

Fixed in Hong Kong

THIS YEAR'S Asian Cities tournament, staged in Hong Kong, has been marred by allegations of corruption. Commonwealth champion Ian Rogers has confirmed eye-witness reports with an article in the newspaper *Players Chess News* where he states flatly that "three of the top four teams reached their positions through cheating". Apparently the situation was so bad that the prize-giving ceremony was boycotted by Fide (World Chess Federation) President Florencio Campomanes, and a tournament in China has been cancelled.

After six rounds the four leading teams were Surabaya (Indonesia) and Chengdu (China) each with 16½, and Melbourne and Daveo City (Philippines) with 16 points. Rogers wrote: "In round seven, Surabaya and Melbourne defeated Daveo and Chengdu respectively, but were caught by Peking after the Chinese won a ridiculous match against their countrymen Hangzhou, 4-0. In protest it was soon known that Jakarta would rig their match against Medan in round 8. Thus Jakarta moved into contention. Meanwhile the Peking team was playing a short little match against Chengdu, 4-0 of course. Surabaya somehow kept in the race by beating Sydney, and Melbourne dropped out of contention by losing to Daveo."

In the final round Surabaya lost to Jakarta 3½-½ and, to the disappointment of many teams, Peking beat Daveo easily to take the hollow title of Asian Cities champion. The final scores were: Peking 26 points, Jakarta 24, Surabaya 23, Manila and Hangzhou 22½, Melbourne 22 and Daveo City 21½, etc. This whole disturbing episode must have been deeply distressing to the organisers and sponsors, but unfortunately Asia has a bit of a reputation for such activity. I once played a critical game in Indonesia which I needed to win to remain in first place. I failed, and afterwards heard that my opponent felt insulted because I had not offered to make a "deal" with him. Apparently the only reason he could imagine for not doing so was that I thought he was such a weak player I would surely win anyway!

Considering their strength, the whole Melbourne squad in Hong Kong, not only Rogers, must have been disappointed about their finish in sixth place. Their top board, Darryl Johansen, scored seven points from nine games on board one — a total which included several sacrificial brilliancies. This game, against a Chinese player, illustrates the attacking violence the 23-year-old up-and-coming Australian star is capable of.

LARSEN/NIMZOWITSCH OPENING

D. JOHANSEN	W. ZHANG
1. b3	e5
2. Bb2	Nc6
3. c4	g6

4. Nf3	Bg7
5. e3	Nge7
6. a3	d6
7. Qc2	0-0
8. d3	h6
9. Nc3	Be6
10. Be2	g5?

This aggressive gesture on the kingside must be premature as White still has the option of castling queenside. Black only weakens his own king position.

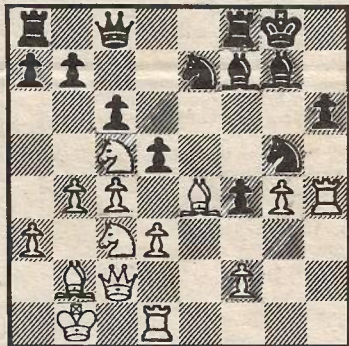
11. Nd2	Qd7
12. b4	f5
13. Bf3	Nd8
14. Nb3	c6
15. 0-0-0	

So Johansen does castle queenside, signifying he intends to break open the kingside. In theory Zhang could try a similar policy on the queen's wing, but his pieces are not very well positioned to achieve this.

15. ...	Bf7
16. Kb1	Ne6
17. g4!	f4
18. h4	g×h4
19. Be4	Ng5?

Trying for counterplay with 19...d5 was still not clear.

20. e×f4	e×f4
21. R×h4	d5
22. Nc5	Qc8



23. Nb5!

After this devastating thrust, putting a second White piece en prise, the Black kingside crumbles like the Manchu dynasty. Now 23...d×e4 24.B×g7 K×g7 25.Qc3 ch Kh7 allows the elegant finish 26.R×h6 ch K×h6 28.Qf6 ch followed by Rh1 ch mating in all variations.

23. ...	c×b5
24. B×g7	d×e4
25. Qc3	

Although a knight down, White just has too many threats.

25. ...	Qc6
26. B×h6	Qg6
27. B×g5	Resigns

Mate on the h8 square cannot reasonably be prevented.

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.