

MURRAY CHANDLER

# Cold wars

"IN THE OLDEN days we used to kill people. Now we only do it over the chessboard." That was how the mayor opened his speech at this year's Reykjavik International, and as if to confirm his words several of the young Icelandic players immediately took to the field like Vikings. The fact that the 60-player competition included 13 Grandmasters (many from the US and the USSR) was apparently overlooked by locals Helgi Olafsson and Johann Hjartarson. They sensationally tied for first with American veteran Sammy Reshevsky, with both Icelanders making grandmaster "norms" as well. For 21-year-old Hjartarson, not even a Master yet, it was the second such result in two tournaments and he only needs one more "norm" to qualify as a Grandmaster.

These were by no means the only Icelandic successes either; another 21-year-old, Karl Thorsteins, played very tough opposition and scored a creditable 6½ points from 11 games. As the tournament proceeded one could sense the foreign participants staring out at the desolate, snow-covered wastes visible from the Hotel Loftleider thinking, "Where has all this talent sprung from?" But of course the answer is obvious. This tiny nation of only 230,000 people (which hadn't even suffered a bank robbery till this year) has been completely chess-mad since the world championship match held in 1972 in Reykjavik. There the American Bobby Fischer controversially snatched Russian Boris Spassky's crown amid worldwide publicity, and now the seven-, eight- and nine-year-olds of those dramatic days have come of age.

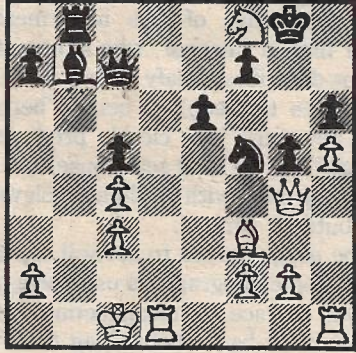
No one here in Reykjavik, the northernmost capital in the world, can forget 1972. The tournament hall was plastered with cartoons by Halldor Petursson depicting, in brilliantly humorous fashion, Fischer and Spassky locked in combat. Every day several hundred spectators came to watch this year's International, packing out the playing arena and two lecture theatres. Many more followed the games in newspapers or on television. If the same percentage of the New Zealand population had turned up at this year's New Zealand Championship in Auckland the organisers would have had to cater for 12,000 people. For the Icelanders, it seems, any chess gathering is an excuse to once again swap stories of "The Match". One extrovert character introduced himself as the police lieutenant who was Bobby's bodyguard at the time. "It changed my game completely," he told me.

Final leading scores of Reykjavik 1984 were: 1-3, H. Olafsson, Hjartarson and Reshevsky, 8 points; 4-6, Arnason and Petursson (both Iceland) and Schussler (Sweden) 7½; 7-12, Christiansen (USA), Chandler (New Zealand/England), Geller (USSR), Ree (Holland) and L. Schneider (Sweden) 7.

## QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED

H. REE	J. HJARTARSON
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	d5

- |           |      |
|-----------|------|
| 4. Bg5    | Be7  |
| 5. Nc3    | h6   |
| 6. Bh4    | O-O  |
| 7. Qc2    | b6   |
| 8. Bxf6   | Bxf6 |
| 9. e4     | Nc6  |
| 10. O-O-O | dxe4 |
| 11. Qxe4  | Bb7  |
| 12. h4    | Rb8  |
| 13. Bd3   | g6   |
| 14. Qg4   | Bg7  |
| 15. Be2   | Ne7  |
| 16. h5    | g5   |
| 17. Ne5   | Nf5  |
| 18. Bf3   | c5   |
| 19. dxc5  | Qc7  |
| 20. Nd7   | Bxc3 |
| 21. bxc3  | bxc5 |
| 22. Nxf8  |      |



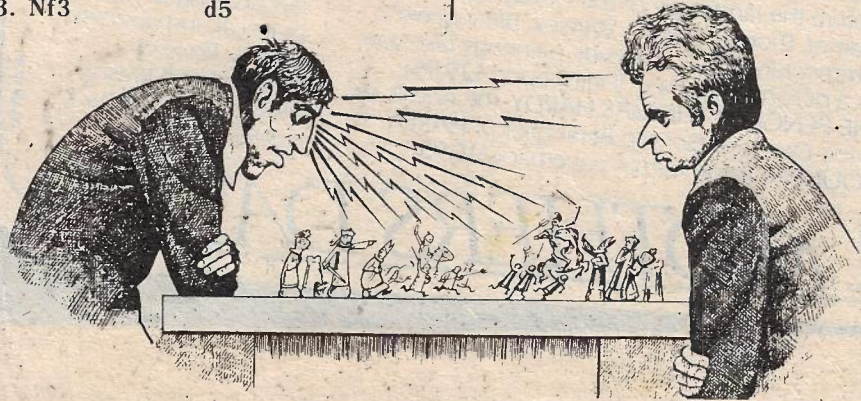
Ree takes the rook but Hjartarson is more interested in his queenside attack.

- |             |         |
|-------------|---------|
| 22. ...     | Qa5!    |
| 23. Kd2     | Nd4!    |
| 24. Ke1     | Nxf3 ch |
| 25. Kf1     | Qa4     |
| 26. Rd6     | f5      |
| 27. Resigns |         |

## Solutions to puzzle competition (March 3):

1. Bronstein-Geller, USSR Championship 1961. 1.Qg6! and Black resigned; 1... f×g6 2.R×g7 ch and next Ng6 checkmate.
- 1.Qh6! e5 (if 1... g×h6 2.g×h6 dis ch forces mate) 2.B×e5 d×e5 3.Q×c6 winning Black's queen.
- 1.Nf4 Qh4 (1... B×f4 2.Qd4 ch and mates on the diagonal) 2.Qd4 ch Qf6 (2... Bg7 3.Nfg6 ch h×g6 4.Q×h4 winning) 3.Q×f6 ch R×f6 4.N×h5 winning a piece. The game was Kasparov-Rogers, France 1976.
- A famous underpromotion problem; White can force mate only with 1.f8=N when the key defences are 1... Nc8 2.b×c8=N mate, 1... Ng8 2.h×g8=N mate. If the Black knights move to other squares the moves 2.c8=N or 2.g8=N checkmate. Composed by T. Salthouse, 1911.
- 1.0-0-0! (how many solvers forgot that possibility?) K×a7 2.Rd8 K×a6 3.Rd7 K×a5 4.Rd6 K×a4 5.Rd5 K×a3 6.Rd4 K×a2 7.Rd3 Ka1 8.Ra3 mate. The second solution is 1.Kd2! K×a7 2.Re1 K×a6 (2... Kb8 3.Re8 ch Ka7 4.Kc3 K×a6 5.Re7 K×a5 6.Re6 K×a4 7.Re5 K×a3 8.Ra5 mate) 3.Re7 K×a5 4.Re6 K×a4 5.Re5 K×a3 6.Kc3! K×a2 7.Re1 Ka3 8.Ra1 mate. Composed by W. A. Shrinkmann, 1887.

The prizewinners were Leonard McLaren, Mark van der Hoorn, Paul Cooper. Consolation prizes to Tony Boswell, J. J. Mulligan, Ralph Hart, Simon Fitzpatrick and Martin Dreyer.



Cartoon by Halldor Petursson