

What comes naturally

EVEN AFTER I had assured FIDE deputy president Florencio Campomanes by long distance telephone that Wellington would hold an international grandmasters' tournament I was never really certain about how things would work out. Such an event had never been held before in the history of New

Zealand chess. Would chess-players appreciate and support a top class tournament in their own country? Would the business community recognise the ever-increasing popularity of chess in New Zealand and overseas? Would there be much press and public enthusiasm for, and understanding of, the national and

international significance of such a prestigious first for the capital city of New Zealand?

The result was tremendous. Burroughs Computers generously contributed as major sponsor. Clubs and chess enthusiasts in greater Wellington supported the event both financially and as spectators. The papers, and particularly Wellington's *Dominion* and *Evening Post*, gave generous space to top class coverage by journalist chess-players who introduced the New Zealand public to the subtleties and

the rigours of international play.

For my part, playing as well as organising the event, everything seemed to be working out fine (I scored 5 points from the first 7 rounds), but something (I don't know what!) caught up with me, and in the last five rounds I could manage only 1/2 a point more.

One of my early games, against Herman Suradiradja of Indonesia, was described by the media as a brilliant counter-attack. While I was

playing the game, even after I had sacrificed two pieces, it didn't occur to me that the game was anything special, so natural did all the lines appear!

Asian Grandmasters Circuit
1st Burroughs Computers
GM

New Zealand 1978

OWENS DEFENCE

H. Suradiradja (Indonesia) I.M. M. Chandler (NZ) I.M.

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| 1. e4 | b6 |
| 2. d4 | Bb7 |
| 3. Bd3 | e6 |
| 4. Nh3 | |

Yes, again, this brard of madness is not limited to my English weekend tourneys!

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| 5. c5 | Nf6 |
| 6. f3 | |

More usual is 4.Nf3. Suradiradja wants to be able to bolster his centre by f3 with later prospects of a kingside attack using Qh5 and f4.

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| 4. . . . | c5 |
| 5. c3 | Nf6 |
| 6. f3 | |

6.Nd2 is not really available owing to 6. . . . cxd4 7.cxd4 Nc6! 8.Nb3 Nb4 and White must concede his white-squared bishop or lose his e-pawn.

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| 6. . . . | Nc6 |
| 7. Be3 | Be7 |
| 8. 0-0 | 0-0?! |

A mistake. Better is 8. . . . d6.

9. a3?!

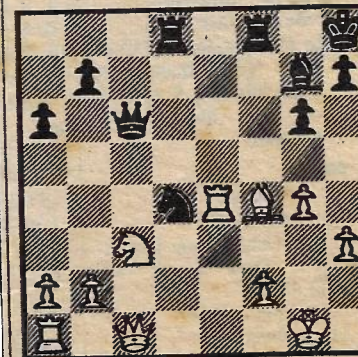
Suradiradja reciprocates by missing the thrust 9.d5! with advantage, e.g. 9. . . . exd5 10.exd5 Nxd5 11.Bxh7 ch followed by 12.Qxd5 with a positional plus.

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| 9. . . . | Rc8 |
| 10. Nd2 | cxd4 |

One of the subtleties of the 1. . . . b6 opening. As soon as White's queen's knight has moved this swap of pawns is good as the knight can no

PROBLEM

In round 9 of the Burroughs Computers Grandmasters Chess Tournament, Vernon Small of Christchurch sacrificed a pawn against Rudolfo Tan Cardoso, an experienced international master from the Philippines. Can you spot how he used the open lines resulting from the sacrifice to gain an eventually decisive material and positional advantage?



Black to play

SOLUTION:

Small played 1. Qxe4! Sacrificed Queen with interest, and after 3.Kf1 Nxc1 4.Bxc1 Rd1 ch won easily.

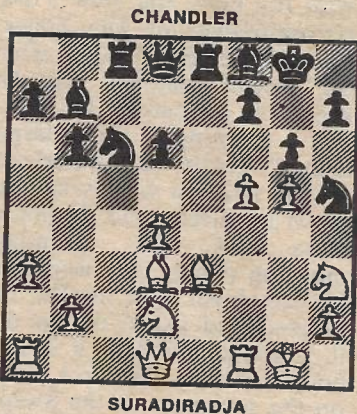
longer occupy the more aggressive c3 square.

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| 11. cxd4 | d6 |
| 12. f4 | Re8 |
| 13. g4!?! | g6 |
| 14. g5 | |

Suradiradja's previous moves may have been ambitious but this attacking gesture is premature. After the game we looked at the idea of 14.b4 with Eugene Torre, aimed at dislodging Black's knight before continuing with the kingside offensive.

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| 14. . . . | Nh5 |
| 15. f5 | exf5 |

16. exf5 Bf8!



I spent 20 minutes calculating 16. . . . Bf6!?? which just falls short after 17.fxg6 hxg6 18.gxf6 Rxe3 (forking two minor pieces) 19.Bxg6!, White's saving grace which seems to give him at least a perpetual in all lines. After the test, however, White has none of these mad-dog attacks and his kingside is fatally weak.

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| 17. fxg6 | hxg6 |
| 18. Qf3 | Qd7! |

Threatening 19. . . . Nxd4 with a discovered attack on the Queen.

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| 19. Ne4 | Bg7 |
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20. Bb5

White's only way to parry the 20. . . . Nxd4 threat but there must be a winning combination for Black. I calculated, doubled checked.

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| 20. . . . | Rxe4! |
| 21. Qxe4 | Qxh3 |
| 22. Rx17 | Ne5!! |

The spectators were oohing and ahing with each move! Actually Black also has the resource 23. . . . Qxe3 ch! followed by 24. . . . Bxd4 regaining the Queen but this line is forcing. If now 24.Qxb7 Black has simply 24

. . . . Nxf7 remaining a piece to the good.

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| 24. Rxb7 | Nf3 ch |
| 25. Kf2 | Qxh2 ch! |

Driving the king out as 26.Kf1 meets mate in one with 26. . . . Ng3.

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| 26. Kxf3 | Rf8 ch |
| 27. Bf4 | Rxf4 ch |
| 28. Resigns | |

After 28.Qxf4 Qxf4 ch Suradiradja will lose his rook as well to 29. . . . Qe4 ch no matter which square the king moves to.

MURRAY CHANDLER