  
 1... exd6 2.cxd6; 1... Kh7 2. Ne8, so Chekov resigned immediately.  
 MURRAY CHANDLER