

# Three in a row

by Murray Chandler

**G**ARRI KASPAROV made it a hat trick in the first game of his world championship rematch with Anatoly Karpov in Moscow. Playing white, Kasparov chose an unusual variation of the Nimzo-Indian defence and converted an opening advantage into victory when Karpov resigned after adjournment. This crucial game put the defending champion Karpov behind for the first time in a world title contest. It also marked his third loss in succession to Kasparov, the previous two being games 47 and 48 of their previous clash.

That this rematch is in Moscow (despite lucrative bids from Western nations), and the arbiters once again from Eastern bloc countries, is disappointing. When the list of possible officials was submitted to Karpov and Kasparov, the one name that both accepted for the neutral post of arbiter was that of the wealthy West German grandmaster Lothar Schmid. Yet his services were not secured, and it remains to be seen whether the East German Malich and the Soviet Mikenas will secure a fair rematch where skill will prove the decisive factor.

The rules for this rematch have been changed by Fide, to prevent any recurrence of the five-month long battle last time. That contest was open-ended, whose winner should have been the first player to score six wins. This rematch is limited to 24 games, the winner being the first player to 12½ points or six wins. In the case of a tie, Karpov will retain his title. If Kasparov wins, Fide rules still give Karpov a rematch right — really an absurd state of affairs, considering the three years of qualification events Kasparov fought through as challenger. It will also probably drive the two Ks (quite apart from this columnist) to drink. Assuming this match runs its scheduled length, Karpov and Kasparov will have faced each other over the chessboard for seven months of the past year.

Between their first match and this one, both Soviet grandmasters have played a little chess against the rest of the world. Kasparov defeated West German Robert Hubner and Swede Ulf Andersson in six-game training matches, while Karpov took first prize in a double-round tournament in Amsterdam. The final scores of this event were: 1, Karpov 7 points; 2, Timman (Holland) 6½; 3, Nunn (England) 5½; 4, Miles (England) 4½; 5, Martinovic (Yugoslavia) 3½; 6, Sunye (Brazil) 3. However, the world champion was fortunate to escape with a draw in one game against the low-ranked Martinovic, and was uncharacteristically in time-trouble in several games. In the first game of the rematch, Karpov also ran short of time against Kasparov.

## NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENCE

G. KASPAROV	A. KARPOV
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. Nf3	c5

5. g3 Ne4

*Karpov pondered for 20 minutes before embarking on this sharp path. He cannot have been expecting 3. Nc3, let alone the Romanishin (g3) variation.*

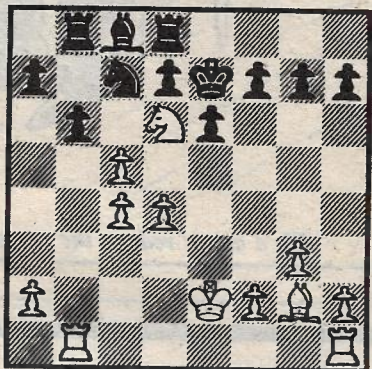
6. Qd3 Qa5  
7. Qxe4 Bxc3 ch  
8. Bd2 Bxd2 ch  
9. Nxd2 Qb6

*A recent idea, but possibly dubious. 9... 0-0 or 9... Nc6 were the older choices.*

10. dxc5 Qxb2  
11. Rb1 Qc3

*According to Soviet GM Mark Taimanov, 11... Qxa2 was a game, Ubilava-Lerner, USSR 1983, when Black came under a powerful attack. But by declining the pawn grab, Karpov falls into an inferior endgame.*

12. Qd3! Qxd3  
13. exd3 Na6  
14. d4 Rb8  
15. Bg2 Ke7  
16. Ke2 Rd8  
17. Ne4 b6  
18. Nd6 Nc7



*The knight heads for e8 to dislodge Kasparov's dominating knight on d6. Instead 18... bxc5 19. Rxb8 Nxb8 20. dxc5 keeps White's advantage; 20... Na6 fails to 21. Nxc8 ch Rxc8 22. Bb7.*

19. Rb4 Ne8  
20. Nxe8 Kxe8  
21. Rhb1 Ba6  
22. Ke3 d5

*Trying for defence by tactical means. The idea is 23. cxd5 exd5 24. cxb6 axb6 25. Rxb6 Rxb6 26. Rxb6 Bc4 with chances to resist.*

23. cxd6 ep Rbc8  
If 23... Rxd6 24. c5.

24. Kd3

*Even stronger would have been 24. Bf1 Rxd6 25. Ra4.*

24. ... Rxd6  
25. Ra4 b5  
26. cxb5 Rb8  
27. Rab4 Bb7  
28. Bxb7 Rxb7  
29. a4 Ke7

*Kasparov's superior opening has netted him a double-rook endgame a pawn up. Black has no real counterplay and the challenger makes no mistake.*

30. h4 h6  
31. f3 Rd5  
32. Rc1 Rbd7  
33. a5 g5  
34. hxg5 Rxc5  
35. g4 h5  
36. b6 axb6  
37. axb6 Rb7  
38. Rc5 f5  
39. gxh5 Rxh5  
40. Kc4 Rh8  
41. Kb5 Ra8

*And Black resigned during adjournment.*