

Trio plays quartets

FOR GEOGRAPHICAL reasons New Zealand and Australia are classified by Fide, the World Chess Federation, as belonging to the Asian zone. This means we are included in the various official competitions for this area of the globe, such as the Philips Asian Teams Championship which we hosted in Auckland in 1977.

That event proved a world landmark in that it was the real international debut of a Chinese chess team. Subsequently the Chinese emergence has continued in leaps and bounds, and late last year, in the same Asian teams competition, roles were reversed when a New Zealand squad were themselves guests in the Orient.

Of the 12 countries represented in Hangzhou, near Shanghai, only eventual winners the Philippines and second-placed China were at full strength. Nevertheless they were closely challenged by the young Australian contingent, who were edged out only by a surprise last-round loss by 2½-1½ to Singapore. Final scores in the A group were: Philippines 13½, China 13, Australia 12, India 10, Singapore 9½, Thailand 2.

New Zealand, due to late withdrawals and problems with players having to raise their own air-fares, could muster only a three-man team for the four-board competition. Nevertheless our team of Robert Smith, Bruce Watson and Tony Carpenter put up a highly creditable performance, despite conceding a point by forfeit every match. We came second in the B group, nearly qualified for the A final, and individual scores were well above 50 per cent.

Watson's 6½ points from eight games was particularly noteworthy. Here is one of the 21-year-old Aucklanders' fine wins from the preliminaries.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE

P. SA-NGADSUP (Thailand)	B. WATSON (New Zealand)
1. c4	Nf6
2. d4	e6
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. Qc2	c5
5. e3	

The main line of the Qc2 variation of the Nimzo involves capturing the pawn here with 5.dxc5. The Thais, however, tend to go their own way in the opening, which is perhaps not unrelated to the fact that the original Thai chess is played without queens. Thus they put their faith in the endgame, and the secret when facing them

(as Watson seems to have discovered) is to prevent the game from progressing that far.

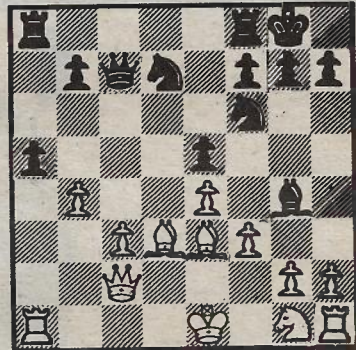
5. ...	0-0
6. Nf3	d5
7. a3	cxd4
8. axb4	dxc3
9. bxc3	dxc4
10. Bxc4	Qc7
11. Bd3	e5
12. e4	Bg4
13. Ng1	

Further original opening play by the Thai, though it shouldn't be disastrous if he follows up with 14.f3 immediately.

13. ...	Nbd7
14. Be3?!	a5
15. f3?	

Too late — Watson just ignores his attacked bishop to penetrate forcefully on the a-file.

WATSON



SA-NGADSUP

15. ...	axb4!
16. Rxa8	Rxa8
17. fxg4	Ra1 ch
18. Ke2	Nxg4
19. Bc1	

One point of the sacrifice is revealed after 19.cxb4 Qxc2 ch! 20.Bxc2 Ra2 21.Kd2 Nxe3.

19. ...	Qb6
20. Kf3	

If 20.Nh3 (to prevent 20...Qf2 ch) the advance of Black's b-pawn with 20...b3 and 21...b2 is very strong.

20. ...	b3
21. Qd2	Ra2
22. Qe1	Nf2

This knight fork wins Black back his material, and the end (as opposed to endgame) is near.

23. Ne2	Nxd3
24. Qh4	Nxc1
25. Rxc1	b2
26. Rb1	Ra1
27. Qe1	Qa5
28. Qd1	Rxb1
29. Qxd7	

Or 29.Qxb1 Qa1 and the b-pawn promotes.

29. ...	Rf1 ch
30. Kg4	g6
31. Resigns	

MURRAY CHANDLER

ALGEBRAIC NOTATION

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1