

It's a big World

PRIZE FUNDS have risen enormously over the past few years, and the 1979 World Open in America was bigger and more lucrative than ever before. Totalling the various sections, there were just under 900 participants, and over \$46,000 in prize money.

The \$5000 first prize in the Open attracted a number of strong Grandmasters, including Tony Miles of England, Florin Gheorghiu of Rumania and Walter Browne of

the USA. Tournament organiser Bill Goichberg, who is also director of the Continental Chess Association, can congratulate himself on attracting such a field.

As I write, Miles and Gheorghiu are leading with 5½ points out of a possible six, and four more rounds to go. Twelve players, including myself, are on their heels with five points.

Miles has been scoring well with his pet variation against

the Queen's Indian defence, running 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.Bf4!? and in round six notched up another victim after 4. . . . Bb7 5.e3 Bb4 ch 6.Nfd2!? 0-0 7.a3 Be7 8.Nc3 c5?! 9.d5! exd5 10.cxd5 Bxd5 11.Nxd5 Nxd5 12.Qf3 Nc7 13.Qb7! d6 14.Ne4 and White had a large advantage. Unbeknown to his opponent, the variation was played first in Miles-Timman, Wijk aan Zee 1979, and repeated in Miles-Lein, South Africa, a few months later!

I have been pleased with my own performance to date. The two draws conceded have been as Black in an eight-hour grind against three-times

US champion Walter Browne, and in round six against Soviet emigre Vitaly Zaltsman, rated 2505.

Philadelphia 1979

SICILIAN DEFENCE

V. ZALTSMAN (USA)	M. CHANDLER (NEW ZEALAND)
1. Nf3	Nf6
2. c4	g6
3. Nc3	Bg7
4. e4	c5

Alternatively Black can employ the King's Indian defence with 4. . . . 0-0 5.d4 d6.

5. d4	0-0
6. Be2	cxd4
7. Nxd4	d6

Now we have a Maroczy bind, usually arising from the Sicilian defence. Many players

are not prepared to allow this bind as Black, as White's pawns on c4 and e4 exert an extremely cramping influence and virtually stifle any attempt at counter-play. I was a little unsure whether I should play it, but Zaltsman didn't appear fully at home in the position either.

8. 0-0	a6
9. Be3	Nc6
10. Qd2!	

Instead 10.Rc1 or 10.f3 would maintain the bind more securely. Now I decided to seize the bishop pair as a kind of inherent advantage to compensate for my lack of space.

10. . . .	Ng4!
11. Bxg4	Bxg4
12. Nd5	Bd7!

So that . . . e6 is possible without leaving the bishop stranded.

13. Rac1	e6
14. Nc3	

14.Nxc6 Bxc6 15.Nb6 Rb8 is "nothing" for White according to Zaltsman, but I consider it unclear after 16.f3 Qc7 17.a4!? with the idea of cementing his knight and control of b6 with a5.

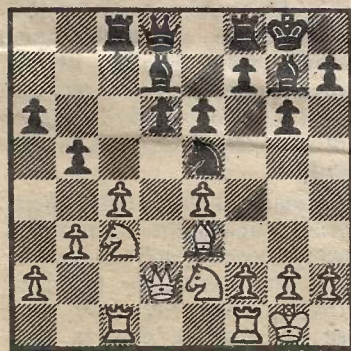
Interestingly Black can recapture 14. . . . bxc6 in this line (15.Bb6 Qb8!) but White has 15.Nb6 Rb8 16.Nxd7 Qxd7 (Not 16. . . . Rxb2 17.Qxd6) 17.b3 and White stands better.

14. . . .	Rc8
15. Nde2	

Making life most difficult for my d-pawn. However I have a counter-stroke utilising my bishop pair and the long black diagonal.

15. . . .	Ne5
16. b3	b5!

CHANDLER



ZALTSMAN

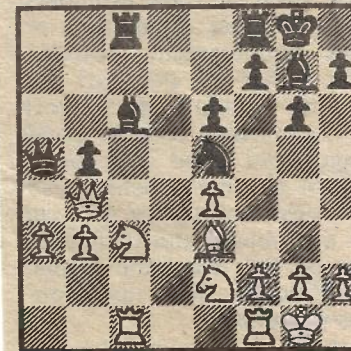
17. cxb5	axb5
18. a3	

Wisely refraining from gobbling the d-pawn immediately, as 18.Qxd6 b4! 19.Na4 (19.Qxb4 Nd3 forks queen and rook) Bb5 is very strong.

18. . . .	Qa5
19. Qxd8	Bc6
20. Qb4	

I had been expecting 20.Rfd1 when I was undecided whether to choose the tricky 20. . . . Ng4!?, bearing in mind our mutual time-shortage, or 20. . . . Rfd8 21.Qb4 when 21. . . . Qxb4 22.Rxd8 ch Rxd8 23.axb4 Nd3 24.Rd1 Rd7 should be drawn. In this line 21. . . . Qa6!? is also possible.

CHANDLER



ZALTSMAN

20. . . .	Qxb4
21. axb4	Nd3
22. Rcd1	Rfd8

Too hasty would be 22. . . . Nxb4? 23.Bc5.

23. f3	Nxb4
24. Bd4	

Black has regained his sacrificed pawn, and White must be accurate; 24.Nd4 Be8!

25.Ncxb5? loses a piece to 25. . . . e5.

24. . . .	Nc2
-----------	-----

And here, with three minutes each remaining on our clocks until the time control at move 30, we decided it would spoil the game to play on! So . . .

Draw agreed

Black is in fact slightly better, but 25.Bxg7 Kxg7 26.Rc1 Rd2 27.Kf2!? (with the idea of 27. . . . b4 28.Nb1) should hold.

MURRAY CHANDLER