

# Long moves

IN THIS ERA of global communications it is only natural that the number of chess matches and tournaments being played via space-age transmission systems is on the increase. One such contest currently in progress is the World Telex Olympiad in which the favourites, the USSR, now seem likely to qualify for the final.

Their recent semi-final match with England proved a close affair. Neither side was at full strength, though on paper the all-grandmaster Soviet squad of Balashov, Psakhis, Yusupov, Tukmakov, Romanishin, Kupreichik, Sveshnikov and Vasyukov clearly out-ranked the England line-up comprising Miles, Speelman, Keene, Mestel, myself, Short, Littlewood and Taulbut. But after nine hours' play — when unfinished games are halted for adjudication — the match remains in doubt. Everything hinges on Mestel's position against Tukmakov where the former is two pawns up, but in an opposite-coloured bishop endgame — of the sort notorious for its drawing possibilities. If the Soviets hold the game they squeeze through by 4½ points to 3½.

This match marked my own debut for England. Since leaving for Europe in 1976 to turn professional, I have been proud to represent New Zealand in the many contests I have played around the world. This has sometimes been difficult, however, because New Zealand is not an especially active country in international chess. The Olympiads every two years and Zonals every three years are the only official competitions we are regularly represented in, sharply contrasting with the busy calendar of a country in Europe.

It was a personal set-back in February that forced my hand, when I missed the important Asian Zonal in Hong Kong because of illness. I then decided, not without misgivings, that it was imperative to participate fully in the bustling Europe scene if I was to succeed in my quest to become New Zealand's first grandmaster.

The Soviets, it seemed, had other ideas. Just a couple of days before the telex match started they protested that I was ineligible! Despite this being total nonsense (the requirements are that a player must not have represented another country in an official event within the past year), the East German arbiter upheld their claim. The British Chess Federation ended up having to request Fide to intervene.

I did however gain a little subsequent satisfaction from the following game against Oleg Romanishin.

M. CHANDLER		O. ROMANISHIN	
1. e4		e5	
2. Nf3			
3. Bb5		a6	
4. Ba4		Nf6	
5. O-O		Be7	
6. Re1		d6	
7. Bxc6 ch		bxc6	
8. d4		exd4	

9. Nxd4 Bd7

10. Qf3!?

*White can simply develop, by 10.Nc3 and 11.Bf4, but I liked the versatility of this queen move.*

10. ... O-O  
11. Nc3 Rb8  
12. b3 Re8  
13. h3!

*A waiting move before committing the queen's bishop to g5, f4, b2 or even a3.*

13. ... Bf8  
14. Bg5 h6  
15. Bh4

15. Bxf6 Qxf6 16. Qxf6 gxf6 wrecks Black's pawns but his bishops could become useful in the resulting end game. Also I surmise that Romanishin would take the risk of breaking the pin on his knight at the cost of kingside weaknesses.

15. ... g5!?  
16. Bg3 Bg7  
17. e5  
18. Nxd5 dxex5!

*Clever defensive play. White has two minor pieces attacked and 19.Nxc6 Bxc6 20.Rad1 Qd6! gets nowhere.*

19. Nxc7! Qxc7  
20. Nf5 Bxf5  
21. Qxf5 Rbd8?!

*It was necessary to challenge for control of f5 by 21... Qc8! 22.Qxc8 Rbxc8 23.Rad1 f5. Then after 24.f3 White stands only slightly-better.*

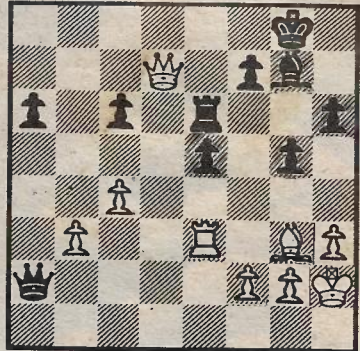
22. Rad1 Qa5  
23. Kh2 Rd5

*On 23... Rxd1 24. Rxd1 Qxa2 25.Rd7 White's rook on the seventh rank more than compensates for the sacrificed pawn.*

24. c4 Rd2  
25. Rxd2 Qxd2  
26. Re3! Qxa2?

*This pawn grab turns out to be fatal. It was Black's last chance to challenge for f5 by 26... Qd6! 27.Rd3 Qe6.*

27. Qd7 Re6



28. Qd8 chl

*When decentralising his queen two moves ago, Romanishin probably considered only 28.Rf3 when 28... Bf6! 29.Rxf6 Rxf6 30.Qd8 ch Kg7 31.Bxe5 Qxf2! defends.*

28. ... Kh7  
29. Rf3 Rg6

*Once the f-pawn goes Black's position crumbles, but 29... f6 30.Qd7 traps the rook and 29... Kg6 30.Qg8! Re7 31. Bxe5 Rxe5 32.Rxf7 is also decisive.*

30. Rxf7 g4

*A last-ditch attempt at counter-attack. 30... Qe2 is dealt with by 31.Qe7 Kg8 32.Qe8 ch Kh7 33.Bxe5 with 34.Qe7 to follow.*

31. Bxe5 gxh3  
32. Qd3 Resigns

*Black's rook is pinned and 33.Rxg7 ch cannot reasonably be prevented.*

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