

Never on a Thursday

APART FROM the fact that it may never be shown on British television, the 1983 BBC *Master Game* series was a producer's dream. In section one Russian ace Anatoly Karpov scored 5 points to qualify for the final ahead of Browne (USA) 3, Chandler (New Zealand) 2½ and Rogers (Australia) 1½. In section two home Grandmaster Tony Miles went through on 4 points, ahead of Kindermann (West Germany) 3 and Guill. Garcia (Cuba) and Hort (Czechoslovakia) both 2½. The stage was set for a dramatic one-game final in which Karpov won the toss for the white pieces. Would Anatoly do the expected and repeat his BBC victory of last year, or might Miles become the first Englishman to beat a reigning world champion on British soil since Blackburne defeated Lasker in 1899?

You've probably guessed by now, from the melodramatic build-up, that big Tony succeeded in causing a sensation by winning a thrilling, tactical game. Yet, ironically, it remains doubtful whether this current series will be available anywhere but West Germany, because of a BBC technicians' strike in force at the time. The *Master Game's* joint production status with NDR, West German TV, allowed filming to continue with the aid of a crew rushed in from Munich



Big Tony Miles: TV hero.

and Hamburg. Now we must wait and hope the unions will allow the English version to appear on British (and perhaps New Zealand) screens. Karpov doesn't lose very often, let alone in full public view. However the world champion did offer one possible excuse for his defeat in the critical game, played on a Thursday. He once played against West German TV viewers at the rate of one move a week. Every Thursday, be he in Manila, Moscow or Amsterdam, a certain TV commentator would materialise before him and ask for his move. Apparently he has had trouble concentrating on this day of the week since!

Just in case the BCNZ splashes out and gets us *Master Game*, it may enlighten some viewers to know that the contestants are not, in fact, chosen for their powers of ventriloquism. The voice track that accompanies the picture of a player concentrating is actually dubbed on just after each

game. The players then recall their innermost thoughts that occurred during the game, such as "I didn't see that" or "Eh, what's going on here?"

CARO KANN DEFENCE

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|------------------|-----------------|
| A. KARPOV | A. MILES |
| 1. e4 | c6 |
| 2. d4 | d5 |
| 3. Nd2 | dxe4 |
| 4. Nxe4 | Nf6 |
| 5. Nxf6 ch | gxf6 |

Another of Miles's long line of attempts to fluster Karpov in the opening. Still, it's better than 1...a6, with which he once beat Karpov.

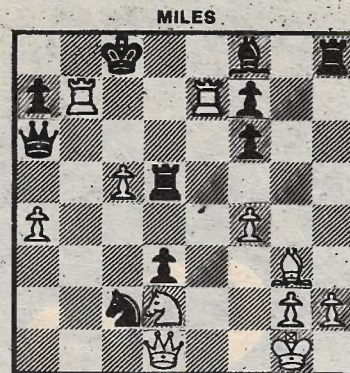
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| 6. Nf3 | Bf5 |
| 7. Bf4 | Nd7 |
| 8. c3 | Qb6 |
| 9. b4 | e5! |
| 10. Bg3 | |

10.dxe5 fxe5 11.Nxe5 Bg7 gives Black too much compensation.

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| 10. ... | 0-0-0 |
| 11. Be2 | h5 |
| 12. 0-0 | Be4 |
| 13. Nd2 | Bd5 |
| 14. Bxh5 | exd4 |
| 15. c4 | Be6 |
| 16. a3 | Ne5 |
| 17. Re1 | d3 |
| 18. c5 | Qb5 |

An extremely complex position. Probably White's queenside attacking prospects just outweigh the merits of Black's strong passed d-pawn.

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| 19. Rb1 | Bh6 |
| 20. a4 | Qa6 |
| 21. f4 | Nc4 |
| 22. b5 | cxb5 |
| 23. Rxb5 | Na3 |
| 24. Rb2 | Nc2 |
| 25. Bf3! | Bd5 |
| 26. Re7 | Bf8! |
| 27. Bxd5 | Rxd5 |
| 28. Rbxb7?! | |



In the post-mortem Karpov preferred 28.Rexb7 to this speculative rook-for-bishop sacrifice, but by here both players were running into time pressure.

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| 28. ... | Bxe7 |
| 29. Rxe7 | Qc6 |
| 30. Rxf7 | Rxc5 |
| 31. Qg4 ch | f5! |

Not 31...Kb8 32.f5 dis ch Ka8 33.Qg7 with threats of mating on a7 and capturing the rook on h8. Now in the game, however, Karpov should have continued with 32.Rxf5! which still leaves an unclear position.

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| 32. Qg7 | Re8 |
| 33. h4? | |

This leads to a rout. 33.h3 was necessary, keeping Black's knight off the g4 square.

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| 33. ... | Ne3! |
| 34. Bf2 | Rc1 ch |
| 35. Kh2 | Ng4 ch |
| 36. Kg3 | Nxf2 |
| 37. Nf3 | Ne4 ch |
| 38. Kh2 | d2 |
| 39. Nxd2 | Nxd2 |

White lost on time.

MURRAY CHANDLER