

# Up and down Bent

AS CHESS GRANDMASTERS get older their playing strength tends to decline gradually. Not so, however, with the erratic Dane Bent Larsen, once the West's undisputed number one and still the scourge of the Russians.

At the age of 45 his fluctuations come in style. At Montreal 1979 he finished last by two clear points — but still managed to beat Soviet world champion Anatoly Karpov. At Bugojno 1980 he came an unlucky second, just pipped at the post by Karpov. He followed this fine result with another miserable last place, at the IBM tournament in Amsterdam.

And at the recent super-tournament in Tilburg, despite a mediocre performance overall, Larsen trounced Karpov yet again.

## PETROFF DEFENCE

**A. KARPOV (USSR)**  
**B. LARSEN (Denmark)**  
 1. e4 e5  
 2. Nf3 Nf6(l)

The Petroff defence is not a frequent tournament visitor nowadays. Larsen's penchant for the unfashionable has undoubtedly contributed to his successes against Karpov, who clearly feels uncomfortable when confronted with unusual openings.

3. d4 Nxe4  
 4. Bd3 d5  
 5. Nxe5 Nd7!  
 6. Qe2 Nxe5

Karpov-Hort, IBM 1980, had gone 6... Qe7 7. Bxe4 dxe4 8. Bf4 Nxe5 9. Bxe5 Bf5 10. Nc3 0-0-0 and again White had achieved little from the opening. Larsen's alternative not only avoids any possible improvement Karpov might have prepared, but is also a promising pawn sacrifice.

7. Bxe4 dxe4  
 8. Qxe4 Be6!  
 9. Qxe5 Qd7  
 10. 0-0 0-0-0

Black has good compensation for the pawn with his superior development and the bishop pair.

11. Be3 Bb4!

An excellent move, preventing White's Qa5.

12. Nc3?

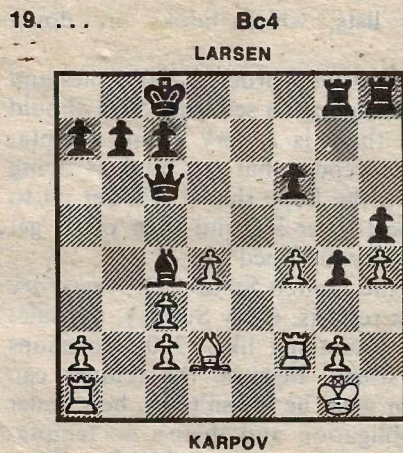
Underestimating Larsen's response, Karpov makes a mistake. Better is 12. c3 f6 13. Qg3 when 13... Bd6 14. Bf4 Be7 planning... g5 gives Black king-side pressure.

12... 16  
 13. Qg3 Bxc3!

Karpov may have simply assumed that the opening of the b-file would give him counter-chances against the Black king. In reality Larsen's control over the central light squares rules out such a possibility, and it is Black who turns to the attack.

14. bxc3 h5  
 15. h4 g5  
 16. f3 Rdg8  
 17. Rf2 Qc6  
 18. Bd2 g4  
 19. f4

An unfortunate measure to have to take — blocking in his own bishop — but White could not afford to capture.



White's pieces lack co-ordination, and Black threatens positional domination by... Qd5 and then doubling rooks on the e-file. Karpov elects to return his extra pawn to avoid total suffocation.

20. d5 Bxd5  
 21. f5 Re8  
 22. a3 Re4  
 23. Re1 Rhe8  
 24. Rxe4 Rxe4  
 25. Kh2 Qc5  
 26. Bf4 Re1  
 27. Bd2 Ra1  
 28. Qe3 Qd6 ch  
 29. Rf4 b6  
 30. c4

Sacrificing a second pawn for some freedom.

30... Bxc4  
 31. Qd4 Qxd4  
 32. Rxd4 Bb5

White had hoped for salvation in the endgame, but his queenside pawns are too vulnerable.

33. Bh6 Rxa3  
 34. Bg7 Bd7  
 35. Rf4 Ra5  
 36. Bxf6 Bxf5  
 37. c3 Be6  
 38. Kg3 Rd5  
 39. Re4 Kd7  
 40. Be5 Rd2  
 41. Kf4 Rxc2  
 42. Kg5 Rc2  
 43. Kxh5 g3  
 44. Bxg3 Rxc3

Larsen's three connected passed pawns now ensure victory. Should Karpov's h-pawn stray too near the queening square Black can always give up his bishop for it.

45. Be5 Rc4  
 46. Re3 Bd5  
 47. Ra3 Ke6  
 48. Bg3 Kf5  
 49. Kh6

On 49. Rxa7 Rc6! threatens two mates with the bishop.

49... a5  
 50. Kg7 Kg4  
 51. Kf6 a4  
 52. Re3 Bf3  
 53. Be1 Rc1  
 54. Re7 Kh3  
 55. Bd2 Rc4  
 56. Re3 Kg2  
 57. Be1 Rc1  
 58. Bd2 Rd1  
 59. Bc3 c5  
 60. Re7 b5  
 61. Be5 a3  
 62. Rh7 b4  
 63. h5 b3  
 64. h6 b2  
 65. Rg7 ch Kf2  
 66. Bg3 ch Ke3  
 67. Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER