

Rare pair

THE 25TH World Chess Olympiad in Lucerne began in historic style for the New Zealand men's team, who found themselves paired with the mighty Soviet Union in round one. Such pairings are usually only possible in the first few rounds of this biennial competition, run on the so-called Swiss system. For the team members it was the chance of a lifetime; on top board New Zealand champion Vernon Small clashed with Anatoly Karpov — the first time a Kiwi has played a reigning World Champion.

On the remaining boards Ortvin Sarapu, Roger Nokes and Tony Dowden met Soviet Grandmasters Garri Kasparov, Lev Polugayevsky and Alexander Belyavsky respectively. Although, like Small, all eventually lost we put up a resistance that was praised by many commentators. "The prize for the upset of the round must go to Sarapu for reaching the adjournment against one of the pretenders to the throne of chess" in American Grandmaster William Lombardy's opinion. This was only one of several favourable comments in the official daily bulletin.

The Soviet Union, of course, are hot favourites to win both the 94-team men's Olympiad, and the 45-team women's. As I write from here in Lucerne, the scenic heart of central Switzerland, they currently lead both after five rounds. The big surprise has been the disastrous form of the second seeds Hungary, down in 16th equal position. The Hungarians are, however, without one of their leading grandmasters, Andreas Adorjan, apparently not selected because of team squabbles.

Of the New Zealand women's team in Lucerne, consisting of Winsome Stretch, Vivian Burndred, Lynn Martin and Jackie Sievey, I will speak in a future column. Meanwhile here is a fine victory by Vernon Small from the men's fifth round match versus Mexico. We were a trifle unlucky to score only 1½ points, as Tony Dowden had a promising position at one time in his game. First reserve Robert Smith from Auckland supplied the half point with a draw on board four.

BISHOP'S OPENING

V. SMALL	K. FREY
1. e4	e5
2. Bc4	Nc6
3. Nf3	Bc5
4. 0-0	d6
5. c3	Nf6
6. d3	0-0
7. Bg5	a6
8. Bb3	h6
9. Bh4	Qe7
10. Nbd2	Kh8?

The Mexican international master has plans of advancing his kingside pawns, but this proves too weakening. Correct is the solid 10...Be6.

11. Nc4	g5
12. Bg3	Ne8
12...Nh5? is impossible due to 13.Nxe5.	
13. d4	exd4
14. cxd4	Ba7
15. d5!	Nd8

16. Re1 f6

Black must stop the threatened central breakthrough of e5 by White, but now the squares around his king are even further weakened. Small, a sophisticated positional player, devotes himself to manoeuvring a knight to the f5 square.

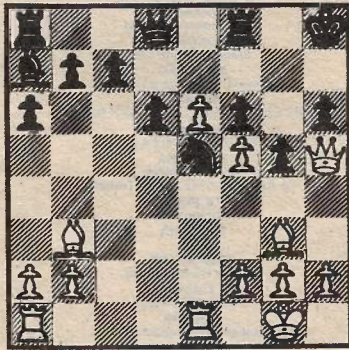
17. Nd4 Ng7
18. Ne3 Nf7

18...Qxe4 loses the queen after 19...Nef5.

19. Nef5 Qd8

If 19...Nx f5 20.exf5 Ne5 White prizes open the position with 21.f4.

20. Ne6 Bxe6
21. dxe6 Nx f5
22. ex f5 Ne5
23. Qh5



The Queen enters the fray (or should that be Frey?) with murderous effect. Black's h-pawn is indefensible, for 23...Kg7 is met by 24.Bxe5 dxe5 25.Qg6 ch, etc.

23. ... Qe7
24. Qxh6 ch Qh7
25. Qxh7 ch Kxh7
26. Red1?

More accurate is 26.Rad1.

26. ... Rae8
27. Rac1 Re7
28. Kf1 Kg7
29. Bc2 Rd8
30. h4 Rh8
31. hxg5 fxg5

White has acquired two connected passed pawns, but it still requires energetic play to force home the win.

32. Ke2 Nc6
33. f4! Kf6?

Black's best hope was 33...gxf4 34.Bxf4 Nd4 ch when White has to find 35.Rxd4! Bxd4 36.g4 and the three connected passed pawns should prove unstoppable.

34. fxg5 ch Kxg5
35. Bf2 Bxf2
36. Kxf2 Ne5
37. Rh1 Ng4 ch
38. Kf3 Rf8
39. Rce1

Stopping 39...Rxe6.

39. ... Ne5 ch
40. Rxe5! dxe5
41. g4

Three connected passed pawns are an awe-inspiring force. Here 41...Rxe6 loses a rook to 42.Rh5 ch Kf6 43.fxe6.

41. ... Rg7
42. Ke4 Kf6
43. Rh6 ch Kg5
44. Rh5 ch Resigns

On 44...Kxg4 the simplest is 45.Rh1! Kg5 46.Rg1 ch Kf6 47.Rxg7 Kxg7 48.Kxe5 followed by the pawn advances e7 and f6.

MURRAY CHANDLER