

The K-K clash

AS KARPOV so Kasparov. A neat anagram and, considering the one-upmanship displayed by these two leading Soviet players in Moscow recently, perhaps also an apt epigram.

At just 18 years old, Garri Kasparov is thought by some to be second in real playing strength only to world champion Anatoly Karpov. Yet the two had never clashed in a serious game until an unusual event in the USSR this year to mark the 26th congress of the Soviet Communist Party. Four teams were created by the Soviet Chess Federation: A "first team" (comprising the national squad minus Kasparov), a "second team", an "old generation" and a "youth team" (with Kasparov).

Some observers felt that the prime objective of this exercise was to force a meeting between Karpov, now 29, and his most dangerous potential rival in the next world championship series. Overall Karpov's team pulled through on 28½ points, ahead of youth 23½, golden oldies 23 and the second team 21. But of particular interest were the results of the top boards, which formed a miniature tournament, resulting in victory for Kasparov.

	1	2	3	4	Total
1. Kasparov	xx	½½	11	10	4
2. Karpov	½½	xx	½½	1½	3½
3. Smyslov	00	½½	xx	1½	2½
4. Romanishin	01	0½	0½	xx	2

Although they ended in draws, both of the K v K games were well contested. In the first encounter Karpov came under heavy pressure as Black in a Petroff defence. *Sovietsky Sport* recounts how, when Kasparov eventually offered a draw, he had to wait 15 minutes before Karpov's acceptance. During the return game, given below, tension mounted when Karpov this time offered a draw. Kasparov thought for 15 minutes — and refused. Shortly afterwards young Garri thought better of it, offered a draw back, and Karpov declined!



Garri Kasparov: No 2?

- 17. a4 Qc5
- 18. Ra2 Bf6
- 19. Rad2 Rc7
- 20. Qb1

It's not easy to increase the pressure — on 20. Nc2 simply 20 ... Be7 defends. Karpov's move initiates an aggressive but committal queenside expansion.

- 20. ... Be7
- 21. b4!?

Of course not 21 ... Qxc4 22. Rc2.

- 22. Rc2 Rec8
- 23. b5

Now the c-pawn is a genuine sacrifice.

- 23. ... axb5
- 24. axb5 Rxc4
- 25. Rxc4 Rxc4
- 26. Qa2 Qc5
- 27. Qa8 Rxd4
- 28. Qxb8 ch Bf8
- 29. Ra1

For his pawn Karpov has gained tremendous pressure along his opponent's back two ranks.



- 29. ... d5
- 30. Bf1 Rc4
- 31. Ra8 Rc1
- 32. Qe8 d4
- 33. Ra7 Qf5
- 34. Ra8 Qc5
- 35. g4

To deprive Black's queen of f5.

- 35. ... Qd6
- 36. Rd8! Qb4
- 37. Rd7 h6

White has won the battle of f7 but Black still has counterplay.

- 38. Qxf7 ch Kh7
- 39. g5 Qb1!

Forcing liquidation, as 40. Qxf8 Rxf1 ch 41. Kg2 Rg1 ch would win for Black.

- 40. g6 ch Qxg6 ch
- 41. Qxg6 ch Kxg6

Draw agreed

After 42. Rxd4 the rook and opposite-coloured bishop ending is level.

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ENGLISH OPENING

A. KARPOV	G. KASPAROV
1. c4	Nf6
2. Nc3	c5
3. Nf3	e6
4. g3	b6
5. Bg2	Bb7
6. 0-0	Be7
7. d4	cxd4
8. Qxd4	d6
9. Bg5	

An interesting idea to counter Black's defensive "hedgehog" formation of pawns on the third rank.

- 9. ... a6
- 10. Bxf6

The point is to capture immediately, before Black's other knight comes to d7. Karpov now builds up the pressure on the target d6.

10. ...	Bxf6
11. Qf4	0-0
12. Rfd1	Be7
13. Ne4	Bxe4
14. Qxe4	Ra7
15. Nd4	Qc8
16. b3	Re8