

**PLAYERS IN THE 1ST ASIAN GRANDMASTERS' CIRCUIT
3RD LEG, JAKARTA**

1. EUGENE TORRE GM	Philippines	Elo 2490*
2. MIGUEL QUINTEROS GM	Argentina	Elo 2480*
3. O'KELLY DE GALWAY GM	Belgium	Elo 2460
4. LUIS CHIONG	Philippines	Elo 2400
5. MURRAY CHANDLER IM	New Zealand	Elo 2390*
6. MERSHAD SHARIF IM	Iran	Elo 2380*
7. RICO MASCARINAS	Philippines	Elo 2355*
8. AROVAH BACTIAR IM	Indonesia	Elo 2335
9. ARDIANSYAH IM	Indonesia	Elo 2330
10. HERMAN SURADIRADJA IM	Indonesia	Elo 2330*
11. JACOBUS SAMPOUW	Indonesia	Elo 2315*
12. KAMRAN SHIRAZI	Iran	Elo 2300*
13. CHRISTI HON	Malaysia	Elo 2285
14. CRAIG LAIRD	New Zealand	Elo 2200

*These players also participated in the Burroughs Computers 2nd leg of the circuit in Wellington.

Chess

Beating the best

IN JAKARTA I met up again with Craig Laird, the current New Zealand champion. Laird left New Zealand in early February to play the Asian zone 10 zonals in Tokyo, after which he competed in the first leg of the Asian Grandmasters' Chess Circuit, 1978, in the Philippines.

In Japan Laird scored 3/10 and in the Philippines 4/13 (roughly the same percentage), but this was the first time he had faced such quality com-

petition. He skipped the second leg of the circuit, the Burroughs Computers Grandmasters' Tournament in New Zealand, and toured Indonesia instead to take a break from competition play.

In Jakarta he was joined by his wife Marilyn and his young son Solon, which seemed to have a beneficial effect on his play; in the first few rounds he scored 3½/5. He won against Ardiansyah in round 1, who many critics consider to be Asia's most

talented international master and the most likely to become Asia's third GM.

**1st Asian Grandmasters' Circuit
3rd Leg Jakarta.**

NIMZOVITCH DEFENCE

Ardiansyah (Indonesia)	C. Laird (NZ)
1. e4	Nc6!?
2. d4	d5
3. e5	Bf5
4. Be3	e6
5. c3	Qd7
6. Nbd2	f6
7. Ngf3?!	

Before he left New Zealand I told Laird he would have to give up these ridiculous openings and start playing main lines. In fact he has usually done so, but he cannot resist Nimzovitch's bizarre variation.

7. . . .	Nge7
8. Be2	Ng6
9. b4	

Wrong. Correct is 7.f4 supporting the pawn chain which Laird now goes about vigorously undermining.

7. . . .	Nge7
8. Be2	Ng6
9. b4	
9. . . .	fxe5
10. b5	Nd8
11. Nxe5	Nxe5
12. dxe5	Nf7
13. f4	

More than an attacking gesture, this move is to preserve White's pawn on e5. So finally Ardiansyah gets this move in, but it is clear that Black stands well. At the opportune moment he has the thematic break with . . . g5, taking the initiative on the kingside and again hammering away at that pawn chain. First though White threatens counterplay with an immediate Nb3-c5 so Laird finds an excellent preventive move . . .

13. . . .	Ba3!
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ARDIANSYAH

With the idea of 14 . . . Bb2, skewering White's rook and pawn. This forces Ardiansyah's next move . . .

14. Qb3 . . . and now the knight no longer has its best square available.

14. . . .	Qe7
15. 0-0	Bc5
16. Bd4	h5
17. Qd1	g5!
18. Nb3	

Heading for counterplay on the Queenside, but White is several tempi in arrears.

18. . . .	Bb6
19. a4	gxf4
20. a5	Bxd4 ch
21. cxd4	

Or 21.Nxd4 Be4! with a beautiful post for the bishop.

21. . . . Rg8!

22. Bxh5? The diminutive Indonesian IM miscalculates his defensive line. It was imperative to defend with 22.Rxf4, though after 22. . . Qg5 23.Rf2 Qe3 White's position is very difficult, eg 24.b6 Ng5!

22. . . . Qh4!

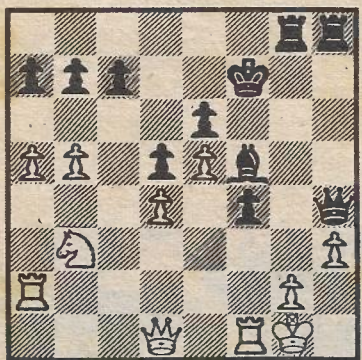
23. Ra2 Ardi has counted on 23.Bxf7 ch Kxf7 24. Qd2 when on 24. . . Rh8 White has 25. Qxf4! Unfortunately Black has a winning rook sacrifice with 24. . . Rxe2 ch! instead when, whichever way White recaptures, he loses to 25. . . Rg8. Now Laird "mops up" White's king.

23. . . . Rh8

24. Bxf7 ch Kxf7

25. h3 Rag8

LAIRD



ARDIANSYAH

26. Qc1 Rg3!

This allows any nasty queen checks to be answered by 27. . . Kg6 and for perks the rook also attacks White's knight on b3.

27. Rxf4 Qxh3

28. Rxf5 ch Qxf5!

29. Qe1

On 29. Rf2 Black has the pretty but powerful 29. . . Rh1 ch! 30. Kxh1 Qxf2 etc.

29. . . . Qh3

30. Qf1 ch Ke8

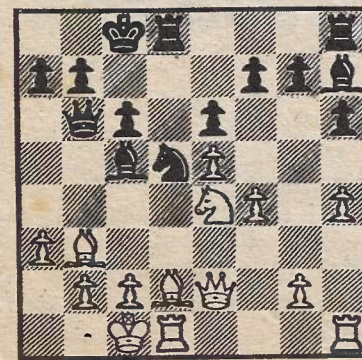
31. Kf2 Rf8 ch

32. Resigns

An excellent win and boost in confidence for Laird, especially considering that Ardiansyah had previously finished first equal with Quinteros and Torre on the 1st leg of the Asian Grandmaster Circuit, Baguio city, Philippines.

I didn't start nearly as well as Laird, although I did beat Grandmaster O'Kelly in round 2. Against international master Arovah Bachtiar of Indonesia a little later in the tournament I was the victim of a surprise attack.

BACTIAR



CHANDLER

Victor Korchnoi in his recent autobiography, Chess is my Life, called a heart-attack the occupational disease of a chess master, and considering some of the moves these Asians spring I can quite understand . . . (!) In this position I was sitting quietly minding my own business and thinking that if Black had any combination at all it was 1. . . Ne3 (which fails to 2. Nxc5 Nxd1 3.Na4!)

Instead Bactiar leapt into my queenside with

1. . . . Bxa3!! 2. bxa3 Qd4! Black threatens mate with 3. . . . Qa1. If I try my best defence 3. Ba5 he has a surprising knight move in 3. . . . Nxf4! 4. Rxd4 Nxe2 ch and wins.

In the game I defended with 3.c3 Qxe4 4.Qxe4 Bxe4 5. Rde1! but White is a pawn down — though I very nearly drew.

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 vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank 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.

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1

BLACK
WHITE