Karpov rides again

by Murray Chandler

NATOLY 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 mugging 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 61/2; 6, Romanishin 6; 7, Seirawan 51/2; 8-9, Ljubojevic and Zapata 5; 10, van der Wiel 31/2; 11, Winants 3; 12, Jadoul 21/2. Much as I would like to give the 105move 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.

GRUNFELD DEFENCE P CRAMLING I LEVITINA (Sweden) (USSR) Nf6 g6 2. c4 3. Nc3 d5 4. c×d5 N×d5 5. e4 N×c3



Karpov: two-points

6. b×c3 7. Bc4

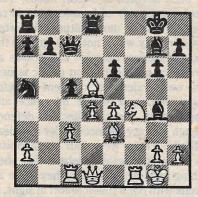
This old main line (until recently replaced by 7. Nf3) is coming back into fashion again. 7. ... b6 is Yusupov-Timman (Listener March 28).

7		0-0
8. N	e2	c5
9. 0	-0	Nc6
10. B	le3	Qc7
11. R	c1	Rd8
12. f	4	Bg4
13. f	5	Na5

Unclear are 13...g×f5 14. B×f7 ch K×f7 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 open-

14. ... g×f5 15. h3 B×e2 16. Q×e2 e6 17. exf5 Rxd5 18.f6 is a dangerous bishop sacrifice, but not totally clear. Levitina (not surprisingly) had overlooked White's 16th.

15. f×e6 16. Nf4!



A bombshell for Black. If 16. . . . B×d1 17. N×e6 Qe7 18. N×d8 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. 17. Q×g4 Qd7 18. Qe6 ch Kh8 19. e×d5 Nc4 20. Bf2 c×d4 21. B×d4 B×d4 ch 22. c×d4 **b**5 23. N×g6 ch!

White ends the assault with a neat combination; if 23. . . . h×g6 24. Rf8 ch! Kg7 (24. .R×1825. Q×d7 or 24.... Kh725. 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 Akhmilovskaya now challenges Maya Chiburdinidze in an all Soviet women's world title match.