

MURRAY CHANDLER

Still the queen

AT THE SAME time as Karpov and Kasparov began their record-breaking series of draws, another world title contest in the USSR was just finishing. Medical student Maya Chiburdanidze, 23, beat fellow Soviet Irina Levitina to retain her six-year hold on the women's world championship. The 8½-5½ margin was a little misleading, however, as after eight games Levitina led by 4½-3½, only to collapse at the end. Chiburdanidze now reigns for at least another two years, though likely challenges from Sweden's Pia Cramling or Hungary's Zuzsa Polgar will make her next title defence a much sterner task.

In particular Polgar. This 15-year-old from Budapest is already scoring international master norms at men's level. She receives grandmaster training, and her teacher-parents supervise her school work at home to give her more time for chess. But by all accounts Zuzsa's younger sister, not yet in her teens, is shaping up as an even greater talent — visiting Western masters have described her as a demon at blitz play. Unfortunately the unusual Polgar family have evidently already rattled the powers that be. As I write there are reports that Zuzsa Polgar may not play for the national women's team in the Greece Olympiad, because the Hungarian Chess Federation refuses to allow her father to accompany her.

Despite the efforts of these budding stars, however, there is still no real battle of the sexes over the chessboard. The top levels are completely male-dominated and the plot of the recent US bestseller by Walter Tevis shows little sign of becoming reality within the next decade. In his book, *The Queen's Gambit*, a Jewish, orphaned, American girl eventually becomes ("men's") world champion. But wait: come to think of it, all you need to know is a few book moves and the Russian for "Would you like a draw?" This week's 13th game from the Chiburdanidze-Levitina match may not be at the refined level of those peaceful K-K encounters in Moscow, but at least it keeps the spectators awake.

QUEENS GAMBIT DECLINED

LEVITINA	CHIBURDANIDZE
1. d4	Nf6
2. Nf3	d5
3. c4	e6
4. Nc3	Be7
5. Bg5	Nbd7
6. e3	O-O
7. Rc1	b6
8. cxd5	exd5
9. Qa4	

Levitina continued 9.Bb5 in game nine and drew. This queen move instead allows Black to offer a sharp pawn sacrifice.

9. ...	c5!?
10. Qc6	Rb8



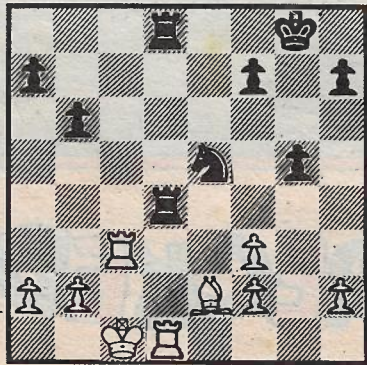
Maya Chiburdanidze: next challenger will be tougher.

11. Nxd5	Nxd5
12. Qxd5	Bb7
13. Bxe7	Qxe7
14. Qg5	Qxg5
15. Nxg5	cxd4

More accurate was 15...h6 16.Nf3 Bxf3 17.gxf3 cxd4 (intending 18.Rd1? Ne5), as now, in the game, Levitina could have played for advantage with 16.Rd1. Her routine recapture is a serious mistake.

16. exd4?	Rfe8 ch
17. Kd1	Red8
18. Nf3	Bxf3
19. gxf3	Ne5
20. Rc3	Rxd4 ch
21. Kc1	Rbd8
22. Be2	g5
23. Rd1	

CHIBURDANIDZE



LEVITINA

Seeking salvation in a rook ending a pawn down, but the shattered White king-side remains the fatal liability.

23. ...	Rxd1 ch
24. Bxd1	Nd3 ch
25. Kc2	Nb4 ch
26. Kb3	Nxa2
27. Kxa2	Rxd1
28. Rc7	Rh1
29. Rxa7	Rxh2
30. Rb7	Rh6!

Good technique. Black now wins with no risk — she has a passed pawn to advance direct to the queening square, White has not.

31. Kb3	Rc6
32. Kb4	h5!
33. Kb5	Rf6
34. b4	h4
35. Rd7	h3
36. Rd1	h2
37. Rh1	Rh6
38. Kc4	Kf8
39. Kd5	Ke7
40. Ke5	f6 ch
41. Kd5	Kd7
42. Resigns	