

Pygmies decide for giants

ONLY A TIE-BREAK could separate the USSR and Hungary after a titanic struggle at the World Chess Olympiad in Malta. Hungary had looked set for a repeat of their 1978 Buenos Aires victory when, after leading most of the way, they opened up a 2½-point lead by round nine. But a couple of 2-2 draws with Holland and Czechoslovakia let the Soviets pull back, and both teams were deadlocked on 35½ points going into the 14th and final round.

In a dramatic finale, Hungary notched up three wins and a draw over Iceland, and come the adjournment session it all hinged on whether Soviet world champion Anatoly Karpov could eke out a vital win in his rook and pawn end game versus Jakobsen of Denmark. A large crowd hung on every move as he did so, bringing the USSR once more level. Then the grandmasters, trainers, interpreters and managers of both leading teams rushed off to Greece v Scotland(!) way down the tournament table to see which of the giants would win on sum-of-opponents'-scores tie-break!

Greece — who had played the USSR in round two — won, and thus the Soviet Union sneaked through for their 13th Olympiad victory out of 14 attempts.

Final results of the men's Olympiad were: 1-2 USSR and Hungary, 39 points; 3 Yugoslavia, 35; 4 USA, 34; 5 Czechoslovakia, 33; 6-7 England and Poland, 32½; 8-9 Canada and Israel, 32; ... 56-58 New Zealand, 26. 82 countries competed.

Before the event it was conceivable that any of the top six seedings (1 USSR, 2 Hungary, 3 Yugoslavia, 4 Holland, 5 Czechoslovakia, 6 England) could win, but it was soon clear the most incisive team were the Hungarians with their crack squad of Portisch, Ribli, Sax, Csom and reserves Farago and Pinter.

The Soviet Union went for experience, and were lucky it didn't cost them dear. Geller's selection on board four was the biggest surprise, although he performed creditably with 72.22 per cent. But both Polugayevsky and Tal (with 42.85 and 58.33 per cent respectively) let them down, and it was left to the younger contingent of Karpov (75 per cent), Balashov (75 per cent) and Kasparov (76.16 per cent) to pull them through.

That such fighting chess was played at all is credit to the players when one considers the Maltese organisation, or rather lack of it. Never again, I hope, will such an inexperienced country be allowed to take charge of the most prestigious event on the chess calendar. Shortly before it started the Maltese federation sent telexes to participating countries demanding an (illegal) surcharge be paid on apartments the organisation should have been paying for. This was rejected, but on arrival we discovered the Mal-

ttese had no funds to pay pocket money, and the food supplied was often inedible — being indeed, cold airline food served unpretentiously in Air Malta trays!

Here is a quick win from round four by the USSR's young hatchet man on his way to the silver medal for board six.

G. KASPAROV (USSR)	S. MARJANOVIC (Yugoslavia)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	b6
4. g3	Bb7
5. Bg2	Be7
6. 0-0	0-0
7. d5!?	e×d5
8. Nh4	...

Safer, perhaps, is 4...Ba6.

This pawn sacrifice for a dangerous initiative has become all the rage after Russian Grandmaster Lev Polugayevsky introduced it in his match with Korchnoi in Buenos Aires last year.

8. ...	c6
9. c×d5	N×d5
10. Nf5	Nc7?

A mistake — Black's knight is needed for kingside defence. Korchnoi also went astray with 10...Bc5? when 11.e4 Ne7 12.b4 B×b4 13.N×g7! K×g7 14.Qd4 ch f6 15.Q×b4 gave White a great advantage.

After the game, Korchnoi's squad of assistants discovered the improvement 10...Nf6 11.e4 d5 12.Nc3 d×e4, which one of them, Michael Stean in fact, essayed against Polugayevsky himself in round eight at Malta. That game continued 13.Bg5? (13.N×e4 is unclear) h6 14.B×h6 g×h6 15.Qc1 Bc8 16.N×h6 ch Kh8 17.Rd1 Qc7 18.Re1 Qe5 19.N×e4 and now instead of 19...N×e4 with a draw soon following, Stean could have tried for more by 19...Qh5 20.Ng5 Ng8.

11. Nc3	d5
12. e4	Bf6

On 12...d×e4 13.Qg4 Bf6 14.Bh6 Ne6 15.Rad1 followed by 16.N×e4 gives White a crushing attack.

13. e×d5	c×d5
----------	------

Ideally Marjanovic would like to exchange his c7 knight by 15...N×d5, but then would follow simply 16.N×d5 c×d5 17.Ne3 (a typical theme in this line) and d5 falls, with advantage to White. Now, in the game, Kasparov arranges his forces for the final assault on the kingside.

14. Bf4	Nba6
15. Re1	Qd7
16. Bh3	Kh8
17. Ne4!	B×b2
18. Ng5	Qc6

Or 18...B×a1 19.Qh5 h6 20.N×h6 and mate is imminent.

19. Ne7	Qf6
20. N×h7	Qd4

On 20...K×h7 21.Qh5 ch wins.

21. Qh5	g6
22. Qh4	B×a1
23. Nf6 ch	resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER