

# Two twos for number one

THE RECENT top grandmaster tournament in Linares, Spain, saw a triumph for ex-world champion Boris Spassky and a second comparative set-back for current title-holder Anatoly Karpov. Spassky scored seven draws, three wins and no losses from 10 games to earn his outright first prize of \$US6000. Karpov was left sharing the runner-up spot with Sweden's Ulf Andersson — another annoying reverse for the Soviet number one. Shortly before Linares, Anatoly's younger rival and compatriot, Garri Kasparov, was voted winner of the 1982 "Chess Oscar" by the international press — an honour Karpov had enjoyed for the past three years.

On the Elo world ranking scale, Linares was technically only a "category 14" strength event with its average rating of 2598. This was rather frustrating for the organisers, as reaching the magic 2600 figure would have made it one of the handful of "category 15" competitions ever held. The situation was caused by the late withdrawal of Yugoslav Grandmaster Lubomir Ljubojevic, ranked 2645. Apparently he was protesting at the last-minute substitution of Soviet GMs Geller and Yusupov for Tal and Polugayevsky.

It is unlikely that any pre-tournament change could disturb the implacable Ulf Andersson though. His second place was another class performance — especially considering he is not one of the final eight in the current world championship cycle. But Ulf may have less time to wait for another crack at Karpov, Kasparov, or whoever, than he thought. A Fide (World Chess Federation) meeting at Linares agreed, with Karpov's consent, that world title matches should henceforth be played every two years, instead of every three as at present. There will also be a new world team tournament comprising just the leading five nations from the chess Olympiad, four continental champions plus the host country.

Final scores at Linares were: 1, Spassky (USSR) 6½; 2-3, Karpov and Andersson 6; 4-6 Yusupov (USSR), Miles (England) and Sax (Hungary) 5½; 7-9, Geller (USSR), Hort (Czechoslovakia) and Timman (Holland) 5; 10, Seirawan (USA) 3; 11, Larsen (Denmark) 2. The following game, acclaimed a brilliancy immediately it ended, was Karpov's only consolation from the tournament.

- 9: ... Bd7
- 10. h4 Nx d4
- 11. Bx d4 e5
- 12. Be3 Bc6
- 13. Qd3 Qa5?

Writing notes for a West German magazine, GM Vlastimil Hort gives this move as dubious. He suggests 13 ... Nh7 14.0-0-0 Bxh4 15.Nb5 0-0 16.Nxa7 as "interesting and unclear".

- 14. 0-0-0 Nxe4?
- 15. Nxe4 d5

Hoping for 16.Ng3 (16.Nc3 or 16.Nd2 are met by 16 ... d4) Qxa2 17.Qb3 Qa1 ch 18.Kd2 Qa5 ch with a powerful attack.

- 16. Qb3! dxe4
- 17. Bc4 Rf8

17 ... 0-0? castles into the attack after 18.g5 hXg5 19.BXg5 BXg5 20.RXg5.

- 18. Rd5! Bxd5
- 19. Bxd5 Rd8
- 20. Bc4! Bxd5

An excellent and far from obvious retreat. The natural 20.Bxb7 allows Black to cling on with 20 ... Bc5! 21.Bc6 ch Ke7 and if 22.Qb7 ch then 22 ... Ke6.

- 20. ... Bb4
- 21. c3 b5
- 22. Be2 Bd6
- 23. Qd5! Ke7

Sax could have exchanged queens by the novel method 23 ... Qxc3 ch 24.Kb1 (24.bxa3 Ba3 ch) Qxb2 ch 25.Kxb2 Ba3 ch 26.Kxa3 RXd5, but the endgame after 27.Bxa7 Ke7 28.Be3 would be clearly better for White.

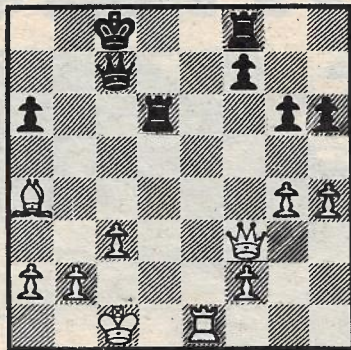
- 24. Bc5! Bxc5

Now the black pawns drop off like Spanish oranges. However, the defence 24 ... f6 fails to 25.Bc4! (25 ... bxc4 26.Bxd6 ch wins the black queen).

- 25. Qxe5 ch Kd7
- 26. Qxc5 Qc7
- 27. Qf5 ch Ke7
- 28. Qxe4 ch Kd7
- 29. Qf5 ch Ke7
- 30. Re1! Rd6
- 31. Bc4 dis ch

Not 31.Bxb5 dis ch Re6!

- 31. ... Kd8
- 32. Bxb5 a6
- 33. Ba4 g6
- 34. Qf3 Kc8



- 35. Re7! Rd1 ch

A desperate counter-sacrifice. The alternative is 35 ... Qxe7 36. Qa8 ch Kc7 37.Qa7 ch Kd8 38.Qb8 mate.

- 36. Kxd1 Qxe7
- 37. Qa8 ch Kc7
- 38. Qa7 ch Kd6
- 39. Qb6 ch Resigns

Checkmate follows 39 ... Ke5 40.Qd4 ch Ke6 41.Bb3.

MURRAY CHANDLER

## SICILIAN DEFENCE

- |           |        |
|-----------|--------|
| A. KARPOV | G. SAX |
| 1. e4     | c5     |
| 2. Nf3    | e6     |
| 3. d4     | cxd4   |
| 4. Nxd4   | Nf6    |
| 5. Nc3    | d6     |
| 6. g4     | h6     |
| 7. Rg1    | Be7    |
| 8. Be3    | Nc6    |
| 9. Qe2!   |        |

Usual are 9.Be2 or 9.h4.