

Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
1 SHIRAZI (Iran)	-	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	11
2 TORRE, GM (Phil)	½	-	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	½	0	1	1	1	1	11
3 MASCARINAS IM (Phil)	½	½	-	½	½	½	1	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	11
4 SHARIF IM (Iran)	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	11
5 CHANDLER IM (NZ)	½	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	10
6 ARDIANSYAH IM (Indo)	½	0	½	½	½	-	½	½	½	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	9½
7 O'KELLY GM (Belg)	½	½	0	½	½	½	-	½	1	½	0	1	0	1	1	1	8½
8 BACTIAR IM (Indo)	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	-	1	1	1	½	½	½	½	1	8½
9 AARON, IM (India)	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	-	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	7
10 CHIONG (Phil)	0	0	0	0	0	1	½	0	0	-	0	1	1	1	1	1	6½
11 KHAN (India)	0	½	½	0	0	0	1	0	½	1	-	0	0	½	1	1	6
12 WOTULO IM (Indo)	0	1	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	1	-	1	0	½	½	1	5½
13 LAIRD (NZ)	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	½	0	0	1	0	-	1	0	1	5
14 LIEW (Mal)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	0	0	½	1	0	-	½	½	4
15 HON (Mal)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	½	1	½	-	½	3
16 HUAT (Mal)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	-	2½

CATEGORY 3, INTERNATIONAL MASTER NORM = 10½

# Chess

## A crowded finish

THE FINAL round of the 1st Asian GM Circuit, 4th leg Pinang, was a cliff-hanger indeed. Of the four eventual winners only the determined Mershad Sharif, who was leading, was held to a draw, on this occasion by New Zealander Craig Laird. On the other boards grandmaster Eugene Torre outclassed Indonesian IM Ardiansyah and an ailing Kamran Shirazi scraped through with a win against Arovah Bactiar, as

did Mascarinas against O'Kelly.

For Shirazi it was some reward for the four months he has spent on the circuit this year, but at the winning post he just about fell — almost literally! In the penultimate round, after being laid up in bed the previous day he arrived wrapped in a jersey and looking extremely ill. He played a shocking game and dished out a full point to the otherwise winless Malaysian

Tan Bian Huat! The next day, undecided whether to accept a draw or play for a win, he opted for the latter and fortunately overtook the international master norm of 10½ by half a point in the end.

That means that if he can repeat the performance for another IM norm in India, he will have gained the qualification of FIDE international master, which is what this circuit is all about.

I broke my jinx of 5½ points and to celebrate double figures we have this week, another Chandler game — and it's one for the theoreticians at that.

### Pinang, Malaysia 1978 PIRC DEFENCE

E. TORRE Philippines, GM	M. CHANDLER NZ IM
1. e4	d6
2. d4	Nf6
3. Nc3	g6!?

Torre's own weapon! And yes, I know I've never played a Pirc defence before, and I know that Torre defeated Portisch and Hartston and drew with Liberzon at Nice Olympiad with it — but five hours study a day since the Jakarta tourney has done miracles!

4. Nf3	Bg7
5. Be2	0-0
6. 0-0	Bg4
7. Be3	

Torre is employing the classical system against my setup. The position is similar to Kings Indian defence in which White has omitted to play c4; meaning he has not such a stronghold on the centre, but consequently he is not so vulnerable either.

7. . . .	Nc6
8. Qd2	e5
9. d5	Ne7
10. Rad1	Bd7
11. Ne1	Ng4
12. Bxg4	Bxg4
13. f3	Bd7
14. f4	Bg4!

This is the Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman's move, aiming to keep Black's bishop active after 15.Nf3 exf4 16.Bxf4 f5! with an equal game. Torre plays a suggestion of Gligoric's, which has appeared in a few recent Grandmaster games.

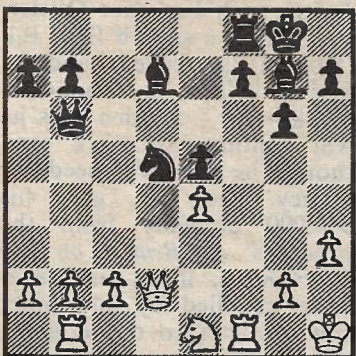
15. Rb1!	c6
16. h3	Bd7
17. fxe5	dxe5
18. Bc5!	

This move was suggested in the notes to a game Karpov-Timman, Tilburg, 1977 in which the World Champion continued instead 18.d6?! Nc8 and Black soon seized the advantage — the far advanced d-pawn is not so strong.

18. . . .	cxd5!
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On 18 . . . Re8 White has the advantageous continuation 19.Qf2 while 18 . . . b6? loses to 19.dxc6!

19. Nxd5	Nxd5
20. Bxf8	Qb6 ch
21. Kh1	Rxf8!



A theoretical novelty! Previously the only move considered was a half-hearted attempt to keep material equality with 21 . . . Ne3, but after 22.Rf3 it's finis.

22. exd5

Interesting is 22.Qxd5! Bc6! (Torre thought 22 . . . Be6 23.Qd2 Bxa2 24.Ral with the idea of

24.Nd3 is good for White.) 23.Qd3 Rd8! 24.Qe2 Qb4 and the valuable e-pawn falls, after which Black has compensation for the sacrificed exchange in his two bishops.

22. . . .	Bb5
23. Rf3	e4
24. Rb3	Qf6!

The Queen whizzes across the board and unpins the bishop. Now if 25.Rxb5 Qf1 ch 26.Kh2 Be5 ch 27.g3 Qxb5 and now White has an uphill struggle to draw, but Torre finds a fine counter-offer . . .

25. Nd3!	Bc4
26. Nc5!	Bxb3
27. axb3	Qf5

Only move. After 27 . . . Qe7 28.d6 decides.

28. Nxb7 e3!

And another sacrifice is Black's only way to keep the balance. After the game Torre complained to me, "You always have a move, I don't understand why you always have a move!"

29. Qxe3	Qxd5
30. Qf3	

It's too greedy to gobble that second pawn with

30.Qxa7; after 30 . . . Re8 31.Qa6 Bf8 I have nasty threats of 32 . . . Re3 and 32 . . . Rb8.

30. . . .	Qxf3
31. gxf3	Re8
32. c3	Re3
33. Kg2	Re2 ch

Black secures the seventh rank with gain of tempo — and equality to boot!

34. Kg1	Bh6
35. Nd6	Draw agreed

Torre offered the draw which I accepted immediately. The game is level after 35 . . .

Be3 ch 36.Kh1 Bf4 37.Nc4 Rh2 ch and 38 . . . Rxb3.

\* \* \*

That game was played in round nine. Shortly afterwards Torre received news of the sudden death of his father in Manila and it is to his credit that the dedicated Filipino completed his games before hurrying home.

MURRAY CHANDLER