

CHESS

Karpov rides again

by Murray Chandler

ANATOLY KARPOV's walkover victory in Brussels could not have come at a better time for the deposed Soviet world champion, whose public image has plummeted as fast as Garri Kasparov's has risen. Apart from the satisfaction of winning Belgium's strongest tournament since 1907 by a two-point margin, Karpov has proved that his re-match with Kasparov will be no mere formality. His fighting and inventive play notched up wins over Miles, Seirawan and Timman. Against the latter Karpov allowed Black to queen a pawn on move 77, but clinched the win 10 moves later by underpromoting his own passed pawn to a knight.

In strange contrast to Karpov's public appearances in Vienna and now Brussels, little has been seen of Kasparov at the chessboard this year. In spite of his stated desire to play some tournaments, an invitation to London was rejected on the grounds it was "too weak". Formerly Karpov has been considered the one reluctant to risk his reputation, but since seizing the world crown last November, the dashing Kasparov has played only one six-game mini-match with Timman. Soon, of course, he and Karpov must turn their thoughts to the revenge title match scheduled for August.

After much haggling, Fide (world federation) president Florencio Campomanes has compromised by announcing the K-K match venue will be shared between London and Leningrad. As I write, however, the £620,000 sponsorship provided by the now defunct Greater London Council has been snatched out of the British Chess Federation account by the English courts. The outcome of this unforeseen electronic nugging may not be resolved for several weeks. This puts Ray "Aquino" Keene — prime figure in the current campaign to replace Filipino Campomanes as Fide president — in a difficult organisational position.

Full scores of the SWIFT Invitational in Brussels were: 1, Karpov 9/11 points; 2, Korchnoi 7; 3-5, Miles, Timman and Torre 6½; 6, Romanishin 6; 7, Seirawan 5½; 8-9, Ljubojevic and Zapata 5; 10, van der Wiel 3½; 11, Winants 3; 12, Jadoul 2½. Much as I would like to give the 105-move Karpov-Timman game this week, constraints of space say otherwise. But the following brilliancy, from the recent women's world championship candidates tournament in Malmo, Sweden, makes a superb replacement.



Karpov: two-points clear.

6. bxc3 Bg7

7. Bc4

This old main line (until recently replaced by 7. Nf3) is coming back into fashion again. 7. ... b6 is Yusupov-Timman (Listener March 28).

7. ... 0-0

8. Ne2 c5

9. 0-0 Nc6

10. Be3 Qc7

11. Rc1 Rd8

12. f4 Bg4

13. f5 Na5

Unclear are 13. ... gxf5 14. Bxf7 ch Kxf7 15. Qb3 ch e6 16. Nf4 or 14. h3, but (until this game anyway) the books recommended this knight move. Cramling's next is an openings novelty.

14. Bd5! e6?

14. ... gxf5 15. h3 Bxe2 16. Qxe2 e6 17. exf5 Rxd5 18. f6 is a dangerous bishop sacrifice, but not totally clear. Levitina (not surprisingly) had overlooked White's 16th.

15. fx e6 fxe6

16. Nf4!



A bombshell for Black. If 16. ... Bxd1 17. Nxe6 Qe7 18. Nxd8 dis ch Kh8 19. Nf7 ch Kg8 20. Bg5 Qc7 21. Raxc1. White has enough material for the queen and too many threats, such as 22. Bd8!

16. ... exd5

17. Qxg4 Qd7

18. Qe6 ch Kh8

19. exd5 Nc4

20. Bf2 cxd4

21. Bxd4 Bxd4 ch

22. cxd4 b5

23. Nxg6 ch! Resigns

White ends the assault with a neat combination; if 23. ... hxg6 24. Rf8 ch! Kg7 (24. ... Rxf8 25. Qxd7 or 24. ... Kh7 25. Rf7 ch) 25. Qf6 ch Kh6 26. Qh4 ch Kg7 27. Qh8 checkmate. Pia Cramling's poor showing overall in Malmo was a great disappointment for the West, and candidates winner Elena Akhmedovskaya now challenges Maya Chiburdinidze in an all Soviet women's world title match.

GRUNFELD DEFENCE

P CRAMLING (Sweden)	I LEVITINA (USSR)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	g6
3. Nc3	d5
4. cxd5	Nxd5
5. e4	Nxc3