

MURRAY CHANDLER

# Pioneer women

**M**AYA CHIBURDANIDZE, Zsuzsa Polgar and Pia Cramling are pioneering the way for women to compete on level terms with the best male grandmasters. During April, Polgar and Cramling took on some of the most aggressive tournament sharks in the world at the New York Open, where 1075 competitors fought for a \$US126,350 prize fund. The 15-year-old Hungarian Polgar scored five-and-a-half points from nine games — narrowly missing out on the big money after a last round defeat. The Swedish 21-year-old Cramling's five points included a victory over American GM Walter Browne, usually a specialist in such cutthroat competition.

Shortly afterwards the reigning world champion, Chiburdanidze from the USSR, departed for a grandmaster tournament in Banja Luka, Yugoslavia. Although the only woman in the event, she finished clear first with eight-and-a-half points out of 13 — the best result of her life. Her victims included England's Nigel Short (whom she checkmated) and Lev Psakhis, 1981 USSR champion. While one such result will not automatically put Chiburdanidze among the male super-class, it is a major step in the right direction for the 24-year-old Tbilisi medical student. Leading scores in Banja Luka were 1; Chiburdanidze 8½ points; 2, Farago (Hungary) 8; 3-4, Psakhis and Velimirovic (Yugoslavia) 7½; 5-8, Djuric, Kralic, Kurajica (all Yugoslavia) and Short 7.

Of these three impressive women's results Polgar's is particularly notable because of her age. She first came to my attention back in 1981 (*Listener* June 27) when it was already apparent she was being groomed for stardom by her remarkable parents. Unfortunately the Hungarian chess authorities seem unsure of how to deal with such exceptional talent. Polgar's refusal (quite correct in my view) to play in the sub-standard women's national championship, and other matters, have caused tension — she was absent from the Hungarian team in the Thessaloniki Olympiad. I would have thought that the Hungarian federation should do everything possible to encourage a young girl in her challenge of a male dominated sport. Sadly, for reasons I have never understood, a fair proportion of chess officials are very negative souls — as illustrated recently in a case involving Nigel Short. The influential American Chess Foundation turned down an assistance request for the match between British Champion Short and US Champion Alburt on the grounds it was a no contest — Short would be crushed. He won 7-1.

This week's game is a Polgar win from New York over Filipino Grandmaster Eugene Torre, who qualified for the final eight of the last men's world championship cycle. It may well have cost Torre

dear — he finished one point behind joint winners Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia) and Seirawan, Christiansen, Kudrin, De Firmian and Dlugy (all US).

## TORRE ATTACK

E TORRE	Z POLGAR
1. d4	Nf6
2. Nf3	e6
3. Bg5	

*A Eugene Torre speciality, although the opening is named after the Mexican player Carlos Torre.*

3. ...	c5
4. c3	cxd4
5. cxd4	d5
6. Nc3	Nc6
7. e3	Be7
8. Bd3	O-O
9. O-O	a6
10. Rc1	h6
11. Bh4	Nd7

*Polgar knows that simplification is the best way to relieve a cramped position.*

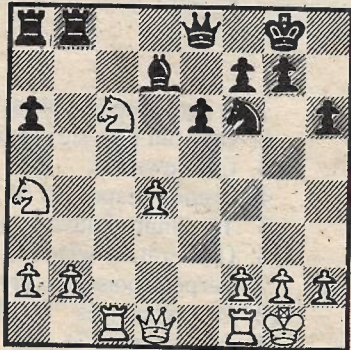
12. Bxe7	Qxe7
13. e4	dxe4
14. Bxe4	Nf6
15. Bxc6	bxc6
16. Na4	Bd7
17. Ne5	

*White has a clear edge, with useful knight outposts and pressure against the backward pawn on c6. In contrast Black has only one positional plus (albeit an important one) in control of the d5-square.*

17. ...	Rfb8!
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*Setting a cunning trap into which Torre blunders.*

18. Nxc6??	Qe8!
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*Now it is clear — the pawn snatch loses two pieces for a rook. The young Hungarian's technique is more than enough to do the rest.*

19. Nxb8	Bxa4
20. b3	Bb5
21. Nxa6	Rxa6
22. Re1	Rxa2
23. Ra1	Rxa1
24. Qxa1	Qb8
25. f3	Qf4
26. Kh1	Nd5
27. Qb2	Nb4
28. Qf2	Nd3
29. Qe3	Qc7

*Correctly declining a queen swap. The bishop and knight can exploit their extra power much better with major pieces on.*

30. Ra1	Qc2
31. h3	Bc6
32. Ra6	Bd5
33. Rb6	f5
34. Rxe6	Bxe6
35. Qxe6 ch	Kh8
36. Qd6	Qc1 ch
37. Kh2	Qf4 ch
38. Resigns	