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CHESS

1990s challenge?

by Murray Chandler

HE NEW ZEALAND men's team in Dubai scored its best Olympiad performance by finishing in 31st-38th equal position out of 108 countries. This placing, and the overall tally of 30 game points, compares with Lucerne 1982 (28 points) and Thessaloniki 1984 (29 points). While a gain of two points over a 14-round, four-board competition may seem modest, it represents four extra wins (assuming the usual result is a draw). This time the USSR took gold with only 40 points so at this rate we can expect to be challenging for medals in the 1990s! A dream? Small countries can do it: Iceland (population 230,000) finished fifth this time.

One advantage that the national sixman squad had was the relative evenness of strength of the players. This can be most helpful under Swiss-system pairings, as good results by only one or two individuals have limited value if the rest of the team gets crushed.

Especially noteworthy were the four hard-fought draws against 22nd seeds Finland in the last round, while the two members who rested that match — wily veteran Ortvin Sarapu and youthful Tony Love — notched up the best percentage scores

Once again both our men and women had to find the bulk of the air fares themselves, although on arrival it became known that the Dubai government had actually paid the travel costs of many struggling countries.

The women's Olympiad, also won by the Soviets, was as usual contested over only three boards. Some missing top players and an unavoidable late withdrawal meant that New Zealand played without a reserve. We finished in 39th-43rd equal position out of 49 countries, with individual results being Vivian Smith 7½/14, Jackie Sievey 8/14 and Elaine Tweddell 4/14.

Although the Arab Emirates in November were not as baking hot as perhaps expected, I am grateful I didn't have to play all 14 rounds. Exhaustion would be no excuse for the Japanese man on the wrong side of Paul Garbett in this round one game, however. Off the chessboard, former national champion Garbett is one of the pleasantest people around — but look as his move 32 in this game.

Keep this man away from your kingside.

SICILIAN DEFENCE
P GARBETT S SUGAYA
1. e4 c5

2.	Nf3	e6
3.	d4	c×d4
4.	N×d4	Nf6
5.	Nc3	d6
6.	g3	Be7
7.	Bg2	a6
8.	0-0	Qc7
9.	a4	Nc6
10.	Nb3	b6
11.	f4	Bb7
12.	Be3	0-0
13.	Qe2	Nb4
	Rfd1	d5?!
	e5	Nd7
	The second secon	

Black's break on move 14 was premature as the blocked centre encourages White to seek a kingside initiative.

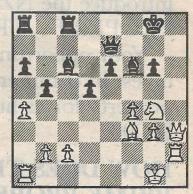
40	DIO		M F
16.	Bf2		Nc5
17.	Nd4		g6
18.	Rd2		Nc6
19.	h4	*	N×d4
20.	B×d4		Bc6
21.	h5		Rfc8
22.	Qg4		Bf8
23.	h×g6		h×g6
24.	Bf3		Bg7
25.	Qh3		Nd7
26.	Nd1!		

The knight heads for g4 to reinforce the attack. Black's counterplay has failed to materialise

mu	erunise.	
26.		Qd8
27.	Ne3	Qe7
28.	Rh2	b5
29.	Ng4	f5

White threatened 30. Qh7 ch Kf8 31. Nf6 $N\times f6$ 32. exf6 $B\times f6$ 33. Qh8 ch! $B\times h8$ 34. $R\times h8$ checkmate.

30.	e×f6 e p	N×16
31.	B×f6	B×f6



32. Qh7 ch!

A lovely tactical finesse. On 32.... Kf8 follows 33. Q×g6 B×b2 34. Ne5! B×e5 35. f×e5 Qg7 36. Q×e6 with a raging attack as 36.... Q×g3 ch loses to 37. Rg2 Q×f3 38. Rg8 mate. Sugaya commits hara-kiri instead.

32	Q×h7
33. N×f6 ch	Kg7
34. N×h7	b×a4
35. Ng5	Kf6 *
36. Re1	Resigns

NEW ZEALAND MEN, DUBAI OLYMPIAD 1986

123	Japan	Wales	Uruguay	Luxembourg	Switzerland	Nicaragua	Bolivia	Potand	Tunisia	Thailand	Sri Lanka	Singapore	Bangladesh	Finland	Played	Points	Percentage
O Sarapu	1	-		1	0	1/2	1	1/2		1/2	1	111	1/2	2_	8	5	62.5
V Small	_	1	1/2	-	1/2	1/2	-	0	1/2	-	1/2	0	1	1/2	10	5	50
P Garbett	1	1/2	0		0	_	1	0		1	1	0	100	1/2	9	4	44.4
R Smith	0	1/2		1	1/2	_	1	0	1/2	-	1/2	1/2	-	1/2	10	5	50
J Sarfati	_	0	0	1		1/2	1	-	0	1	1/2	_	1	1/2	10	51/2	55
T Love	1	_	1/2	1/2	_	1/2	1	-	1/2	0	-	1/2	1	_	9	51/2	61.1
Team total	3	2	1	31/2	1	2	4	1/2	11/2	21/2	21/2	1	31/2	2	56	30	53.57