

Foreign ties

A report on the North Island Chess Championship by Wellington journalist and chess player Bernard Carpinter (our regular correspondent, Murray Chandler, is at present overseas competing in the Asian Grandmasters series).

THE FOREIGNERS carried off the main prizes in the 1978 North Island Chess Championship, held at Auckland University during a week of the May school holidays.

Two immigrants, Lev Aptekar from the Soviet Union and Peter Green from England, tied for first; another Englishman, Tom Stonehouse, was part of a four-way tie for third.

Aptekar and Green achieved their success by different routes. Top seeded Aptekar won his first four games and then, thanks to the Swiss system of drawing opponents for each round, ran into tough opposition. He had to work hard to save bad positions against Robert Wansink and Peter Goffin, but three draws and one win in the last four rounds was good enough to win him first equal placing.

Green lost to David Gollogly in round four but, as is often the case in Swiss system tournaments, that loss proved to be a blessing in disguise. His last four opponents were weaker than Aptekar's and a strong finish brought him into joint first place. He beat Goffin in a long, dour, last-round game.

Philip Clemance, who finished third equal with Stonehouse, Robert Wansink and Paul Beach, went through unbeaten and was the only player to beat third-seeded Wansink. Stonehouse amazed the other players by winning two games after losing the exchange in each. Peter Stuart, the second seed, had a bad

tournament, losing to Wansink and Goffin.

Thirteen-year-old Fenella Foster of Wainuiomata, joint New Zealand women's champion, scored four points against tough opposition and beat Michael Steadman, who is rated over 2000.

Results: Lev Aptekar, Peter Green, 6½/8; Philip Clemance, Robert Wansink, Tom Stonehouse, Paul Beach 6; Peter Goffin, Peter Stuart, William Lynn 5½; Terry Free, David Gollogly, Tom Van Dijk, Bruce Watson, Bernard Carpinter, David Johnstone, Bruce Marsick, Len Whitehouse, Jim Cater, Otmar Storchenegger and Grant Sidnam 5.

The following game was played in the second-to-last round.

Auckland 1978 KING'S INDIAN DEFENCE

L. Aptekar	D. Gollogly
1. c4	g6
2. d4	Bg7
3. Nc3	d6
4. e4	Nf6
5. f3	Nc6

Black usually plays this move after 5. . . . 0-0 6. Be3, when the position of the bishop on e3 would deter White from the ambitious centre-grabbing operation which Aptekar now carries out.

6. d5	Ne5
7. f4	Ned7
8. Nf3	0-0

9. Bd3	e6
10. 0-0	e×d5
11. e×d5	Re8
12. f5	

White starts the attack and clears the way for his QB to come into action.

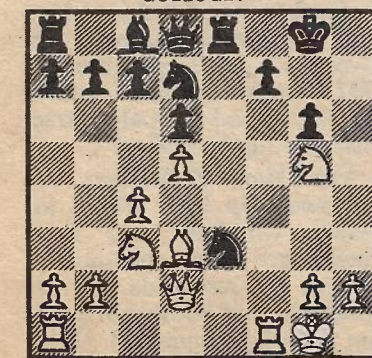
12. . . .	Ng4
13. f×g6	h×g6
14. Bg5	Bf6

14. . . . Ndf6 15. Qd2 leaves White with a clear advantage, and 14. . . . f6 15. Bf4 leaves the g-pawn very weak.

15. Qd2	B×g5
16. N×g5!	

Black no doubt expected 16. Q×g5 Q×g5 17. N×g5 Nde5, and the queen swap relieves Black of most of his problems. Black's next move attacks the rook and cuts off the defence of the knight on g5, but White has it all under control.

16. . . .	Ne3
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17. Qf2	Ne5
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Not 17. . . . N×f1 18. Q×f7 ch Kh8 19. Qh7 checkmate, nor 17. . . . Q×g5 18. Q×f7 ch Kh8 19. Q×e8 ch. 18. Qh4!

Black lives after 18. Q×e3 N×d3 19. Q×d3 Q×g5. 18. . . . N×f1

White threatened 19. Qh7 ch Kf8 20. R×f7ch N×f7 21. Q×f7 checkmate. Black could not put his queen or rook on e7 because of 19. Qh7 ch Kf8 20. Qh8 checkmate, and 18. . . . Qd7 should lose to 19. Ne4 threatening 20. Nf6 ch. If 18. . . . Nf5 then 19. Qh7ch Kf8 20. h4 keeps the pressure up.

19. R×f1	Q×g5
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Black rolls over and dies without struggling any longer. However, his position was lost in any case, eg:

(1) 19. . . . N×d3 still loses to 20. Qh7 ch and 21. Q×f7 checkmate.

(2) 19. . . . f5 20. Qh7ch Kf8 21. Qh8ch Ke7 22. Qg7ch Nf7 23. Q×f7 checkmate.

(3) 19. . . . Kf8 20. B×g6 N×g6 21. R×f7 ch Kg8 22. Qh7 checkmate.

(4) 19. . . . Qd7 20 Ne4 regains the exchange with a crushing position. One cute finish could be 20. . . . Kg7 21. Nf6 Qd8 22. Qh7ch Kf8 23. B×g6 J×g6 24. Nd7 double check and checkmate.

20. Q×g5	N×d3
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Black's rook and bishop are almost enough material compensation for the lost queen, but his position is still horrible.

21. Nb5	Re5
22. Qd8 ch	Resigns.