

# A cutter and thruster

ALTHOUGH the name and games of Oleg Romanishin will be familiar to many New Zealand enthusiasts, probably less is known of his background than other leading Soviet players, such as Karpov. Following his overwhelming victory in the recent Jurmala tournament, I took the opportunity to briefly interview the 31-year-old Grandmaster from Lvov. As well as being one of the USSR's leading players for many years, Romanishin possesses a cut-and-thrust style that can, as he proved in Jurmala, devastate all levels of opposition.

*Oleg, a first question. What are your thoughts on the forthcoming Korchnoi-Kasparov Candidates match?*

If you had asked me about the Ribli-Smyslov match, the answer would be easy — I think the chances are equal. About Korchnoi-Kasparov I cannot predict. I have not seen Korchnoi for a long time, and don't know anything about him lately.

*You are considered by many to have an original style of play. Do you purposely set out to play in such a way?*

I do not think I play originally. You play originally!

*How about training between tournaments. I know you do some work with your fellow competitor here in Jurmala, Arshak Petrosian [not to be confused with Tigran].*

Yes, Petrosian has been my second many times at tournaments. Normally, however, I study alone.

*Did you go to a chess school?*

Well, that is a difficult question. You see there are schools and schools.

*A school such as the one ex-world champion Botvinnik runs for example?*

About 15 years ago Botvinnik formed his school, but I was not invited. The pupils meet, say, twice a year in seminars, for strategy and advice. Tal and Gipslis have similar schools here in Latvia. However, if you mean a chess school for children, yes, of course I went to one.

*In Lvov?*

Yes.

*Until when?*

Until I was no longer an ordinary school pupil. There are many such schools, all over the country, and many teachers. You would not know most of them.

*Did you know of Lev Aptekar, who now lives in Wellington?*

Yes, he was a teacher in such a school, near Kiev.

*And finally, what are your ambitions now?*

To win more tournaments!

*Presumably this includes the USSR Championships. You have never quite won this one I believe.*

No, I came second to fifth equal in 1975, and third in 1981. But I have played the last nine years in a row. After such a feat a man should be able to retire — with a good pension!



Oleg Romanishin: capable of beating anybody.

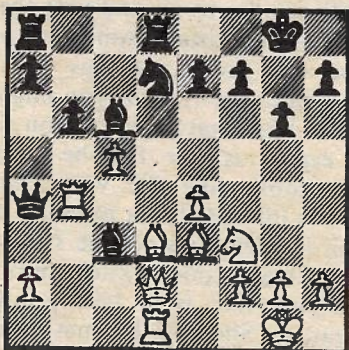
## Jurmala 1983 GRUNFELD DEFENCE

G. GARCIA	O. ROMANISHIN
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	g6
3. Nc3	d5
4. cxd5	Nxd5
5. e4	Nxc3
6. bxc3	Bg7
7. Nf3	c5
8. Be3	Qa5
9. Qd2	0-0
10. Rb1	Nd7
11. Bd3	b6
12. 0-0	Bb7
13. Rb5?	

*The idea behind this move is a dubious pawn grab which opens lines for the Black pieces. Better is 13.Rfcl aiming for the positional advance 14.d5.*

13. ...	Qa4
14. dxc5	Rfd8!
15. Rd1	Bc6
16. Rb4	Bxc3!

### ROMANISHIN



### GARCIA

17. Qxc3	Qxd1 ch
18. Bf1	bxc5
19. Bh6	Nf6
20. Qxc5	Bxe4
21. Qxe7	Bxf3

*As 22.Qxf6 Qxf1 ch! and 23... Rdl mates.*

22. gxh3	Qd6
23. Bf8	

*Tricky, but White still remains an exchange down in the endgame.*

23. ...	Qxe7
24. Bxe7	Nd5
25. Rb7	Nxe7
26. Rxe7 and Resigns	

*At this exalted level there is little doubt about the ultimate outcome.*

MURRAY CHANDLER