

Garri Kasparov, superstar

by Murray Chandler

WORLD CHAMPION Garri Kasparov, due to defend his title soon, spent the last days of 1985 playing exhibition matches in West Europe. He defeated Dutch grandmaster Jan Timman in exuberant style, winning 4-2 in a six-game contest in Hilversum, Holland. In a novel experiment in West Germany next day, he took on the Bundesliga first division squad Hamburg HSV in an eight-board simultaneous exhibition. The intention was to duplicate true league conditions, down to the time-limit — and players. As Hamburg HSV is unfortunately the club I play for as a foreign mercenary, I was to become the first grandmaster ever to play a grandmaster in a simul. I refused, Kasparov refused to play me anyway, so naturally it happened.

The dramatic nature of Kasparov's championship victory over Anatoly Karpov has given him the remarkable status of a Soviet sportsman idolised in the West. A thousand spectators crammed into the Hamburg Hotel Intercontinental an hour before our exhibition started. Fortunately I failed to go down in history for the wrong reasons, and won in 33 moves. In spite of four TV stations and a herd of photographers, the HSV acquitted themselves well (we do have Fide masters on the bottom boards). Kasparov narrowly lost the match 4½-3½, but said later it had proved to be a sporting event of genuine interest, and one he would like to repeat.

At dinner afterwards Kasparov told me that he did not wish to play the "return match" with deposed champion Anatoly Karpov that Fide, the World Federation, has decreed must take place soon. "My last tournament was nearly two and a half years ago, in Niksic," he said. "In the last one and a half years I have played 90 games — 72 of them against Karpov. I want to play Grunfeld or Benoni Defence, not Queen's Gambit Declined." He told me he wanted to play creatively and experiment. He was obviously delighted with the match against Timman in which he "sacrificed three pieces and many, many pawns". But foremost in his thoughts was the Karpov re-match problem, and fighting to replace Florencio Campomanes, president of Fide. At a press conference in Hilversum that morning, Kasparov had endorsed the newly-announced candidacy of Brazilian Lincoln Lucena as Fide president and English grandmaster Raymond Keene as general secretary.

I have every sympathy with Kasparov regarding this absurd re-match clause. An unofficial poll at the World Teams Championship in Switzerland suggests over 90 percent of Western grandmasters agree. Kasparov wants to play some chess as world champion; some tournaments, exhibitions and matches. He is only 22, and plays with unrivalled imagination and courage. Here is his sixth match game against Jan Timman, the only Western semi-finalist in the current world championship cycle.

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE

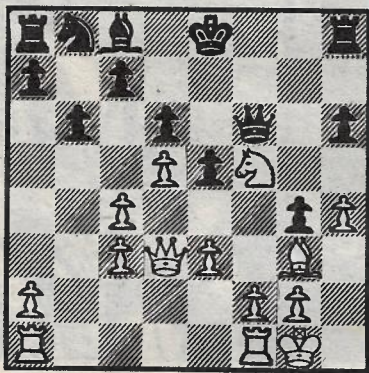
G KASPAROV	J TIMMAN
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6

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| 3. Nf3 | b6 |
| 4. Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 5. Bg5 | Bb7 |
| 6. e3 | h6 |
| 7. Bh4 | g5 |
| 8. Bg3 | Ne4 |
| 9. Qc2 | Bxc3 ch |
| 10. bxc3 | d6 |
| 11. Bd3 | f5 |
| 12. d5 | Nc5 |
| 13. h4 | g4 |
| 14. Nd4 | Qf6 |
| 15. 0-0 | Nxd3 |

Timman avoids repeating game four where 15. . . . Nba6 was met with the knight sacrifice 16. Nxe6 Nxe6 17. Bxf5 Ng7 18. Bg6 ch.

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| 16. Qxd3 | e5 |
| 17. Nxf5 | Bc8 |

TIMMAN



KASPAROV

18. Nd4!!

Is there no way to stop this man sacrificing! 18. e4 Bxf5 19. exf5 Nd7 would be nothing for White.

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| 18. . . . | exd4 |
| 19. cxd4 | Qf5 |
| 20. e4 | Qg6 |
| 21. Qc3 | 0-0 |
| 22. Rfe1 | Nd7 |
| 23. e5 | Bb7 |
| 24. Re3 | b5 |

Deciding he will otherwise be squashed by Rael, exd6 and Re6, Timman seeks counterplay.

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| 25. Qa5 | Nb6 |
| 26. Qxb5 | Qc2 |
| 27. exd6 | cxd6 |
| 28. Re7 | Rf7 |
| 29. Rxf7 | Kxf7 |
| 30. c5 | Qc4 |
| 31. Qb1 | Qxd5 |

Aiming for mate in one on g2. Kasparov deals with the threat, winning two pawns in the process.

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| 32. Qh7 ch | Kf6 |
| <i>If 32. . . . Ke8 then 33. Re1 ch wins quickly.</i> | |
| 33. Qxh6 ch | Kf7 |
| 34. Qf4 ch | Kg8 |
| 35. Qxg4 ch | Kh7 |
| 36. Bf4 | Bc8 |
| 37. Qg3 | dxc5 |
| 38. Re1 | Qf7 |
| 39. Qg5 | Nd5 |
| 40. Qh6 ch | Kg8 |
| 41. Re5 | Resigns |

If 41. . . . Nxf4 42. Rg5 ch or 41. . . . Qxf4 42. Re8 ch Kf7 43. Rf8 ch wins.