

# Taking the Iron Curtain

**PLAYING IN THE THIRD** Zala Cup tournament in Keszthely, Hungary, was not quite the experience one comes to expect when playing events in deepest darkest Eastern Europe — generally best described as “educational ordeals”. Rather than pack the event full of grandmasters, the Hungarians decided to give their up-and-coming players a chance in a category seven event, with Soviet Grandmaster Yuri Razuvaev starting clear favourite.

There were also two Westerners participating (Adolf Herzog from Austria and myself), which is still comparatively rare in tournaments behind the Iron Curtain. This is due to financial differences — in the West it is usual for tournament organisers to pay a competitor's travelling expenses, whereas in Eastern Europe it is standard procedure for each player's own federation to sponsor him. My sponsorship from the National Bank of New Zealand enabled me to participate.

With his 70 Elo rating points advantage over anyone else, Razuvaev perhaps started somewhat complacently, losing to me in the first round. We then spent the rest of the event in a tussle for first. He overtook me after my 10th-round loss to Mestrovic but could only draw in the last round while I eked out a win over Banaz to tie.

Apart from 21-year-old Attila Groszpeter's third equal, the Hungarians considered their overall performance only mediocre. This perhaps confirms a local complaint that they have yet to find the prospective replacements for Portisch, Ribli, Adorjan and Sax. It is interesting to note, however, that with the exception of Szeles all the Hungarian participants were effectively full-time chess professionals.

Final placings in the 1981 III Zala Cup were: 1-2, IM M. Chandler (New Zealand), GM Y. Razuvaev (USSR) 9 points; 3-4, IM A. Groszpeter (Hungary), GM J. Plachetka (Czechoslovakia) 8; 5-8, GM M. Knezevic (Yugoslavia), GM L. Barczay, IM L. Hazai (both Hungary), A. Herzog (Austria) 6½; 9-10, IM U. Bonsch (East Germany), G. Horvath (Hungary) 6; 11-12, IM T. Horvath (Hungary), IM Z. Mestrovic (Yugoslavia) 5½; 13, IM J. Banaz (Czechoslovakia) 5; 14, K. Szeles (Hungary) 3.

The GM norm was 10 points, the IM norm 7½.

One of the tournament's most attractive games features Razuvaev weaving a pretty mating net with a knight and major pieces.

## SLAV DEFENCE

<b>Y. Razuvaev</b> USSR	<b>J. Plachetka</b> Czechoslovakia
1. d4	d5
2. c4	c6

Perhaps an incautious choice — Razuvaev had just been telling me how

well prepared he had to be against this opening, a favourite of the younger Soviet players.

3. Nc3	Nf6
4. Nf3	Dxc4
5. a4	Na6
6. e4	Bg4
7. Bxc4	e6
8. 0-0	Nb4
9. Be3	Be7
10. Be2	0-0
11. h3	Bh5
12. Ne5	Bxe2
13. Qxe2	Nd7
14. Nc4	Qc7
15. Rac1	Rad8

Here 15...a5 could be tried. In the game White demonstrates his superior central control by penetrating to the d6 square.

16. Rfd1	Qb8
17. g3!	b6
18. Bf4	Qb7
19. Bd6	Bxd6
20. Nxd6	Qa6
21. Qe3	c5
22. d5	exd5
23. exd5	Nf6
24. Nf5	h6

White was threatening 25.Qg5 (25...g6 26.Qxf6; 25...Ne8 26.Qxd8).

25. Qf3	Kh7
26. d6	Rfe8
27. Ne7	Kh8
28. g4!	

An unexpected attacking twist. Razuvaev intends to invest a pawn to half-open the h-file, reasoning that with his knight on e7 preventing the Black king's flight via g8, any checks down this file will be murderous.

28. ...	c4
29. g5	hxg5
30. Ne4	Qb7

Pinning the knight against the queen — White threatened 31.Nxf6, and 30...Nxe4 allows 31.Qh5 checkmate.

31. Rxc4 a5  
If 31...Rxd6 White has the beautiful variation 32.Nxd6! Qxf3 33.Nxf7 ch Kh7 34.Nxg5 ch followed by 35.Nxf3.

32: Rdd4!	Rxe7
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Hoping to cling on after 33. dxe7 Qxe7.

33. Nxf6!	
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A devastating queen offer: on 33...Qxf3 White mates by 34.Rh4 ch! etc. Seeing that his only chance, 33...Re1 ch, fails to 34.Kh2! Rh1 ch 35.Qxh1 Qxh1 ch 36.Kxh1 gxh6 37.d7 and Black's case is hopeless because of the threatened 38.Rc8, Plachetka conceded.

33. ...	Resigns
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MURRAY CHANDLER