

Slow on the draw

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THE MAMMOTH world championship clash between top Soviets Anatoly Karpov and Garri Kasparov in Moscow set several rather dubious world records. They have clocked up the largest total of draws in a world title contest, the longest series of consecutive draws, and the longest match ever — in both the number of games and in time. But after five months of play, with Anatoly Karpov leading 5-3, the world chess president called it a day. Now Karpov and challenger Kasparov will start again from scratch in a new series of matches, this time of limited number, in September. The decision to end the present series came amid reports that Karpov was in danger of a mental breakdown. However, both players denounced the decision.

After four months' play Karpov led 5-1 and needed only one more win to retain the title. He played with a determination not to take any risks, confident that his 21-year-old opponent would become impatient and make the final decisive error. The 21-year-old Kasparov, however, resorted to solid defence after his disastrous start.

After going four-nil down in the first nine games, Kasparov embarked on an apparent policy of playing for draws. I could only surmise then that the challenger was desperately trying to consolidate — even at the cost of drawing with White. A record-breaking string of 16 draws followed, many of them only around 20 moves long. Nominations of the two protagonists for this year's Nobel peace prize were just being made up when Karpov broke the deadlock to win game 26. More draws followed until game 32 when, 94 days after the match started, Kasparov scored his first win. Any hopes that this breakthrough would alter the overall tone of the contest were soon dashed, however, when the world's top two grandmasters once again lapsed into the familiar routine of a short draw or two per week.

The long and tedious nature of this match — once billed as one of the mighty clashes of the century — made something clear: the unlimited number of games format had to be dropped. Fide, the International Chess Federation, could also review the schedule of only three games a week — or less. Frequent time-outs and the Soviet Defence Minister Ustinov lying in state in the tournament hall made the average of this match much lower. After game 38 the Russian authorities finally decided to move the venue from the magnificent Moscow Hall of Pillars to a hotel on the outskirts of Moscow. Any sponsor of such a match in the West would probably have considered a transfer to Siberia more suitable.

Yet one had to admire the enormous determination of Karpov and Kasparov, both prepared to suffer the derision of the spectators — who actually booed on occasion — in pursuit of a tactical policy they believed right. No jeers after this following game, however, which represents Kasparov's first win over Karpov in 35 attempts.

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE

G. KASPAROV	A. KARPOV
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	b6

4. Nc3	Bb7
5. a3	d5
6. cxd5	Nxd5
7. Qc2	Nd7?

A curious error. 7... c5 is preferable.

8. Nxd5!	exd5
9. Bg5	f6

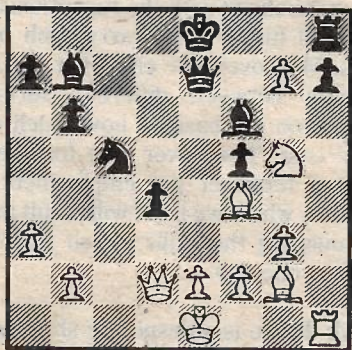
Now this weakening parry is virtually forced, as 9... Nf6 10. Bxf6 and 9... Be7 10. Bxe7 Kxe7 are even more unpleasant.

10. Bf4	c5
11. g3	g6
12. h4!	Qe7
13. Bg2	Bg7
14. h5	f5
15. Qd2	Bf6
16. Rc1	

With a clever manoeuvre in mind, but Karpov conducts a reciprocal defence with his own rook.

16. ...	Rc8
17. Rc3!	Rc6!
18. Re3	Re6
19. Rxe6	Qxe6
20. Ng5	Qe7
21. dxc5	Nxc5
22. hxg6	d4
23. g7!	

A fine riposte to keep the initiative. Not of course 23. Bxb7 Qxb7 24. Rxb7? Qh1 ch mating next move.



23. ...	Bxg7
24. Bxb7	Qxb7
25. f3	Qd5?

After tenacious defence the world champion overestimates his counterplay. 25... h6 was called for

26. Rxb7	Rxb7
27. Nxb7	Qb3
28. Bd6!	Ne6

To parry 29. Qg5.

29. Ng5	Bh6
30. Bf4	Bxg5
31. Bxg5	Nxg5
32. Qxg5	Qxb2
33. Qxf5	Qc1 ch
34. Kf2	Qe3 ch
35. Kf1	Qc1 ch
36. Kg2	Qxa3
37. Qh5 ch	Kd7
38. Qg4 ch	Kc6
39. Qxd4	b5
40. g4	b4
41. g5	

The sealed move. Although Black is actually first in the race to queen, Kasparov wins easily, as his own king is sheltered by pawns. Eg 41... b3 42. g6 b2 43. Qc4 ch Kd6 44. g7 b1=Q 45. g8=Q, when Black has no checks and his king is about to be slain in mid-board.

41. ...	Resigns
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