

A Delhi bellyful

BY NOW New Zealand national squads have become accustomed to varying standards of accommodation and playing conditions at foreign competitions — several widely different Olympiads recently have seen to that. By all accounts, however, the latest Asian Teams Championship in New Delhi has pioneered new lows. Living quarters provided were described as a "cesspit" and "appalling" by competitors, who were cosily dormed six to a room with a broken window. Returning New Zealand team members also spoke of distinctly unsanitary bathroom facilities and mosquitoes with a penchant for fair flesh. Most of the team acquired Delhi belly and/or other ailments. Although I have no desire to undermine diplomatic relations with India, I can safely say I have never experienced anything as unbecoming an international event in eight years of professional play.

Fortunately, or otherwise, the championship went on, with 10 countries competing for the Tun Abdul Razak trophy — a legacy from Malaysia 1974 when the event was immaculately hosted in Penang. The result this time was a warning of things to come, with China pushing the Philippines into second place, thus ending the latter's traditional domination of this competition. On their way to victory China actually lost one disastrous four-board match 2½-1½ to Pakistan, but scored more highly against other teams than the Philippines. New Zealand, by no means at full strength, finished sixth but we made our mark with several outstanding individual performances. Christchurch's Michael Freeman took the board six gold medal with four points from six games, and excellent scores of 4½/6 gave Wellington's Anthony Ker (board five) and Auckland's Michael Hopewell (board three) silver and bronze respectively.

Given the living standards, it is no surprise that others in the team did not show their full potential, but Mark Noble will have gained valuable experience and Bernard Carpinter fulfilled a difficult task as player/captain. Our top board in New Delhi, Jonathan Sarfati, had his moment of glory in the last round when he drew with Grandmaster and recent world championship candidate Eugene Torre, thus breaking the top Filipino's streak of eight wins in succession. New Zealand success stories continue in this week's game from India, where Michael Freeman comprehensively outplays his opponent from Bahrain.

PHILIDOR'S DEFENCE

M. FREEMAN	S. DHAIF
1. e4	e5
2. Nf3	d6
3. Bc4	Bg4
4. Nc3	Nf6
5. 0-0	Be7
6. h3	Bh5
7. Re1	Nc6

8. Be2 0-0
9. Nxe5! Nd4?

If 9. ... dxe5 simply 10. Bxh5, but Black should have tried 9. ... Bxe2 10. Nxc6! Bxd1 11. Nxd8 Bxc2 12. Nxb7 a5!. Then, in order to extricate his knight on b7, White must go in for the unclear 13. e5 dxc5 14. Rxe5.

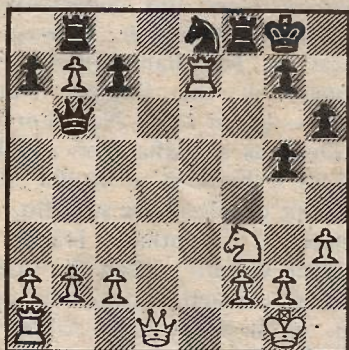
10. Bxh5 Nxh5
11. Nf3 Nc6
12. d4 Nf6
13. Bf4 Ne8
14. Nd5 Bf6
15. Nxh6 ch Qxh6
16. Bg5 Qg6
17. d5

Although a clear pawn ahead, Freeman does not relax but correctly continues to apply the pressure.

17. ... f6
18. dxc6 fxg5
19. cxb7 Rb8
20. e5 dxe5
21. Rxe5 h6
22. Re7

In seventh heaven is how a rook usually feels on penetrating to the seventh rank. White begins his direct mating attack.

22. ... Qb6



23. Qd7 Qxb7
24. Rae1 Qc8
25. Ne5! Qd8
26. Qe6 ch Kh7
27. Qg6 ch Kg8
28. Nc6 Qc8
29. Rxg7 ch Resigns

On 29 ... Nxg7 White could choose between winning the Black queen with 30. Ne7 ch and mating with 30. Re7.

If one thing was apparent from our latest competition (November 12) it was that it wasn't hard enough for the dedicated Kiwi solver. From over 30 correct solutions, the names Paul Gabbett, Stephen Coates and Eric Bottomley were drawn from a hat. These three will receive their copies of Pergamon's *Tournament Chess* (volume 9), valued at around \$30. However, as a consolation to those who sent in correct entries but missed out, a copy each is available at \$20 from New Zealand Chess Supplies, PO Box 42-090, Homedale, Wainuiomata if you wish to claim it.

Solutions were: (1) Glienke-Balashov, Hanover 1938. 1. ... Nxe3 ch 2. Resigns, as 2. fxex3 Qg3 ch forces mate. (2) 1. e8=B and 1. ... Ke6 2. Bc4 mate or 1. ... Ke4 2. Bec6 mate. Composed by Sam Lloyd. (3) 1. ... Rdg5 2. Qxb5 f5 3. Qe2 checkmate. Composed by T. R. Dawson.

MURRAY CHANDLER