

A1 at Lloyds

THE 1979 Lloyds Bank Masters tournament in London had nine International Masters and three Grandmasters competing in the 93-player field — making it England's second-strongest tournament after the annual Hastings Grandmaster all-play-all.

Nearly half of this year's

field were foreign internationals, from 21 different lands including Singapore, India, Colombia, Iceland and the USA. Most came for the chance of making master title norms, which can be won only against an international field including a number of IMs and GMs.

International Masters, such

as myself, came to vie for Grandmaster norms — unfortunately made still more difficult by the non-arrival of Czechoslovakian GM Vlastimil Hort on account of visa problems. To gain a GM norm a player has to meet at least three present GMs, play a field with an average Elo rating of more than 2400 and (last but certainly not least!) he then has to score an almost impossible 2600 Elo-rating result himself! In this tourney it meant scoring seven points out of the

possible nine.

I started well, and took the sole lead on 3/3 by defeating American David Strauss, Dutchman John van Barle and GM Rosendo Balinas from the Philippines. A murky draw with GM Heikki Westerinen of Finland followed in round four and I continued without loss until in round eight off-the-board problems struck. I still had to score 1½/2 for my GM norm. Unfortunately I had yet to play the third Grandmaster, Israeli Yair Kraidman — and he was way down the bottom of the tournament!

After some debate, the tournament directors decided that pairing myself, and Welshman George Botterill who was in a similar situation, with GMs would be too difficult because of the points difference involved. Instead we played each other, ending with a hard-fought draw — both on 6/8 but no norms possible any more because we couldn't play the stipulated three GMs.

In the final round Westerinen, who had taken the lead, drew allowing myself and Adolf Haik of France to catch him. My 7/9 was the finest result of my career and as some consolation for missing the GM norm I did win the Lloyds Bank trophy on tie-break.

Results: 1st-3rd, M. Chandler (NZ), H. Westerinen (Finland), A. Haik (France), 7/9; 4th, B. Jansson (Sweden), 6½; 5th-13th, M. Petursson (Iceland), G. Botterill (Wales), S. Odendahl (USA), A. Law, D. Friedgood, S. Knott, D. King, P. Littlewood, C. Crouch (all England), 6.

There is some controversy at present over Swiss-system tournaments aimed specifically at gaining title norms. I agree with the critics who say that ideally all-play-all tournaments result in the best chess — but the problem is that there are too many players deserving international opportunities to cope with in this manner.

My last-round game was a close positional tussle with the young Icelandic International Master Mageir Petursson.

SICILIAN DEFENCE

M. CHANDLER	M. PETURSSON
1. e4	c5
2. c3	d5
3. exd5	Qxd5
4. d4	Nf6
5. Nf3	e6
6. Bd3	Nc6
7. 0-0	cxd4
8. cxd4	Be7
9. Nc3	Qd6
10. Be3	0-0

I have played these isolated queen's pawn positions many times with White, so I was happy to be on familiar ground in such an important game.

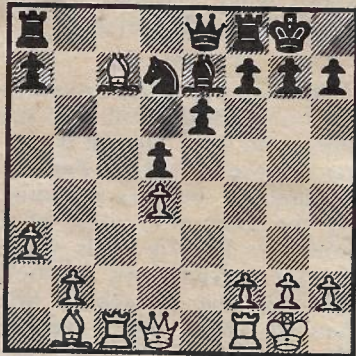
11. Rc1 Nb4
12. Bb1 Bd7!

More active is 12...b6.

13. Ne5 Bc6
Understandably he prevents 14.Qf3 with easy development for White, but now I can seize the bishop pair.

- 14. Bf4 Qd8
- 15. a3 Nd5
- 16. Nxc6 bxc6
- 17. Be5 Nd7
- 18. Nxd5 cxd5
- 19. Bc7! Qe8

PETURSSON



CHANDLER

20. Bd3!
If I have made any advance by playing in Asia, America and Europe in the past year then I think it can be summed up in this single move. Instead 20.Qd3 or 20.Rc3 both seem to give nice attacking prospects on the kingside and force 20...g6.

But White's attack on the kingside is not strong enough to win by force, and if White wastes tempi transferring his rook to h3 for example, or trying to be aggressive with h4, Black can seize the initiative in the centre. The correct way is to combine threats on both wings, and I already threaten to win the exchange with Ba6 and Bb7.

- 20. . . . Bd8
- 21. Ba6 Bxc7
- 22. Rxc7 Nb6
- 23. Qc2 Qd8

Planning 24...Nc4.

- 24. Qc6 Qh4
- 25. Rd1 Qg4
- 26. Qc1! Rfd8
- 27. h3 Qh4
- 28. Qc6 Qh5
- 29. Rc1 Qg5
- 30. Qc3 Qf4
- 31. Qe3 Qf6

Also 31...Qd6 32.R1c6 Qf8 was to be considered. Now finally, after lengthy preparation, I get in a pawn move towards my plan of a queenside advance. White has undisputed control of the open file, and a rook on the seventh rank — now more fuel must be added to the offensive.

- 32. b3 Re8
- 33. R7c6! Qe7
- 34. a4 Red8
- 35. a5 Nd7
- 36. Qc3 e5!?

Petursson grabs the first chance he can to randomise the position.

- 37. Bb7 Rab8
- 38. Rc7 Qg5?

But he finally cracks under the pressure. Correct is continued defence with 38...Qd6.

- 39. Bxd5

Why not! 39...exd4 40.Qxd4 Ne5 fails to simply 41.f4.

- 39. . . . h6
- 40. Qf3 exd4
- 41. Qxf7 ch Kh8
- 42. h4 Qd2



CHANDLER

Petursson must continue to

attack my rook on c1 or his knight on d7 will be hanging.

- 43. Qg6 Rf8
- 44. Rf1 Rf6
- 45. Qg4!

Black has prevented Be4, but now his knight is attacked twice and can't move because of checkmate on g7. White wins a piece.

- 45. . . . Rd6
- 46. Rxd7 Rxd7
- 47. Qxd7 Qxa5
- 48. Be4 Qe5
- 49. Bd3 Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER



Winners Murray Chandler (left) and Heikki Westerinen.