The new Lone Pine

ALTHOUGH Lone Pine, the famous big-money Californian tournament, has been discontinued following the death of its benefactor Louis Statham, other Swiss-system events have filled the void. The one following the original Lone Pine format the closest is probably the OHRA tournament in Holland, now in its second year. Unlike events such as Lugano (won this year by American Yasser Seirawan) which contains 200 or more competitors, OHRA is strictly limited to 32 highly-rated players. The first prize of 10,000 guilders ($5200) lags behind Lone Pine's considerable dollar rewards, but the event does have the geographical advantage of being in Europe, where the bulk of the world's chess masters are based.

The top seeds in this year's OHRA were Grandmasters Jan Timman, the home favourite, Seirawan, Vlastimil Hort from Czechoslovakia (last year's joint winner with Nigel Short) and Gyula Sax from Hungary. At the end of the first half of the tournament staged in Arnhem (site of the "bridge too far" in the film of that name) Sax led with 4½ points from five games, chased by myself, West Germany's Eric Lobron and 18-year-old Short from England. The next few rounds in Amsterdam saw a series of cautious draws among the leaders, but then the Dutch international master Paul van der Sterren caused havoc by breaking through with wins over Short and Sax. It was a cliffhanger of a final round where the victor of the game between myself and van der Sterren stood to gain at least first equal — plus a grandmaster result. Sax, aware of the improbability of a draw in this encounter, fought well to defeat Ree while I was fortunate to win a tense struggle in my own game.

Final leading scores were: 1-2 Chandler and Sax 8 points from 11 games; 3-4 Timman and Hort 7½; 4-5, Short and van der Sterren 7; 7 Kuijf (Holland) 6½; 8-12 Henley (USA), van der Wiel and Ree (both Holland), Seirawan and Lobron 6. Congratulations to young Nigel Short, who also made a GM result due to the strong field he met. My GM result was the final leg of my eight-year quest to become New Zealand's first ever Grandmaster, a subject on which I shall elaborate next week.

Meanwhile, here is my pick for the game of the tournament, between Seirawan and Lobron. Eric's favourite defence to the Queen's Pawn is becoming so well known that in Holland we dubbed it the Lobroni defence (formerly the Benoni defence). For this brilliant win, however, Lobron switches to the Tarrasch defence which received a new lease of life with Kasparov's adoption of it against Belyavsky in their world championship candidates match.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT

Y. SEIRAWAN   E. LOBRON

1. Nf3	e6
2. c4	c5
3. Nc3	Nc6
4. g3	d5
5. c×d5	e×d5

The main line of the Tarrasch, named after its dogmatic 19th-century inventor Siegbert Tarrasch, who claimed it was the only correct defence against 1.d4.

6. d4	Nf6
7. Bg2	Be7
8. 0-0	0-0
9. Bg5	c×d4
10. N×d4	h6
11. B×f6	

An original Seirawan idea; normal is 11.Be3.

11. ...	B×f6
12. Nb3	Bg4!?

A typical Lobron response, offering a speculative pawn sacrifice in return for fast development. Instead 12...d4 13.Ne4 is slightly better for White, and 12...Be6!? 13.Rc1 Rc8 14.Nc5 Qe7! 15.Nd3! also gave a small edge in Seirawan-Chandler earlier in the tournament.

13. B×d5	B×c3
14. b×c3	Qf6

Not 14...B×e2 15.B×f7 ch R×f7 16.Q×e2 and Black has insufficient compensation for his pawn.

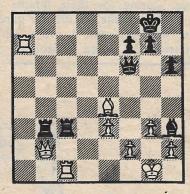|	
15. Qc2	Rac8
16. Qb2!?	Nb4
17. B×b7	R×c3

With a threat of ...R×g3 ch and then ...Q×b2.

18. e3	Rb8
19. Be4	Bh3
20. Rfc1	N×a2!
21. R×a2??	

Intent on his own queen offer combination, Seirawan misses a tremendous Black resource. Instead 21.Q×a2 Rc×b3 22.Q×a7 Rb2 23.Rc2 Rb1 ch 24.Rc1 R1b2 would lead to a draw by repetition.

21. ...	Rb×b3
22. R×a7	

As on 22...R×b2?? White back-rank mates with 23.Ra8 ch etc. I was watching the game at this point, when Sax walked past the board giving it just a glance. I asked him if he had seen the killer in the position and he said "Yes, 22...Q×f2 ch!" Lobron, who admitted his original intention had been the defensive 22...g6, eventually found the sacrifice of the tournament.

22. ...	Q×f2 ch!!

Devastating — 23.Q×f2 R×c1 ch, or 23.Kh1 Bg2 ch 24.B×g2 R×b2 and 23...Q×b2 24.Ra8 ch Rb8 both win.

23. K×f2	R×b2 ch
24. Kf3	R×c1
25. Resigns	

MURRAY CHANDLER