

# Grandmasterful calculation

LAST YEAR I said that the reason World Champion Anatoly Karpov loses so few games is that he wins long, drawn-out endings rather than sharp tactical battles. Well, at Las Palmas he ripped into the field and produced some sparkling victories with fewer than 30 moves. And in one he really took the English Grand Master Tony Miles to the cleaners. Scores were: A. Karpov 13½/15 (draws with Larsen, Timman and Tal); B. Larsen 11; J.

Timman 10; W. Brown, M. Tal, R. Hernandez 9; A. Adorjan, R. Debarnot 8; A. Miles 7½; S. Tatai 6½; A. Pomar 6; Y. Bellon, F. Visier, A. Martin, C. Garcia 5½; S. Cabrera ½.

Las Palmas 1977.

## ENGLISH OPENING

S. Tatai (Italy) 1. Nf3  
A. Karpov (USSR) c5

2. c4 Nf6  
3. Nc3 d5  
4. cxd5 Nxd5  
5. g3 g6  
6. Bg2 Bg7  
7. Qa4 ch Nc6  
8. Ng5 e6  
9. Nge4 Nb6!  
10. Qb5 c4  
11. Na4 0-0  
12. Nxb6 axb6  
13. Qxc4 e5!

When first playing through

this game I felt Karpov's pawn sacrifice was a bit enterprising but 13... e5! surprised me. Karpov's plan is to release his queen's bishop for action and to drive a pawn wedge into White's position. His tactical justification for temporarily blocking his fianchettoed black-squared bishop being in the line 14,0-0 Be6 15.Qc2 Nd4 which gives him a big advantage.

14. Qc2 Nd4  
15. Qb1 f5

16. Nc3 e4  
17. d3 b5  
18. Be3

On 18.dxe4 b4 19.Nd5 White gets wrapped up by 19... b3 20.Ne3 Be6 21.a3 f4! 22.gxf4 Rxf4, with the idea of 23... Qh4

18. . . . b4  
19. Nd1 Re8  
20. dxe4 fxe4  
21. Bxd4 Qxd4  
22. a3 Bg4  
23. Qc2

SOLUTION: "The threat is stronger than its execution" so the saying goes, and here I simply retreated my queen along the diagonal with 1... Qg8. Abbot cannot touch the rook (2.NxT7 Nc3) dis ch wins the queen) and in addition to the discovery Black threatens 2... Qxd8, so White Resigned.

MURRAY CHANDLER



23. . . . Qd3!!

Grandmasterful calculation. Poor Tatai cannot even decline the queen reasonably; i.e. 24.Rc1 bxa3 or 24.Ne3 Qxc2 25.Nxc2 Bxb2 or 24.Qd2 Qxd2 ch 25. Kxd2 Rad8 ch 26.Kel when both 26... Rc8 and 26... Bf3! give Black the edge.

24. exd3 exd3 dis ch  
25. Kd2 Re2 ch!  
26. Kxd3 Rd8 ch  
27. Kc4

Of course Karpov had calculated the variation 27.Bd5 Rxd5 ch 28.Kc4 Rxc2 ch 29.Kxd5 Bf3 ch winning a piece. So Tatai's king is going to go walkabout.

27. . . . Rxc2 ch  
28. Kxb4 Rcd2!

Karpov's active rooks and bishops combine well together. Now White cannot move his knight because his b pawn will be left hanging, but his bishop on g2 is also precariously placed.

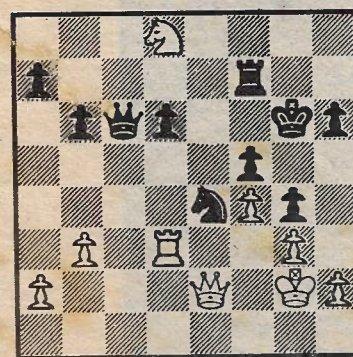
29. f3 Bf8 ch  
30. Ka5 Bd7!

Black has moved his attacked bishop. Now if White follows suit with 31.Bf1 or protects it with 31.Ne3 Karpov has simply 31... Bc5 with the unavoidable mate by ...Ra8 to follow.  
31. Resigns

\* \* \*

Position from S. Abbot v M. Chandler, Ilford '77. White has just played his knight from e6 to d8, forking my rook and queen. He thought he would recover his pawn minus with the line 1... Nc3 dis ch 2.Nxc6 Nxe2 3.Rxd6 ch. What basic idea did he overlook?

CHANDLER



ABBOT