

Ulf draws to the front

IN SPITE of his elimination last year from the current world championship cycle, Swedish Grandmaster Ulf Andersson remains one of the elite tournament competitors. His recent victory in the 1983 Wijk aan Zee event in Holland was achieved in typical Ulf style — five wins, eight draws, and no losses. He led from start to finish, and was content to take a quick last-round draw to assure himself of at least first equal. The small gamble paid off when his nearest rival, Hungarian Zoltan Ribli, could only draw.

Although every player bar one was a grandmaster, this year's Wijk aan Zee was rather plagued by withdrawals. First, much to the chagrin of the Dutch, the USSR withdrew its two players before the tournament — presumably when they heard that Soviet defector Viktor Korchnoi was invited. Then local contender Gennadi Sosonko went down with mumps, and Holland's number one, Jan Timman, appeared at the opening ceremony looking distinctly off-colour. Sure enough he had to withdraw before the first move had been made, and was hastily replaced by Adam Kuligowski from Poland who had turned up hoping to get into one of the lower sections.

Nevertheless the final line-up made for an interesting contest. It was Icelandic GM Fridrik Olafsson's first major event after being deposed as Fide (World Chess Federation) president. His result was fair, but rumour has it that he may be settling down to an ordinary job in Reykjavik rather than traipsing the pro circuit again. Much attention also focused on the performance of Ribli and Korchnoi, two of the final eight players shortly to begin the knock-out world championship Candidates matches. Ribli, who meets Filipino Eugene Torre, performed encouragingly — but for Korchnoi the tournament was yet another mediocre result.

Final scores were: 1, Andersson 9 points; 2, Ribli 8½; 3-4, Browne (USA) and Hort (Czechoslovakia) 8; 5, Nunn (England) 7; 6, Seirawan (USA) 7; 7, Hulak (Yugoslavia) 6½; 8, Korchnoi (Switzerland) 6; 9-11, Ree and Scheeren (both Holland) and Olafsson 5½; 12, van der Wiel (Holland) 5; 13-14, Kuligowski and Speelman (England) 4½.

Here is the most brilliant game from the tournament.

ENGLISH

Y. SEIRAWAN	A. KULIGOWSKI
1. c4	c5
2. Nf3	Nf6
3. Nc3	d5
4. cxd5	Nxd5
5. e4	Nb4
6. Bc4	Nd3 ch
7. Ke2	

A curious variation which Seirawan has essayed several times before. White allows his king to be checked twice, but gains a useful lead in development.

7. ... Nf4 ch

8. Kf1	Ne6
9. b4	cxb4
10. Nd5	g6

After 10. ... Nc6 11. Bb2 Black would have problems getting his kingside pieces out.

11. Bb2	Bg7
12. Bxg7	Nxg7
13. Nxg7	Nd7

13. ... 0-0 14. d4 Bg4, as in the Hubner-Portisch match 1980, looks more natural.

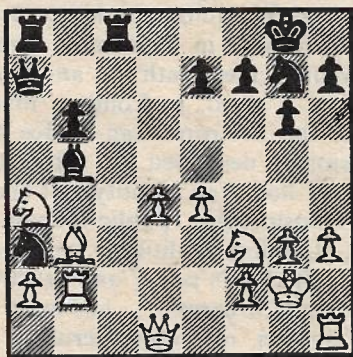
14. d4	Nb6
15. Bb3	a5
16. Nd3	a4
17. Bc2	0-0
18. h3	Qc7
19. Rc1	Bd7
20. g3	

Preparing to castle artificially.

20. ...	Nc4
21. Kg2	Bb5
22. Nc5	Qb8
23. Rb1	Na3
24. Rb2	b6
25. Nxa4!	

This looks risky, but Seirawan has a far more grandiose scheme in mind than a mere pawn grab.

25. ...	Rc8
26. Bb3	Qa7



27. Qd2!!

A fabulous sacrificial conception which switches play to the king's wing. Attacks do not always need brute force to be effective.

27. ...	Bxa4
28. Qh6!	Bxb3
29. Ng5!	

Who needs pieces when you have threats like 30. Qxh7 ch Kf8 31. Qh8 mate?

29. ...	f6
30. Qxh7 ch	Kf8
31. Rxh3	

Now 31. Qh8 ch Bg8 leads nowhere.

31. ...	fxg5
32. d5!	

A quiet move, two pieces down, which emphasises Black's helplessness. The point is to deny Kuligowski's king the e6 square in certain variations.

32. ...	Nc4
33. Qh8 ch	Kf7
34. Rf3 ch	Nf5
35. Qh7 ch	Kf6

35. ... Ke8 is more tenacious, but after 36. Qxg6 ch Kd8 37. exf5 or 37. Rxh3 White has three pawns for his knight and retains a raging attack.

36. exf5	Ne5
37. Re1	g4

Or 37. ... Nxh3 38. Qxg6 checkmate.

38. hxg4	Qd7
39. g5 ch	Resigns

After 39. ... Kxg5 Seirawan would have mate in one with 40. Qh4.

MURRAY CHANDLER