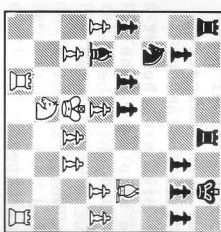


Rf8 19 Ra1 c51



20 Bf4 Ra8 21  
dxc5 Nd7 22 c6  
bxc6 23 Rh1 Nc5+

GAME FORTY-EIGHT

8 February

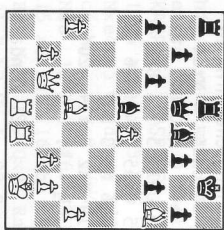
After the 47th game the organisers were forced to move the match to another venue after being 'evicted' from the Hall of Columns. The Champion's protests were ignored this time and the match moved to the Hotel Sport in an outer Moscow suburb. This transfer meant a delay in the resumption of the match which was further postponed when Karpov took a time-out.

When game 48 was finally played the long 'holiday' did not appear to have helped Karpov who was forced to shed a pawn in fending off a sacrificial attack by Kasparov who had no trouble winning the rook ending which eventuated.

KASPAROV - KARPOV, Petroff Defence:

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 Nxe5 d6 4 Nf3 Nxe4 5 d4 d5 6 Bd3 Nc6 7 0-0 Be7 8 c4 Nf6 9 Nc3 0-0 10 h3 dxc4 11 Bxc4 Na5 12 Bd3 Be6 13 Re1 Nc6 14 a3 a6 15 Bf4 Qd7 16 Ne5 Nxe5 17 dxe5 Nd5 18

Nxd5 Bxd5 19 Qc2 g6 20 Rad1 c6 21 Bh6 Rf4d8



22 e6! fxe6 23 Bxg6! Bf8 24 Bxf8 Rxf8 25 Be4 Rf7 26 Re3 Rg7 27 Rdd3 Rf8 28 Rg3 Kh8 29 Qc3 Rf7 30 Rde3 Kg8 31 Qe5! Qc7 32 Rxf7+ Rxf7 33 Bxd5 Qxe5 34 Bxe6+ Qxe6 35 Rxe6 Rd7

36 b4 Kf7 37 Re3 Rd1+ 38 Kh2 Rcl 39 g4 b5 40 f4 c5 41 bxc5 (S) Kxc5 42 Rd3 Ke7 43 Kg3 a5 44 Kf3 b4 45 axb4 axb4 46 Ke4 Rb5 47 Rb3 Rb8 48 Kd5 Kf6 49 Kc5 Re8 50 Rxb4 Re3 51 h4 Rh3 52 h5 Rh4 53 f5 Rh1 54 Kd5 Rd1+ 55 Rd4 Re1 56 Kd6 Re8 57 Kd7 Rg8 58 h6 Kf7 59 Rc4 Kf6 60 Re4 Kf7 61 Kd6 Kf6 62 Re6+ Kf7 63 Re7+ Kf6 64 Rg7 Rd8+ 65 Kc5 Rd5+ 66 Kc4 Rd4+ 67 Kc3, 1 - 0.

After this game the rumours started flying - a natural enough occurrence given the Soviet penchant for (at least as we see it) unnecessary secrecy. One report had Karpov's camp requesting FIDE to end the match and declare him the winner! Another suggests that Karpov's strong start in major events is due to a training regimen perhaps involving hypnotism which leads to an adverse reaction eventually.

Probably we shall never hear the whole story - and, if we do, can we be sure it is the right one? The new/old format in September should certainly be more exciting.

## 6th Asian Cities Tournament

by Robert Gibbons

The first day of March saw the Auckland chess team embarking on the long trip to Hong Kong where New Zealand was being represented for the second time in the Asian Cities tournament. Auckland had turned on some of its worst weather to see us off and there was the usual chaos at the check-in counter so it was with some relief that we were able to settle down in the aircraft and contemplate what lay ahead. The team consisted of Peter Goffin, Lindsay Cornford, Robert Gibbons (Captain) and that well known Auckland Michael Freeman. It was not what could be called the 'heavy

squad' but we were equipped with determination and, at least in Peter Goffin's case, unbounded optimism. The flight was not especially thrilling with eating, drinking and playing awful lightning chess being the order of the day; the in-flight movie was only suitable for captive audiences.

Much to my surprise the arrangements made for meeting us at Hong Kong worked except for the fact that we had to wait a while as our guides had lost their bus! A small piece of chess magic solved this problem; Lindsay set up the chess-board for a quick game of lightning and

naturally the bus appeared as soon as the clock was started. We were billeted initially at the YMCA and later transferred to the YMCA. Each place was relatively comfortable and there seemed to be no sexual distinction but the latter was more convenient as all the meals were served there.

At the Captains' meeting on March 2nd I was appalled to discover the average ratings of our opposition until I found that we were rated at 2205 and seeded just above the middle. After a superb banquet we settled down to play round one. Our opponents were a young team from Sharjah (UAE) and, while we won 4-0, they played quite creditably. In my game, while I was trying to remember the Arabic for "I resign," my opponent gave me his queen instead of stealing mine.

In round 2 we ran into the Chinese number two team Taiyuan. Freeman, Cornford and Gibbons succumbed after varying degrees of resistance but Goffin put some 'scrute' into his inscrutable opponent by unleashing a 'Poison Pawn Pirc' and demolishing him in 23 moves! His only loss in the tournament.

We were outgunned by Qezon City 1-3 in round three. Lindsay and Peter drew, Goffin being a pawn up but going astray in the ending. Michael and I were playing our third games with black which was our excuse. Jakarta caused a stir by beating Shanghai 2½-1½ to share top place with the latter. The Shanghai team was the same group of five who won the event last year.

Round four saw us playing Raffles City (Singapore 2). They proved to be one of the most friendly and engaging teams present and we had many lightning encounters with them. Lindsay and I had a 'transfer' battle with their boards 2 and 5 (Suan Shian Quek & Dennis Tan), winning all games until they suggested playing for money/press-ups. My arms hurt for days. We won the real match 2½-1½ with Cornford winning and the rest of us drawing.

In the fifth round we demolished Bangkok 3-1. We drew on boards 2 and 3, Goffin struck with a swindle on board 4 and Freeman, playing the white side of a Benoni, had a game of fluctuating fortunes before his opponent made him a present of a rook. The two Chinese teams played each other to a 2-2 draw though there seemed to be some hard fighting in

all four games. Madras had a fine result when they beat Jakarta 3-1. These results left Taiyuan in sole lead with 16 points, half a point clear of Shanghai.

Round six was our low point. The Singapore number one team took revenge by beating us 3½-½ with only Freeman saving us from a washout. Jakarta struck back by beating Taiyuan 2½-1½. The Indonesian team was the only one to beat either Chinese team so completing the double was a fine effort. The standings now were: Shanghai 19, Taiyuan 17½, Metro Manila 16½, Jakarta 16½.

The seventh round brought us up against Dubai, another UAE team. Goffin effectively despatched another victim to stand on 5/7 and easily qualify for a FIDE rating of 2205; this earned him a congratulatory beer from the Adelaide team. I torpedoed my opponent with an anti-Benko line painfully taught to me by Bruce Anderson at a North Island Championship. Cornford drew on board 2 but Freeman ran into trouble on board 1 and found himself in a lost position after surviving a time scramble. Result: 2½-1½ to Auckland.

Round eight put us into bat against Adelaide (funny ... they look like a well-known Sydney mob!). The team captains arranged a tactical draw on board 2 and we settled down to slug it out on the other boards. The nasty part from my perspective was that the winner of this encounter was certain to get a 'heavy' in the last round, either Shanghai or Jakarta, so our best chance of a good final score lay in losing the match and getting either Penang or Tokyo in the final round. I looked hopefully at Goffin's board but, alas, Sponger had struck again! Not wishing to be the sacrificial goat myself, I ceased grovelling about in my lost position, fired my rooks into the enemy, and grabbed another point. Meanwhile Freeman gained another nice position but went astray, hence 2½-1½ to us. Shanghai defeated Kuwait and disappeared into the distance (26½) while Taiyuan took Sydney 3-1 to get to 24½. Jakarta and Metro Manila had a 2-2 draw to reach 22½ and 18½ respectively.

The last round ... Jakarta! The objective of the team had been to reach at least 50% and here we were needing one more point and up against a monster. Furthermore Cornford and I both needed