

Fun in the Philippines

IT WOULD be very hard to improve the organisation of the first Asian Junior Chess Championships, held in Baguio, Philippines from August 8-21 and certainly none of the players had ever experienced anything like it.

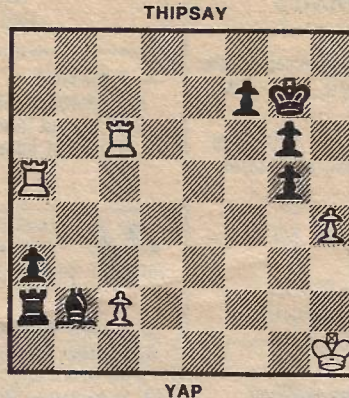
Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Pines Hotel and the city of Baguio we stayed and also played in the same hotel — an ideal arrangement. We were treated superbly, everything was

catered for, and when Mr Campomanes, FIDE deputy president and one of the main initiators of the event, asked for complaints — any complaint! — it surprised none that none of the players could suggest any faults.

The games were followed closely by the press and quite intensely by the Filipinos who watched each day's play on the large demonstration boards. This resulted in the players taking each game even

more seriously than usual and some took defeats, especially those that occurred in the fifth round, very hard.

An example is the game between one of the Philippine representatives, Andronico Yap and the third placegetter Pravin Thipsay of India. After 40 moves, and before his home crowd, Yap achieved a winning position but became so ecstatic he forgot pre-game instructions to adjourn and continued —



41.hxg5 Ra1 ch 42.Kg2 a2 43.Rc7? Bd4! and resigned on the 49th move. I quote from the daily bulletin. "On the verge of tears, Yap erased the position on the board, grabbed the score sheet, signed it and stalked out of the tournament hall without even shaking hands with Thipsay."

The staging of the first Asian Junior is an example of

Philippines initiative in using chess to help promote Asia in general. The title of international master opens many doors and such an incentive should boost the up-and-coming talent. Already as the first champion I have competed in one other international and have also been invited to the grandmaster tournament in Manila this October.

There is a wealth of talent in Asia but in the past our players have never had the chance to prove themselves. With the introduction of the Asian grandmasters' circuit next year this may well change. There are 14 IMs and 2 GMs in Asia and by bringing in just one or two outside GMs for each event a series of tournaments giving local champions chances of an IM norm, and IMs chances of GM norms can be held. The Philippines are leading the way in Asian chess, but they need the support of all the countries in our zone, including New Zealand.

I wish to thank the PCF and sponsors for hosting the Asian Junior, and also my friends in New Zealand and the National Bank of New Zealand for their kind help with part of my fare from London.

Bachar Kouatly, my closest rival during the event scored eight wins and two losses. Indeed he won his last seven games and had I lost to him in the first game I played then there would have been nothing I could do to prevent him winning the tournament. (He would win on tie-break in the event of both of us scoring 9 points.)

Kouatly is an international master, having qualified for the title in 1975 when he was placed third in the Zone IX tournament. Here he displays a fine technique against the other Filipino representative in the event, the talented Adrian Pacis.

Pines Hotel, Baguio
Aug. 8-21st

BENONI DEFENCE

B. Kouatly (Lebanon)	A. Pacis (Philippines)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	c5
3. d5	e6
4. Nc3	exd5
5. cxd5	d6
6. e4	g6
7. f4	

Kouatly is playing his favourite system against the Benoni with which he has won several best game prizes.

7. . . .	Bg7
8. Be2	0-0
9. Nf3	Re8
10. e5	dxe5
11. fxe5	Nh5?
(11. . . Ng4!?)	
12. Bg5	Qb6
13. Qd2	Bg4

Of course Black does not even consider weakening his black squares by

13. . . Bxe5. 14.Nxe5 Rxe5, even for a pawn.

14. 0-0 Nd7
15. Bb5! a6
The point of White's 15.Bb5 is that 15. . . Bxf3 can be answered by 16.Bxd7!

16. Bxd7 Bxd7
17. d6 Bxe5
18. Nxe5 Rxe5
19. Nd5 Qa7
20. Nf6 ch Nxf6
21. Bxf6 c4 dis.ch.
22. Rf2!

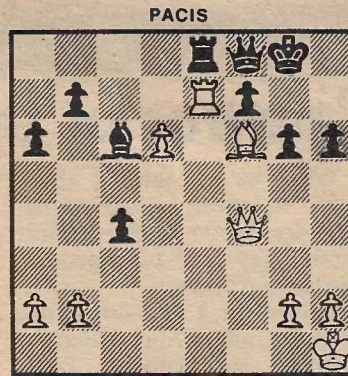
On 22. Kh1 Pacis has 22. . . Qe3! Now, of course, the move is not playable because

White will just capture the rook.

22. . . . Rf5
23. Bd4 Qb8
24. Rxf5 Bxf5
25. Bf6

So, White is a pawn down but, of course, his total black square control more than compensates. Kouatly now accurately finishes the game.

25. . . . Bd7
26. Re1 Qc8
27. Kh1 Bc6
28. Qh6 Qf8
29. Qf4 Re8
30. Re7 h6



31. Qd4 Bd7
32. h4 Rd8

33. Qf4 Be6
34. Be5 Kh7
35. Qf6 Bd5
36. d7 Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many other countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The horizontal ranks are labelled a to h from White's left. In each vertical file the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.