

Masterfall

ONE IMPORTANT reason for organising the Burroughs Computers Grandmaster Tournament (Wellington, April 6-19) was to give New Zealand players a chance to meet top international competition on home soil. Previously our opportunities to play in grandmaster company have been few, and even then have involved lengthy travel and the inevitable fund-raising problems.

The Burroughs tournament was designed to change all

that, and in round 1 it did so dramatically. The five New Zealand players were paired against five of the top Asians and in front of a home crowd they scored 4/5, an unprecedented collective result. First Vernon Small of Christchurch, drawing on his book knowledge of international grandmaster Eugene Torre, scored a stunning victory (the first grandmaster he had ever played).

Next to step down from the Asian squad was Jacobus Sampouw, national master from Indonesia who resigned when faced with mate in three in our game. A few minutes later Kamran Shirazi (Iran) lost to Ewen Green of

Auckland and New Zealand was leading 3-0! At adjournment Richard Sutton (Auckland) agreed to a draw immediately with Indonesian Herman Suradiradja, leaving only Ortvin Sarapu's game against Mershad Sharif unfinished. Later that evening Sarapu defended accurately and secured a draw, leaving the home team with high hopes for the tournament.

Burroughs Computers Grandmaster Tournament Wellington, 1978

PIRC DEFENCE

Vernon Small (NZ)	Eugene Torre (Philippines)
1. e4	d6
2. d4	Nf6
3. Nc3	g6
4. f4	Bg7

5. Nf3 c5
6. Bb5 ch

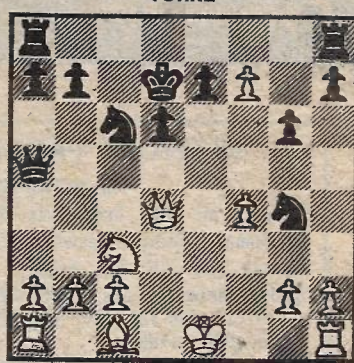
In my game versus Torre in Manila I played 6.dxc5 Qa5 7.Bd3 Qxc5 8.Qe2 followed by 9.Be3 and castling kingside which leads to well known positions in which White attacks on the king's wing while Black counterplays on the Queenside.

6. ... Bd7
7. e5 Ng4
8. e6 Bxb5

8. ... fxe6? 9.Ng5!

9. exf7 ch Kd7
And if 9. ... Kxf7 again 10.Ng5 ch exploits the hole on e6.

10. Nxb5 Qa5 ch
11. Nc3 cxd4
12. Nxd4 Bxd4
13. Qxd4 Nc6



SMALL

This theoretical position has been extensively analysed and Small had concentrated most of his attention on it the night before as he prepared for Torre. 14.Qd1 Qh5 seems to give Black adequate counter

chances and after another recommendation 14.Qd5 Qxd5 15.Nxd5 Black regains the pawn of f7 and stands no worse, so Small prepared a different Queen move (Bednarski-Peev, Lublin 1975).

14. Qc4! Rac8

Peev tried 14. ... Rhf8?! but after 15.Bd2 Qf5 16.h3 Nh6 17.0-0-0 Rac8 18.Rh1 White is better off. 14 ... Qb6 is also inferior due to 15.Qe2! but possibly Black can try the sharp alternative 14. ... Qf5!?

15. h3 Nh6
16. Bd2 Nf5?

The fatal error by Torre. After the game he suggested that 16. ... Qb4! would equalise or be marginally better for White after the exchange of Queens.

17. Nd5 Qd8

The only alternative to this retreat would be 17. ... Qa6 allowing White to double Black's pawns, but typically the grandmaster refuses to accept an inferior, though perhaps tenable position, preferring instead a do or die situation. Unfortunately ... (!)

18. Bc3 Ncd4
19. Qa4 ch

Won positions don't win themselves and Small correctly sidesteps 19.Qd3 Rc5! which gives Black sufficient counterplay.

19. ... Nc6
20. Bxh8 Qxh8
21. 0-0-0 e6
22. Nc3 Qf8
23. Rhe1 Qxf7
24. Ne4

With unstoppable threats of 25.Ng5 or 25.Nc5 ch.

24. ... b5
25. Qxb5 Resigns

On 25. ... Rb8 26.Nc5 ch wins.

After this game Small walked soberly from the room as though he had anticipated the whole game in advance — I mean, what's a grandmaster!

* * *
For the Burroughs Computers Grandmaster Tournament it was intended to have three IGMs participating, one from the Philippines and two from Europe. Unfortunately at the last minute Grandmaster O'Kelly of Belgium had to withdraw and although we tried, our substitute, Kraidman of Israel, could not get the flight connections to arrive in New Zealand in reasonable time for the event.

So we played a GM short, meaning that although IM norms were a little easier to obtain on 8/12 (previously 8½/13) the grandmaster norm would be no longer possible, a disappointment to myself and the other international masters in the tournament.

The tournament was a category 5 event, the average international rating being higher than 2351.

MURRAY CHANDLER

MASTERS' TOURNAMENT

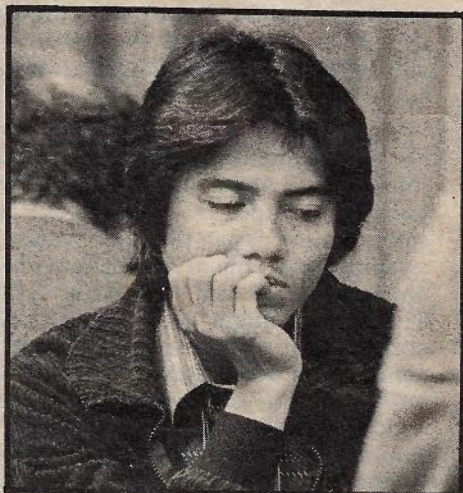
WELLINGTON, 1978

The players in order of elo rating were:

1. Eugene Torre IGM	Philippines	2490
2. Miguel Quinteros IGM	Argentina	2480
3. Murray Chandler IM	NZ	2390
4. Vernon Small	NZ	2385
5. Mershad Sharif IM	Iran	2380
6. Rico Mascariñas	Philippines	2355
7. Herman Suradiradja IM	Indonesia	2350
8. Rudolfo Tan Cardoso IM	Philippines	2320
9. Jacobus Sampouw	Indonesia	2315
10. Kamran Shirazi	Iran	2300
11. Ortvin Sarapu IM	NZ	2290
12. Richard Sutton	NZ	2290
13. Ewen Green	NZ	2265

YOU COULD HEAR A PAWN DROP

Staff photographer Colin Simpson at New Zealand's first International Grandmaster Chess Tournament.



THE 13 PARTICIPANTS face each other across slow-marching rows of plastic chessmen. (The charming wooden tournament pieces used by the rest of the world come too dear.)

9. Bf1 Qa5 10. Nc3? Nb4!

They're in pain. Aches in the back, cricks in the neck, drying eyeballs and pounding heads. The air is thick with suffering. Sampouw rises, desperately unhappy. He shuffles up and down. Torre, Chandler, Sharif, Sarapu stretch their cramped legs, walking around in circles like prisoners in the yard. Pale faces. Glazed eyes. They never look into each other's eyes across the little theatres of rampaging queens, scampering kings and gallant pawns. They stop to look at other games, but don't see anything. Eyes are blank, inward-looking, like the unseeing eyes of newly-dead fish.

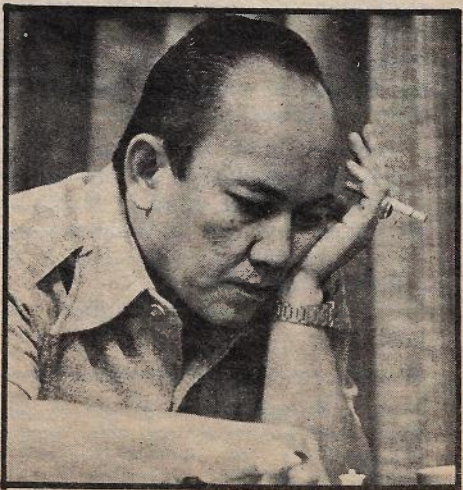
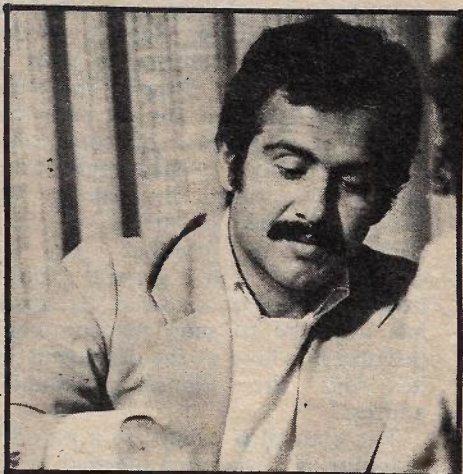
11. d4 cxd4 12. Nxd4 Bb7 13. f3 Bxd4!?

Players and spectators suffocate in the airless, windowless room. The soundproofed ceiling seems about six inches above your head. The only noises are the humming of the air-conditioner and the ticking of 12 tiny clocks. There's a loud yawn. Smoker Cardoso draws in a raspy breath.

26. Qd3 Qh4 ch 27. Kg1 e6 28. b5 Rd2 29. Resigns.

Two grandmasters and five international masters. Twelve sloppy old outfits. Even the elegant Quinteros has ripped the shoulder seam of his suit through excessive hunching. Six wear spectacles and seven don't. Most have the high foreheads of people who spend a lot of time behind them. Eleven have thick hair and two are balding. One has hot black coffee and one has cold tea barely covering his sugar.

All are having a marvellous time. ●

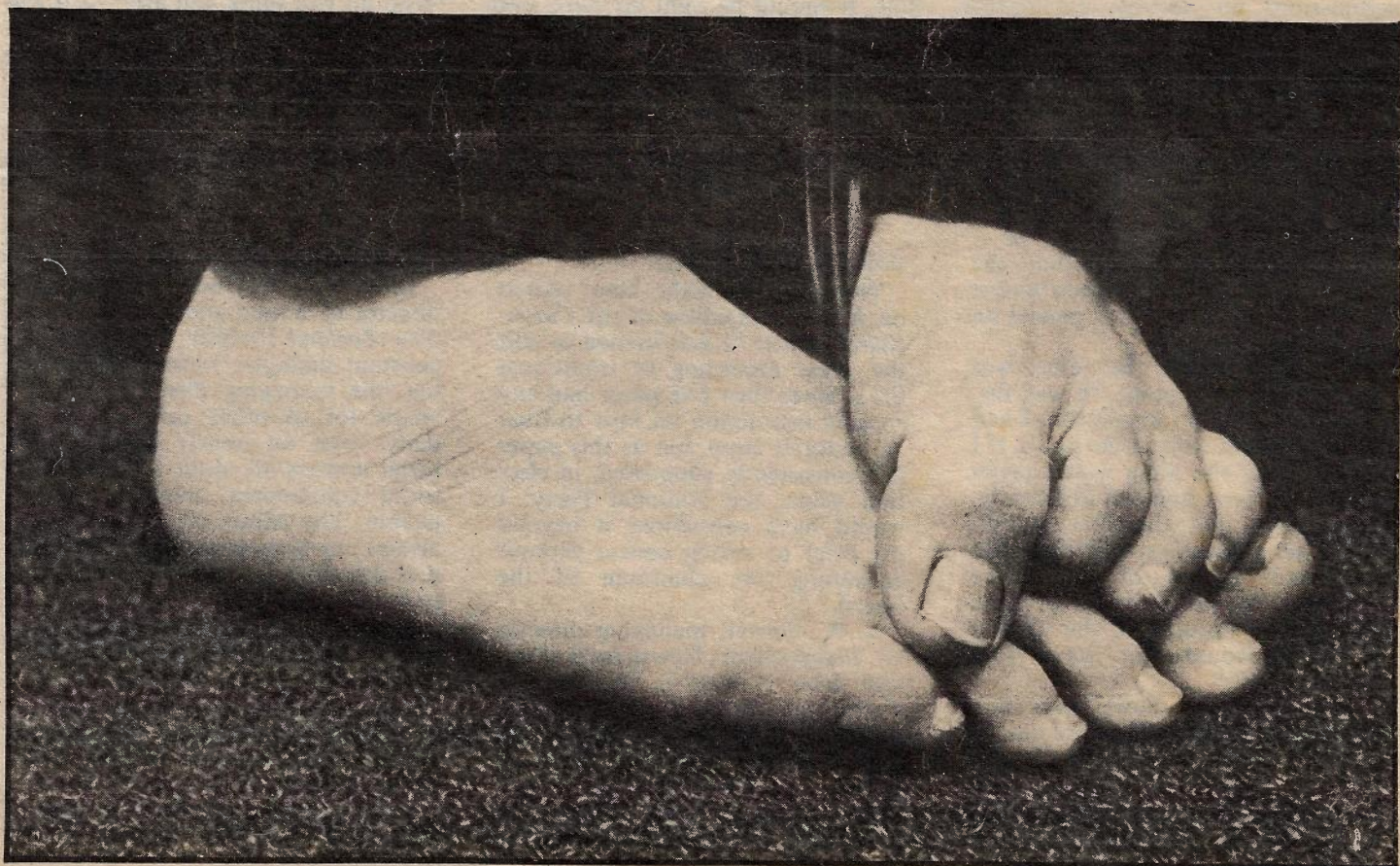
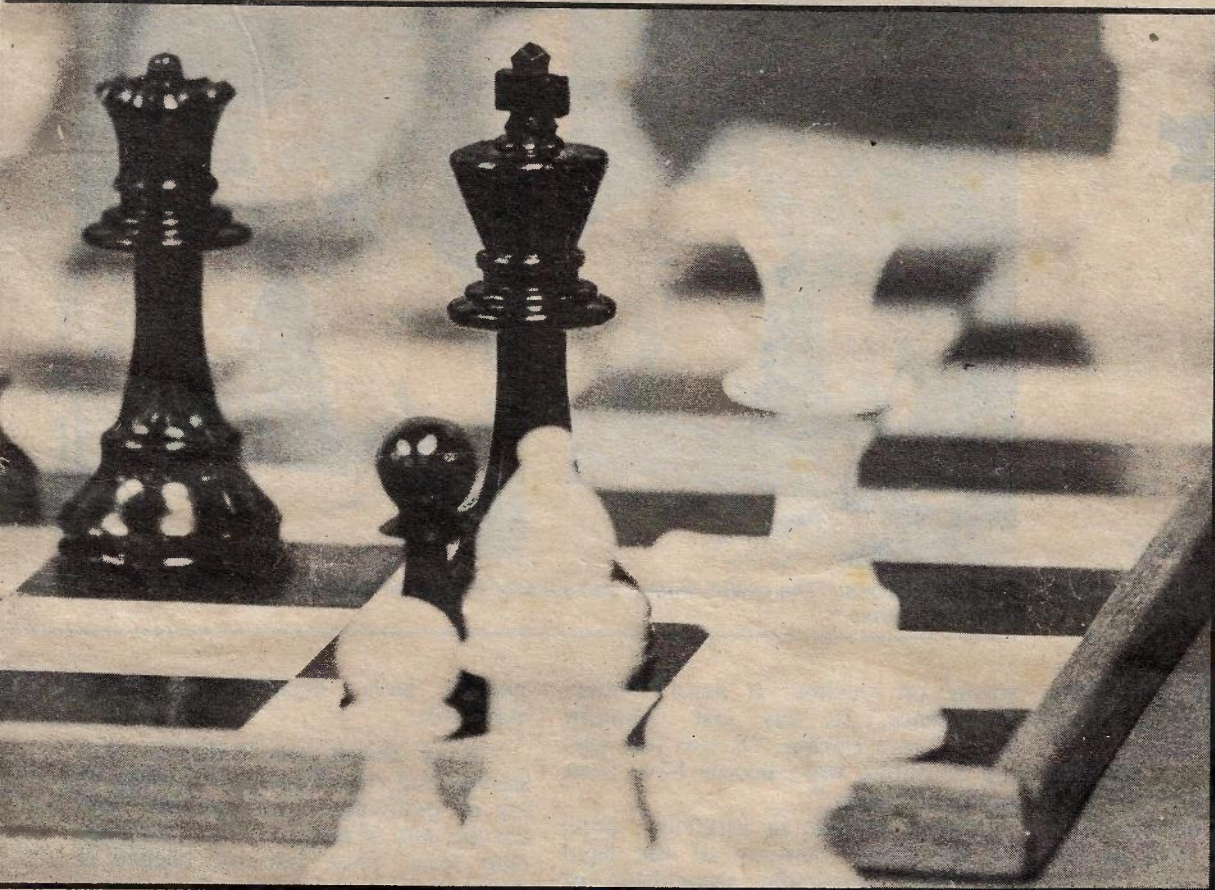


Top left: Eugenio Torre (Philippines), grandmaster.

Above left: Miguel Quinteros (Argentina), grandmaster.

Left: Rudolfo Tan Cardoso (Philippines), international master.





Top right: Murray Chandler (New Zealand), international master.
Above: Ortvin Sarapu (New Zealand), international master.