NZ LISTENER, February 25, 1984

Best buys

IN THE RARE moments of reflection that life permits, I sometimes toy with the idea of writing a "Good Tournament Guide". After all, many international events are annual affairs and soon acquire a reputation for good or indifferent standards of accommodation and playing conditions. A guide could be invaluable to help players choose which of their hard-won invitations to accept or decline. An Asian teams' championship in New Delhi, for example, is definitely out. If, on the other hand, you had received an invite to the First Lady Cup Tournament in Indonesia during last November and December, the Grandmaster Guide would tell you this event is traditionally a sumptuous holiday comprising of sunkissed beaches, coral reefs and beautiful women. The fact that an enormous 21 rounds against top masters will probably destroy your rating for a year becomes largely irrelevant.

The year I played, 1982, it was even worse — then it was a 26-player allplay-all; certainly the largest tournament in modern times. What made the most recent tournament unique, however, was the strength of the very best contenders. The field included 17 Grandmasters, five of whom (Timman, Portisch, Ljubojevic, Andersson and Romanishin) are ranked in the world top 20 in the latest rating list. Man of the marathon was Jan Timman from Holland, who scored 151/2 points to finish 1½ points clear of the field. Ronny Gunawan scored the greatest home success when he fulfilled his qualification for the title of International Master by a similar margin.

The final leading scores of this mighty event were: 1, Timman 15½; 2, Portisch (Hungary) 14; 3, Yusupov (USSR) 13½; 4-6, Andersson (Sweden), Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) and Seirawan (US) 13; 7, Romanishin (USSR) 12½; 8-9, Henley (US) and Torre (Philippines) 11½; 10-12, Adorjan (Hungary), Kurajica (Yugoslavia) and Gunawan (Indonesia) 11; 13-14, Wl. Schmidt (Poland) and Lobron (West Germany) 10½

In days gone by such huge tournaments were by no means uncommon. Ostende 1907 was a 29-player all-playall, while New York 1889 was a 20player double round event which holds two records that have never been surpassed - Chigorin's 27 wins and Mac-Leod's 31 losses! However, in that tournament there was a rule that if the players drew both games against one another, a third had to be played. Perhaps such a stipulation would come in useful for later Indonesian events to stir on some of the more peaceable middle-ranking Grandmasters. Bojan Kurajica (who has been known to turn up at the board in swimming trunks) had 16 draws from the 21 games while Hungarian Andreas Adorjan had 18.

The lure of Bali beach was clearly far from the minds of both contestants in the following clash, however. Both kings become exposed by reciprocal bishop sacrifices, and exactly who will

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be mated is in doubt till the very end.

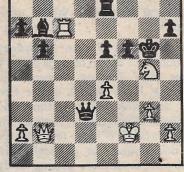
J. TARJAN LJUBOJEVIC 1. d4 **e6** 3. Nf3 **b6** 4. g3 5. b3 Ba6 Bb4ch 6. Bd2 Be7 7. Nc3 d5 8. c×d5 N×d5 N×c3 9. e4 10. B×c3 Bb7 11. Bb5 ch 12. Bd3 0-0 13. 0-0 Nd7 14. Qe2 **c5** 15. Rfd1 Qc7 16. Rac1 Rad8 17. d×c5 N×c5 18. B×q7!

A sacrifice a la Kasparov from his game with Portisch at Niksic. Here, however, American GM Tarjan weakens the black kingside at zero risk as he regains his piece by force.

18. . . . K×g7
19. b4 Rd7
20. b×c5 B×c5
21. Qb2 ch f6
22. Ng5 Re8
23. Bc4 R×d1 ch
24. R×d1 B×f2 chl

Now it is Black's turn to expose the white king with an amusing parallel "kamikaze" bishop offer. The move sparks off a series of remarkable complications.

25. K×f2 Q×c4 26. Rc1 Qd3 27. Rc7 ch Kg6!



28. N

Why not 28.N×h7? Black's reply seems forced, 28...e5 (White threatened Q×f6) and then White captures the remaining black bishop with 29.R×b7. Then 29...Rc8 fails to the incredible variation 30.Qe2!! Rc2 31.Nf8 ch Kg5 32.h4 ch Kh7 33. Rh7 checkmate. What did the brilliant Ljubojevic have planned? Probably 29...Q×e4! 30.Rc7 Rh8 and the trapped white knight falls!

28. ... B×e4* 29. Nh4 ch Kh5 30. Q×f6

The natural continuation, but after Black's 31st move White just seems to be lost. Perhaps 28.N×h7 (with a probable draw) was right after all.

30. . . . Qd2 ch 31. Kf1 Kg4!

To deprive the white king of the flight square h3 while seeking it as a haven himself should Tarjan check with Rg7. The unstoppable threat now is 32...Bd3 ch 33.Kg1 Qe1 ch 34.Kg2. Be4 ch 35.Nf3 (before Kh3 was possible) Qe2 ch 36.Kg1 Qe3 ch! and next 37...Q×f3.

32. Nf3 Bd3 ch 33. Kg1 Qe3 ch 34. Resigns

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