

# A rewarding occupation

IN TIMES PAST it was not uncommon for chess masters to exist in poverty — one famous example being ex-world champion Wilhelm Steinitz, who died a pauper in 1900. Fortunately this state of affairs was revolutionised in the 1970s by the advent of the much-publicised Fischer-Spassky world title match. In this current decade we are seeing signs of a further progression that would give Steinitz heart failure were he alive today — tournaments with prize funds of \$US100,000 or more.

I played in one such tournament last year in Indonesia, a mammoth all-play-all of 26 players. Apart from the massive prize fund, we were also hosted in quite remarkable luxury during the latter half of the contest, staged in Bali. It is to be regretted that Indonesia have now cancelled their option to stage the 1984 World Chess Olympiad — presumably the National Chess Federation did not gain the all-important government backing on this venture. When I spoke to members of the Indonesian delegation at the Lucerne Olympiad, however, plans for a 30-player all-play-all for this year were still being hinted at!

One recent event which took place without any government assistance, however, was the 1983 New York Open. Poor old Steinitz, who is buried in that city's Evergreen cemetery, may have got there in spirit to watch the four-day Swiss-system contest, which was divided into six sections according to playing strength. The \$US100,000 prize fund was underwritten by chess organiser Jose Cuchi through his jewellery firm Herildica Imports. Cuchi was satisfied with the entry of 1002 players — at \$100 entry fee apiece they covered the prizefund — and plans to make it an annual event.

Among the participants lured by the big money were 13 grandmasters, 25 international masters, former world backgammon champion Paul Magriel and actor William Wyndham, who played Commander Decker in *Star Trek*. The Open tournament resulted in a five-way tie with 6½/8 among GM Tony Miles (England), GMs Alburt and Browne, IM Kudrin (all USA), and IM Kamran, Shirazi (Iran). Shirazi, who now lives in Los Angeles, will be remembered by some readers as a participant in the Wellington GM tournament back in 1978. He and his co-winners collected \$3930 apiece from the tie.

Here is an unusual game from the fourth round of the New York Open.

White goes out of his way to pinch a pawn — then gives two back and wins.

## ENGLISH OPENING

<b>I. IVANOV</b> (Canada)	<b>M. ROHDE</b> (USA)
1. c4	Nf6
2. Nc3	d5
3. cxd5	Nxd5
4. Nf3	g6
5. Qa4 ch?	

An interesting queen check which interferes with Black's development. The point is that 5...c6 is met by 6.Qd4 when Black must concede the right to castle after either 6...Rg8 or 6...Nf6 7.Qxd8 ch.

5. ... **Bd7**  
6. Qh4 **Nf6?**

Better is 6...Bc6.

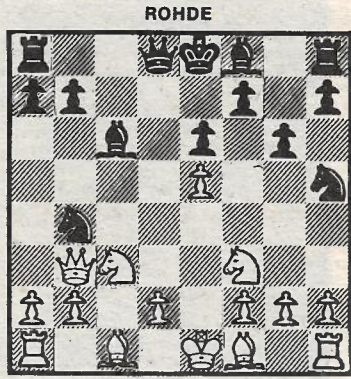
7. e4 **c5**

To stop White building a large centre with d4.

8. e5 **Nh5**  
9. Qc4! **Nc6**

Rohde sacrifices the c-pawn, as on 9...b6 or 9...Qb6 White has 10.Ng5 forcing 10...e6. Black's dark squares would then be critically weak after a later Ne4 by Ivanov.

10. Qxc5 **e6**  
11. Qc4 **Nb4**  
12. Qb3 **Bc6**



ROHDE

IVANOV

Six of White's first 12 moves have been with his queen and Rohde was happy with his position. But Ivanov's strong point is dealing with unusual middlegame positions, and with a double pawn sacrifice he opens the game.

13. d4! **Bxf3**  
14. gxf3 **Qxd4**  
15. a3! **Qxe5 ch**  
16. Be3 **Bc5**

Rohde abandons the knight for two pawns and a few checks as 16...Nd5 or 16...Nc6 allow 17.Qxb7 with Bb5 to follow.

17. axb4 **Bxe3**  
18. fxex3 **Qxe3 ch**  
19. Be2 **Nf4**  
20. Qc4 **0-0**  
21. Qe4 **Ng2 ch**  
22. Kf1 **Qxe4**  
23. fxe4

There are no extraordinary characteristics in the position and White has an elementary technical win in the endgame.

23. ... **Ne3 ch**  
24. Kf2 **Nc2**  
25. Ra4 **a6**  
26. Rc1 **Nd4**

If 26...b5 27.Bxb5 axb5 28.Rxa8 Rxa8 29.Rxc2.

27. b5 **Nb3**  
28. Rd1 **axb5**  
29. Rb4 **Nc5**  
30. Rxb5 **Rac8**  
31. Ke3 **Kg7**  
32. e5 **Resigns**

There is no doubt about the eventual outcome. Ivanov will put his bishop on f3 next, and use the power of his extra piece to win the b7 pawn.

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