

A little help

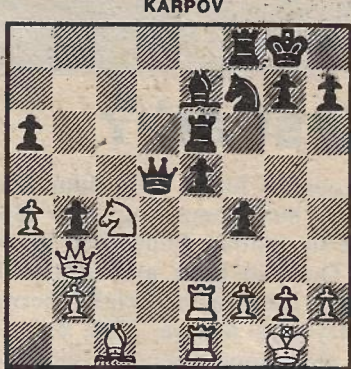
SWEDISH GRANDMASTER Ulf Andersson and Russian world champion Anatoly Karpov tied for first after sensational last-round oversights by their opponents in the 1982 Phillips and Drew Kings, England's strongest ever tournament. Karpov was playing compatriot and ex-world champion Boris Spassky and strove for complications, but after 34 moves stood noticeably worse. Suddenly Spassky snatched a poisoned pawn — losing his bishop instantly. Presumably this shocked Andersson as much as anyone, but only shortly before he himself had overlooked the chance of a forced checkmate for his opponent, England's Jon Mestel — which Mestel also missed!

Andersson subsequently won a queen and rook endgame on adjournment, leaving the final tally: 1-2, Karpov and Andersson 8½/13; 3, Seirawan (USA) 8; 4-7, Portisch (Hungary), Speelman (England), Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) and Timman (Holland) 7; 8-9 Spassky and Miles (England) 6½; 10, Geller (USSR) 6; 11, Nunn (England) 5½; 12-13, Mestel and Christiansen (USA) 5; 14, Short (England) 3½. Karpov's late comeback in this category 14 event heralds a slight return to form, after his recent indifferent result in Argentina.

For the diminutive Ulf this was the second time he has shared first prize (this time £3500) in London — in 1980 he tied with Soviet defector Viktor Korchnoi, Karpov's bitter rival. Organisers know they cannot invite both Karpov and Korchnoi to the same event, so this time Korchnoi turned up to watch. He booked himself in the same floor of the same hotel that Karpov — and his ever-present bodyguard presumably — were staying in, and once demonstrated outside County Hall bearing placards demanding that the Soviet Government let his wife and son join him in the West. His biggest satisfaction, however, must have been seeing his friend and accomplice Yasser Seirawan beating Karpov in a Queen's Gambit Declined — a defence which Viktor himself had been unable to breach in the championship match in Merano.

On the front page of the excellent tournament bulletin, organiser Stewart Reuben quotes the Yugoslav chess journalist Miro Radoicic as saying, in 1978, that by the 80s London would be the chess capital of the world. It could be well on the way if support from banks or stockbroking firms like P & D continues. Front-page publicity, as in 1980, was impossible this time because of the Falklands crisis, but the games were played to capacity crowds much of the time. Clearly the invitation of leading international contenders provides a stimulus for players all through the ranks.

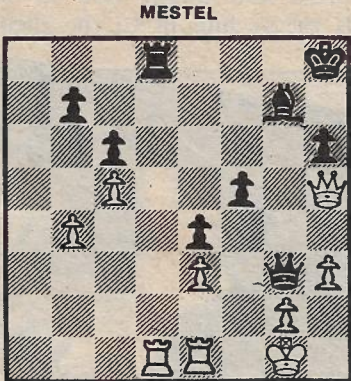
Here are the two critical positions from the enthralling final round in London.



KARPOV

SPASSKY
Spassky continued with 35. Bxf4? (35. Rd1!) to exploit his doubled rooks on the e-file — if 35... exf4 then of course 36. Rxe6.

But Karpov replied 35... Nd6!, winning a piece because of 36. Nd2 (or 36. Na5) Qxb3 37. Nxb3 Rxf4. The game lasted three more moves: 36. Bxe5 Qxc4 37. Qh3 Nf7 38. b3 Qd5 39. Resigns.



MESTEL

ANDERSSON
Andersson, in all innocence, had just played his rook from b1 to d1, whereupon Mestel now responded with 29... Rd5? — missing the devastating occupation of the seventh rank with 29... Rd2! White would then have to resign: 30... Qxg2 mate is threatened; 31. Re2 fails to 32... Rxd1 ch; and 31. Rxd2 drops a rook to 31... Qxe1 ch 32. Kh2 Be5 ch 33. g3 Qxd2 ch.

We round up with one of the most elegant combinations played during the tournament.



PORTISCH

TIMMAN
17. Nf6 ch! Kh8
If 17... gxf6 then 18. Bxf6 followed by Qd2 or Qh5 and Black is helpless against the threat of Qh6.

18. Nc3 Na6
19. Nfxd5!
Black position has too many pieces hanging.

19. ... cxd5
20. Nxd5 Be6
21. Bxe7 Qd7
22. Nxc7 Qxc7
23. Bd6 Qc4
24. Bf1 Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER