

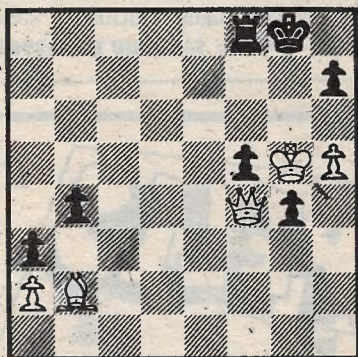
Calling all masochists

by Murray Chandler

THIS WEEK is your big chance to win a chess computer, one of those electronic sadists that will make you wish you'd taken up tiddlywinks. But don't let me put you off entering the competition; with any luck you'll get an answer or two wrong and get a chess book or bulletin prize instead! There are five sections to answer and even casual players should have a chance with most of them.

Part 1. The 1986 half-year international ELO ratings are now out, and the top 10 are: Kasparov 2740, Karpov 2705, Yusupov 2660, Korchnoi 2650, Hubner 2620, Sokolov 2620, Spassky 2620, Timman, 2620, Short 2615, Portisch 2605. Two of these players have never been in the top 10 before. Can you guess which?

Part 2.

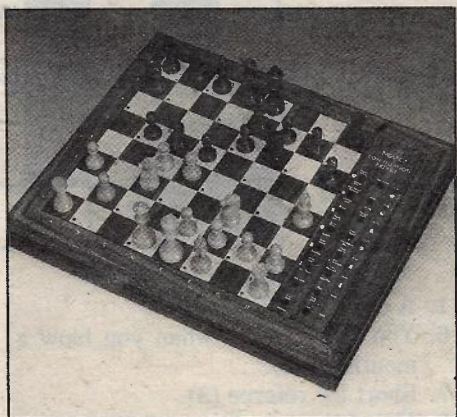


White to play and force checkmate in six moves.

This position, known as "The Sphinx", was resurrected in the January issue of the excellent magazine *New in Chess*. However, when grandmaster Jan Timman agreed with a reader's solution of checkmate in eight moves (1. Qc4 ch Rf7 2. Qc8 ch Rf8 3. Qe6 ch Rf7 4. Bf6! followed by 5. Kh6, 6. Bg7, 7. Qe8 ch and 8. Qxf8 mate) numerous readers wrote in pointing out a mate in only six moves. What was the solution Timman missed?

Part 3. This tough question is especially for aspiring authors. In the ill-fated new Batsford book *Spanish Gambits*, by Americans Schiller and Shamkovich, the authors claim that the move 11. ...c6 in the famous Marshall Gambit was introduced by Shamkovich in 1956. However, Frank Marshall, after whom the opening is named, was already dead in 1944. Who really invented the Marshall Gambit — Shamkovich or Marshall? PS, better not look it up in a book.

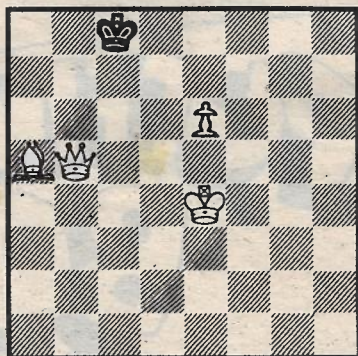
Part 4. A much better Batsford book is bound to be the forthcoming tome in Ray Keene's trilogy on the Kasparov-Karpov world championship matches. No doubt we will hear the inside story of K and K's



The first prize, a Novag chess computer. The board is pressure-sensitive, removing the need to punch in moves, and levels of play can be programmed from beginner to expert.

remarkable and generous donation of their prize-money (in excess of \$1 million) to the Chernobyl disaster fund. Question four is: between which two cities is the current K-K match to be split.

Part 5.



Finally, here is a lovely little two-part puzzle which, I must confess, tormented me for half an hour. First, with White to play, find the forced mate in two moves. Then remove the White pawn in the diagram position, and (with White to play) find the forced mate in three moves.

Prizes:

1st: A Novag micro chess computer.
2nd-5th: The 1986 London super-tournament bulletin.

Plus over 20 chess booklet consolation prizes.

The Novag Micro and book prizes have been kindly donated by New Zealand Chess Supplies, the official stockists for the New Zealand Chess Association. Solutions should be sent direct to them at PO Box 42-090, Wainuiomata, and the results will be published in this column at a later date. In the event of a tie, the winners will be drawn from a hat. Even if one of the puzzles stumped you, it may still be worth entering — less chance of winning the computer too! Entries close September 1.