

# The king wins the Crown

**WORLD CHAMPION** Anatoly Karpov once again demonstrated his superiority in top-class competition by winning the "Crown Group" of the IBM tournament in Amsterdam. His one loss, to Zoltan Ribli of Hungary, only occurred from over-pressing in a drawn endgame, and he finished a point clear of his nearest rival in the double-round competition.

It has taken until this year for a decent book on the 29-year-old Soviet world champion to appear. *Chess Is My Life* by Karpov and Roshal (Pergamon Press Ltd) — despite the publisher's faux pas over the title (the same as Korchnoi's autobiography) — is an interesting work. Soviet journalist Alexander Roshal knows Karpov well, and writing in witty style has kept the book fairly free of "double-think", although a number of controversial events are dealt with in biased or misleading fashion.

A good selection of games and illustrations is given, though I should point out that the biography ends before Karpov's title fight with Korchnoi in 1978, and nothing about that match is included.

But the real value of the book is the fascinating insight into Karpov's personality. His intense competitive spirit and burning desire to succeed are apparent from the beginning — he hated losing at anything, even billiards.

The book has a feast of information and titbits on both Karpov and the contemporary chess scene, and, despite its flaws, is a work of real quality.

Here is the first of Karpov's games against Larsen from Amsterdam. Sadly, it now appears this may be the last we will see of this great annual event, as the sponsors are withdrawing their support. IBM's generous contributions over the years have been greatly appreciated in Holland, but this year there were feelings of bitterness that such a popular and internationally renowned congress could just shut down.

## CARO KANN DEFENCE

<b>A. KARPOV</b> USSR	<b>B. LARSEN</b> Denmark
1. e4	c6
2. d4	d5
3. Nd2	dxe4
4. Nxe4	Bf5
5. Ng3	Bg6
6. h4	h6
7. Nf3	Nd7
8. h5	Bh7
9. Bd3	Bxd3
10. Qxd3	e6

- 11. Bf4 Ngf6
- 12. 0-0-0 Be7
- 13. c4 a5!?

*Karpov's advance of his king's rook pawn was standard opening theory, but this queenside advance by Larsen is a quite novel conception. Larsen once had the intention of writing a book about the role of rook pawns, so what happens later on is rather ironic.*

- 14. Kb1 a4
- 15. Ne5 Nxe5
- 16. Bxe5 Qa5
- 17. Ne4 0-0-0
- 18. c5 !?

*At top level, to win you sometimes have to break a few rules. With this "anti-positional" advance Karpov cedes Black the d5 square in return for other advantages.*

- 18. ... Nxe4
- 19. Qxe4 Bf6
- 20. Bxf6 gxf6
- 21. Qf4 f5
- 22. Rd3 ! Rd5
- 23. Rhd1 Qc7
- 24. Qd2 f4
- 25. Ra3 Rg8
- 26. f3 Rdg5
- 27. Rg1 Rxe5
- 28. Rxa4

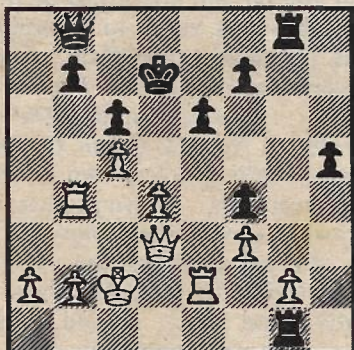
*So both rook pawns have dropped off — Black's problem is that his was on the same side as his king.*

- 28. ... Qb8
- 29. Re1 Rh2?

*The rook should stay centralised for defence — preferably dead in the middle of the d5 square.*

- 30. Re2 Rh1 ch
- 31. Kc2 h5
- 32. Qd3 Kd7
- 33. Rb4 Rg1?

*The final error allowing the decisive combination.*



- 34. d5 ! cxd5
- If 34...exd5 then 35.Qf5ch wins quickly.*
- 35. c6 ch Kxc6
- 36. Qb5 ch Resigns
- After 36...Kc7 comes 37.Qb6 ch and White picks up the rook on g1.*

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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
<b>1 KARPOV (USSR)</b>		½½	½½	½1	01	1½	11	11	<b>10</b>
<b>2 TIMMAN (Holland)</b>	½½		½½	1½	½½	1½	½1	½1	<b>9</b>
<b>3 SOSONKO (Holland)</b>	½½	½½		½½	½½	½½	½1	½1	<b>8</b>
<b>4 HORT (Czech.)</b>	½0	0½	½½		1½	½½	½1	½1	<b>7½</b>
<b>5 RIBLI (Hungary)</b>	<b>10</b>	½½	½½	0½		1½	01	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6 DOLMATOV (USSR)</b>	0½	0½	½½	½½	0½		1½	11	<b>7</b>
<b>7 V. D. WIEL (Holland)</b>	00	½0	½0	½0	<b>10</b>	0½		<b>01</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>8 LARSEN (Denmark)</b>	00	½0	½0	½0	01	00	10		<b>3½</b>