

# The making of a master

In Manila last August, New Zealand chess champion Murray Chandler won the first Asian Junior Championship to become, at 17, probably the youngest international master in the world. His rise in the chess world has been little short of sensational and in this week's column, Brian Foster, secretary of the Wellington Chess League, traces the highpoints of Chandler's brief career to date. At present Chandler is

competing in a tournament in Austria.

**MURRAY CHANDLER - career details**

1. Learnt chess in 1972 as 12-year-old student at Wai-nuiomata Intermediate School.
2. August 1972: Joined Pencarrow Chess Club (at height of Spassky-Fischer title match).
3. December 1972: first played New Zealand cham-

pionships in Wellington, scored 6½/11 in reserve section.

4. June 1974: first won Wellington Provincial Schoolpupils' Championship.
5. August 1974: first won National Schoolpupils' Championship at Christchurch; qualified to represent New Zealand at Australian Junior Championship.
6. October 1974: represented New Zealand at First Asian Teams' Tour-

nament in Penang, Malaysia.

7. December 1974: first competed in championships section, New Zealand Championships, Dunedin. Scored 3½/11.
8. January 1975: became first New Zealander to win Australian Junior Championship at Hobart.
9. May 1975: tied for first place in North Island Championship at Hamilton.
10. August 1975: represented

New Zealand at World Junior Championship, Yugoslavia. Scored 6/13.

11. September - November 1975: competed in various tournaments in England.
12. December 1975: returned to New Zealand and at Upper Hutt Congress became Joint New Zealand Champion at 15.
13. April 1976: turned professional and left New Zealand to play on British chess circuit.
14. July 1976: competed in

World Under-18 Championship - finished second.

15. August 1976: competed in British Championship gaining 7th equal placing.
16. November 1976: represented New Zealand at Haifa, Israel, Chess Olympiad. Played on top Board and scored 62.5 per cent.
17. December 1976: played in World Junior Championship in Holland, scored 6½/11.
18. August 1977: played in first Asian Junior Championship, Philippines, winning the event. Awarded International Master title at age of 17.

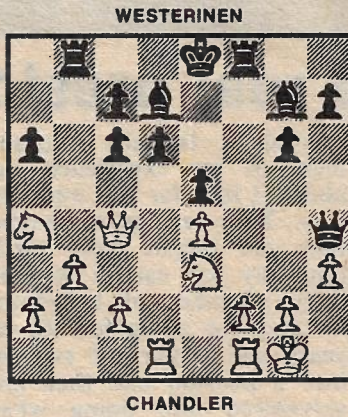
1976 Chandler held the Finnish grandmaster West-erinen to a draw, gaining the only score in an encounter in which New Zealand lost to the strong Finnish team ½ - 3½.

**RUY LOPEZ**

M. Chandler (NZ)	H. West-erinen (Finland)
1. e4	e5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. Bb5	a6
4. Ba4	d6
5. Bxc6 ch	bxc6
6. d4	f6
7. Nc3	g6

8. Be3	Nh6
9. dxe5	fxe5
10. Bg5	Qd7
11. Bf6	Rg8
12. h3	Nf7
13. Bh4	Rb8
14. b3	Bh6
15. Nh2	Qe6
16. Ng4	Bg7
17. Qd3	Nd8
18. Na4	Qf7
19. Bxd8	Kxd8
20. Ne3	Rf8
21. O-O	Ke8
22. Rad1	Qe6
23. Nc5	Qe7
24. Na4	Qh4

25. Qc4 Bd7



26. Qxa6	Qxe4
27. Qa5	Rc8
28. Qd2	Rf7
29. Nc4	Qf4
30. Nab6	cxb6
31. Nxd6 ch	Kd8
32. Qd3	Bf8
33. Nxc8	Kxc8
34. Qa6 ch	Kc7
35. Qa7 ch	Kc8
36. Qa6 ch	Kc7

(or 36... Kd8 37. Qxb6 ch Ke8 38. Qb8 ch Ke7 39. Qd6 ch etc)  
37. Qa7 ch  
Game drawn by perpetual check.

International master titles are awarded to winners of designated international tournaments, or to those who are highly placed in other events where the majority of competitors are already IM. The title is conferred by the international ruling body, FIDE, which is based in Holland.

Approximately 300 players (out of an estimated 20 million registered throughout the world) hold IM status, and of these over half are East Europeans and Russians. There are three other New Zealand title-holders: Ortvin Sarapu and W. Fairhurst, who live in Auckland, and R. Wade, a former New Zealand champion now living in England who is a successful chess author.

At 17 Chandler is almost certainly the world's youngest IM at present. Fischer won his title at the age of 14, Spassky was 16. And Chandler has made unusually rapid progress from novice to IM (five years). Fischer took eight years (from six to age 14).

About one in four IMs graduate to grandmaster status (by winning or gaining high places in two tournaments where the majority of competitors are already grandmasters).

The top eight players (invariably GMs after the rest of the field has been eliminated) together with the previous and current world champions, play a series of knock-out matches every three years to decide the new world champion. (The most famous in recent years being the Fischer-Spassky match in Iceland in 1972.)

Chandler has the opportunity to enter this elimination contest if he wins the forthcoming National Championship to be held in Wellington this Christmas/New Year. A win would automatically entitle him to a place in the zonal tournament to be held in Japan in 1978.

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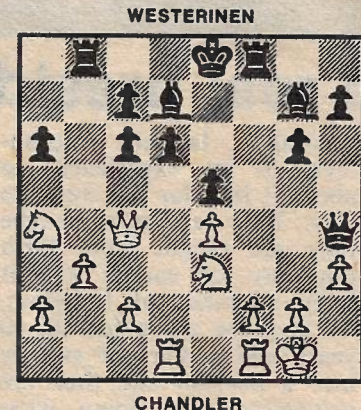
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  27. Qa5 Rc8
  28. Qd2 Rf7
  29. Nc4 Qf4
  30. Nab6 cxb6
  31. Nxd6 ch Kd8
  32. Qd3 Bf8
  33. Nxc8 Kxc8
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