

Still he wins

by Murray Chandler

WHEN YOU'RE ranked third equal in the World, you don't often expect to come last in a tournament. This, however, is what happened to Dutch No 1 Jan Timman in an eight-player competition in the small Yugoslav town of Bugonjo. With an average ELO rating of 2627, Bugonjo ranks as one of the strongest events in the history of chess — rivalling South Africa 1981 as the highest category tournament since international ratings were introduced in 1970. It easily beats Montreal's 1979 "Tournament of Stars", and one probably has to go back to the 1948 World Championship tournament to find an event of comparable stature.

The tournament winner was Soviet ex-World Champion Anatoly Karpov, playing a final event before his revenge title clash with the current Champion, Garri Kasparov. Although he won by a full point margin, Karpov gained no rating points and even this impressive victory (on top of Brussels in March) still leaves him the underdog. The new super-class standards set by Kasparov in his crushing 5½-½ demolition of Tony Miles (*Listener*, June 21) are not easily equalled. Grandmaster Miles, now a tax-exile who rarely returns to Britain, had a fair result in Bugonjo, having evidently recovered from his drubbing in Basel.

Eyes were also on the two young Soviet grandmasters Artur Yusupov and Andrei Sokolov, due to clash in their World Championship Candidates semi-final later this year. Sokolov, 23, had the distinction of beating Karpov — an occurrence of greater significance than it might appear. It was the first game Karpov has lost to a Soviet player on foreign soil since 1975, when he became World Champion. In the past Western GMs have grumbled about fellow Soviets not trying too hard against him: Those days appear to be gone... but still Karpov wins the tournaments.

Here is the remarkable game.

RUY LOPEZ

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| A SOKOLOV | A KARPOV |
| 1. e4 | e5 |
| 2. Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3. Bb5 | a6 |
| 4. Ba4 | Nf6 |
| 5. O-O | Be7 |
| 6. Re1 | b5 |
| 7. Bb3 | d6 |
| 8. c3 | O-O |
| 9. h3 | Bb7 |
| 10. d4 | Re8 |

A tacit draw offer. Sokolov declines after the ritual knight dance.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 11. Ng5 | Rf8 |
| 12. Nf3 | Re8 |
| 13. Nbd2 | Bf8 |
| 14. Bc2 | Nb8 |
| 15. a4 | c5?! |

15... Nbd7 is less committal.

- | | |
|------------|------|
| 16. d5 | Nbd7 |
| 17. b4 | c4 |
| 18. Nf1 | Nh5 |
| 19. N(3)h2 | g6 |
| 20. Be3 | Be7 |
| 21. Qd2 | Rf8 |
| 22. Bh6 | Ng7 |
| 23. Ng3 | Kh8 |
| 24. Ng4 | Nf6 |
| 25. Nxf6 | Bxf6 |
| 26. Rf1 | Qd7 |
| 27. f4 | a5? |

27... exf4 was essential. Now Sokolov's kingside initiative gathers momentum, while the temporary pawn Black picks up is irrelevant.

- | | |
|----------|------|
| 28. f5! | axb4 |
| 29. cxb4 | bxa4 |
| 30. Rf3 | Kg8 |
| 31. Qf2 | Bh4 |
| 32. Bxg7 | Bxg3 |

32... Kxg7 33. Nh5 ch gxh5 34. Qxh4 is also unpleasant.

- | | |
|-----------|------|
| 33. Rxg3 | Kxg7 |
| 34. f6 ch | |

This pawn will torment Karpov till the end. He has to guard constantly against lightning mating attacks, while White plays on either side of the board at his leisure.

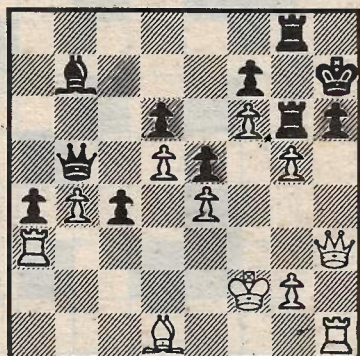
- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| 34. ... | Kh8 |
| 35. Rga3! | Qb5 |
| 36. Qe3 | Rg8 |
| 37. h4 | g5 |

Desperation, but 37... Ra6 38. Kf2 Qb6 39. Rxa4 Qxe3 ch 40. Kxe3 is a lost endgame — the c-pawn's fall is inevitable.

- | | |
|----------|-----|
| 38. hxg5 | Rg6 |
| 39. Kf2 | h6 |

The natural 39... Rg8 fails to 40. Rh1 Rxe5 41. Qh3! Rxe2 ch 42. Kf1 c3 dis. ch 43. Bd3! when Black's queen is attacked and mate is threatened.

- | | |
|---------|------|
| 40. Rh1 | Kh7 |
| 41. Bd1 | Rag8 |
| 42. Qh3 | |



The threat is 43. Qxh6 ch! Rxe6 44. Rxe6 checkmate.

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| 42. ... | Rh8 |
| 43. Bh5 | Resigns |

BUGONJO 1986

	K	L	So	P	Sp	Y	M	T						
Karpov	g 2700	—	1	½	0	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	8½
Ljubojevic	g 2605	0	½	—	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	0	1	7½
Sokolov	g 2595	1	½	½	½	—	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7½
Portisch	g 2610	½	½	½	½	½	—	½	½	0	½	½	½	7
Spassky	g 2610	½	0	½	½	½	½	—	½	½	½	½	1	7
Yusupov	g 2645	0	½	0	½	½	½	½	—	1	1	½	0	7
Miles	g 2610	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	½	0	0	—	1	6
Timman	g 2645	½	0	0	½	½	½	0	0	½	½	1	0	5½