

12½, 25 Ahmadi 11, 26 Medan 9½.

Notes to the following game are by Peter Goffin.

P.B.GOFFIN - HUANG ZENGYUAN
(Auckland) (Taiyuan)

Pirc Defence, Byrne Variation

1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Bg5

As I occasionally play the Pirc myself I sat and thought at this point about the line I disliked the most when playing black. So, I played the Byrne variation.

4...Bg7 5 f4 c6 6 Be2 Qb6

This move, curiously enough, is suggested in Botterill and Keene's book on the Pirc. It surprises me that such a rotten move can be suggested as a serious possibility in a Batsford opening tome. 6...Nbd7 followed by ...h6 or ...0-0 seems better.

7 Qd2 Qxb2

Ho, ho I thought, you will be sorry you took that fellow.

8 Rb1 Qa3 9 Nf3 h6 10 Bh4 Qa5

I am not sure why he played this.

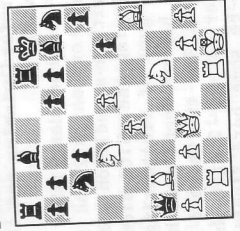
Maybe he was hoping to get in ...e5 after ...Nbd7. The other possibility is that he was worried about his queen being shut out of the game. I think his best shot here is 10...Nbd7 when play might go 11 0-0 e5 12 fxe5 dxe5 13 Nxe5 0-0 14 Nxd7 Nxd7 15 e5 and, although Black is going to do a bit of groveling, he is still alive.

11 0-0 Nbd7 12 e5 dxe5 13 fxe5 Nh7
14 Bc4 Nb6 15 Bb3 Qa3

Black wants to castle now and this protects his e-pawn. The alternative 15 ...g5 is unsavoury due to 16 Nxc5 and 15...e6 is suicidal because of 16 Ne4!

16 Ne4 0-0 17 Nc5 g5

Now Black thinks this is okay.



at least half a point for rating norms. As usual Goffin was confident we could take them 4-0 but, for the rest of us, the pre-match lunch was funereal as well as brown and liquid. We lost 1-3 (yippee!) with Goffin losing a good game to Tobing and Freeman being slowly outplayed by Ardiansyah. Cornford and I defended grimly for a draws against Handoko and Mahmud - a particularly good result for Lindsay as Handoko scored 8/9.

Thus it ended. We finished 9th out of 26 teams on tie-break. This was an excellent result and would have been even better if a somewhat dispirited Adelaide team hadn't allowed Tokyo to leap ahead of us with a 3-1 win.

Having three players qualify for a 2205 FIDE rating was another bonus which we had not expected to achieve.

Peter Goffin played extremely well on board four to finish with 6/9. Lindsay Cornford's 4½/9 on 2nd board was well earned, his only losses being to IMs. Michael Freeman (board 1) played valiantly against a strong field and his score of 3/9 was very satisfactory in that light. My own 4½/9 was due to the hard work of some friendly gremlins.

The trip as a whole was a great success. All the players had a thoroughly enjoyable time and, thanks to the efforts of the Kong Kong Chess Federation and the generous sponsorship by the Hong Kong Bank Foundation, we were able to live comfortably, drink (in moderation chaps) and eat to excess while making and renewing friendships both at and away from the board. Even the Australians were found to be human and they endured our comments about their cricketing skills until we were abruptly forced to shut up ourselves.

It only remained for us to 'survive' yet another marvellous banquet before boarding the plane for the wearying trip back to Auckland. Guess what ... it was raining again.

The final scores: 1 Shanghai 30½, 2 Taiyuan 27, 3 Jakarta 25½, 4 Metro Manila 20½, 5 Madras 20, 6 Queenstown 19, 7 Tokyo 18½, 8 Penang 18½, 9 Auckland 18, 10 Bangkok 18, 11 Hyderabad 18, 12 Raffles City 18, 13 Quezon City 17½, 14 Hong Kong 17½, 15 Sydney 17½, 16 Kuala Lumpur 17½, 17 Adelaide 17, 18 Dubai 17, 19 Kuwait 16½, 20 Chiangmai 16½, 21 Kowloon 15½, 22 Quetta 15½, 23 Macau 15½, 24 Sharjah