

In the big league now

THE SUCCESS of last year's inaugural nationwide teams league has ignited the spark of ambition in many of West Germany's chess clubs. Transfers and business deals are being furiously negotiated, and grandmaster mercenaries signed up in preparation for the coming season.

The greatest upset was West German number one Robert Hubner's departure from the Porz club, run by millionaire Wilfred Hilgert, with whom Hubner quarrelled during his emotional world championship candidates match with Korchnoi earlier this year. If you think it's getting like football, it was in fact a *fussball* club that Hubner joined. He is now the trainer of the chess section of the famous HSV sports club, the same club that Kevin Keegan played for.

In a cunning move my own club, Hamburger SK, agreed a merger with the HSV. As we have a team in the first division Bundesliga, this means Hubner will most likely play for us on top board. This does have the side-effect that yours truly will be demoted to second board (though fortunately his pay has not yet been docked). As, however, Hamburg (chess and football) combined now have a genuine chance of challenging for first place I have decided it is well worth it.

To compensate for losing his top man, Hilgert has imported English Grandmaster Tony Miles, who joins the experienced Czechoslovak campaigner, Grandmaster Vlastimil Hort. As there is a limitation of two foreign players per match, Porz have also strengthened the lower boards of the eight-man squad with local players from other clubs.

Last season's champions Solingen, also with millionaire backing, have stayed with ex-world champion Boris Spassky and American GM Lubomir Kavalek. There promises to be a real tussle between them, Porz, Hamburg and Konig-Springer Frankfurt, whose new top board is Gennadi Sosonko from Holland.

This should give an even more exciting finish than last time, when Porz and Solingen tied for first, necessitating a play-off. Solingen then unexpectedly crushed their arch-rivals 5½-2½, despite losing the top board clash.

MODERN DEFENCE

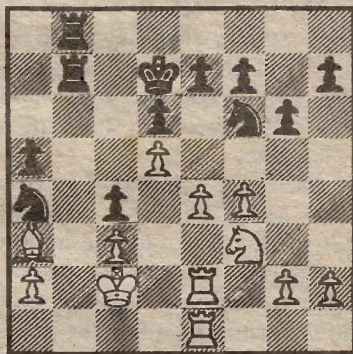
R. HUBNER West Germany	B. SPASSKY USSR
1. e4	d6
2. d4	g6
3. c4	Bg7
4. Nc3	Nd7
5. f4	c5
6. d5	Bxc3 ch
7. bxc3	Ngf6
8. Bd3	Qa5
9. Qb3	b5!?
10. cxb5	a6
11. b6	

Returning the pawn — on 11.bxa6

Bxa6 12.Bxa6 Rxa6 White would have trouble defending his e-pawn.

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|----------|------|
| 11. ... | Nxb6 |
| 12. Qa3 | Qxa3 |
| 13. Bxa3 | c4 |
| 14. Bc2 | Bd7 |
| 15. Kd2 | Ba4 |
| 16. Bxa4 | Nxa4 |
| 17. Re1 | Kd7 |
| 18. Nf3 | Rhb8 |
| 19. Kc2 | Rb7 |
| 20. Re2 | Rab8 |
| 21. Rhe1 | a5 |

SPASSKY



HUBNER

The tactical stroke 21...Rb1 is met by 22.Nd2, and 21...Rb2 ch 22.Bxb2 Rxb2 ch 23.Kc1 Rxe2 24.Rxe2 Nxc3 by 25.Rc2 Nfxe4 26.Nd2.

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|----------|------|
| 22. g3 | Nb2 |
| 23. Rb1 | Na4 |
| 24. Rxb7 | Rxb7 |
| 25. Re1 | Rb5 |
| 26. Nd4 | Rb6 |
| 27. h3 | h5 |
| 28. Nf3 | Rb5 |
| 29. Ng5! | Ke8 |
| 30. Rd1 | |

Now the e-pawn is protected. Hubner steers his rook towards d4 to pressure the Black c-pawn, a potential target for attack throughout the game. Spassky could save the pawn by 30...Rb8 (intending ...Rc8 and ...Nb6) but only at the cost of allowing the strong advance 31.e5.

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| 30. ... | Nd7 |
| 31. Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 32. Rd4 | Nb6 |
| 33. Nd2 | Nfd7 |
| 34. Nxc4 | Nxc4 |
| 35. Rxc4 | f5 |
| 36. Rc8 ch | Kf7 |
| 37. Rc7 | Ke8 |
| 38. c4 | Rb6 |
| 39. e5 | Kd8 |
| 40. Ra7 | dxe5 |
| 41. fxe5 | Nxe5 |
| 42. Bc5 | Nxc4 |
| 43. Kc3 | Resigns |

MURRAY CHANDLER

a8	b8	c8	d8	e8	f8	g8	h8
a7	b7	c7	d7	e7	f7	g7	h7
a6	b6	c6	d6	e6	f6	g6	h6
a5	b5	c5	d5	e5	f5	g5	h5
a4	b4	c4	d4	e4	f4	g4	h4
a3	b3	c3	d3	e3	f3	g3	h3
a2	b2	c2	d2	e2	f2	g2	h2
a1	b1	c1	d1	e1	f1	g1	h1

The algebraic notation in this chess column is that used almost exclusively in Europe and in many countries elsewhere. Each square has one designation only. The vertical files are labelled a to h from White's left. In horizontal rank the squares are labelled 1 to 8 from White's end. Normal symbols are used, except that pawns as such are not mentioned; just the arrival square is given for a non-capturing pawn move.