

CHESS

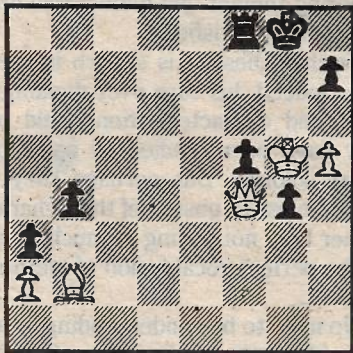
The winner is ...

by Murray Chandler

ONCE AGAIN your sceptical columnist has blundered in grandmasterly fashion by miscalculating the skills of *Listener* readers. No less than 53 entrants got all of the answers right in the August 16 puzzle competition and the major prize winners had to be drawn from a hat. The new possessor of a Novag Micro Chess Computer, kindly donated by New Zealand Chess Supplies, is Peter West of Auckland. In second to fifth place are Selwyn Andrews of Wellington, Stephen Coates of Christchurch, Jonathan Sarfati of Wellington and Mark Capie of Lower Hutt. However, Brian Foster of NZCS has promised that all correct entries will receive a small chess consolation prize, on condition that our next puzzles are harder!

The solutions to most of the questions were straightforward enough. In part one the two new players ranked in the world's top 10 were Andrei Sokolov and Nigel Short. In part three, lo and behold, Marshall invented the Marshall Gambit and not Shamkovich. Part four, the venue for the Kasparov-Karpov clash was of course London and Leningrad. The checkmate solutions in part five (composed by Lev Sokolov, USSR) were: 1.Bd8 Kxd8 2.Qd7 mate and 1.Qb2! Kd7 2.Qe5 Kc6 (2...Kc8 3.Qc7) 3.Qd5 mate.

That leaves only part two, where the task was to find the six-move checkmate in this enigmatic position known as "The Sphinx".



Here the intended single solution was 1.Qc4 ch Rf7 2.Bf6 g3 (or 2...b3 or 2...f4) 3.Kh6 followed by 4.Bg7, 5.Qc8 ch and 6.Qxf8 mate. However, a number of entrants sent in the perfectly valid alternative lines 4.Be7, 5.Qc8 ch and 6.Qxf8 mate, and also 1.Qc4 ch Rf7 2.Bf6 g3 3.Be7 Kg7 (3...g2 4.Qc8 ch Kg7 5.h6 mate) 4.h6 ch Kg8 5.Qc8 ch Rf8 6.Qxf8 mate. In fact this idea of bringing the bishop to e7 has been mentioned in *New in Chess* magazine, but several readers discovered a different method of bringing the bishop to this diagonal. After 1.Qc4 ch Rf7 2.Be5 g3 3.Bd6 White mates as before, and 2...Kf8 instead allows 3.Bd6 ch Kg7 4.h6 ch Kg8 5.Qc8 ch Rf8 6.Qxf8 — again mate within the prescribed six moves. As far as I know this third solution to the 138-year-old problem has never been published before and even the Novag Micro had to agree it was sound.

This week's game features one of the players mentioned above, 22-year-old Soviet grandmaster Andrei Sokolov,

whose meteoric rise through the World Championship cycle has brought him to the Candidates Final. As I write, however, that is where his current bid looks like ending as he trails by two games against compatriot Artur Yusupov, 26, in the best-of-14 series. Yusupov won games one and three as black in the French Defence. Here is his second win.

A SOKOLOV	A YUSUPOV
1. e4	e6
2. d4	d5
3. Nc3	Bb4
4. e5	Ne7
5. a3	Bxc3 ch
6. bxc3	c5
7. Nf3	b6!?

This thematic move aims to exchange Black's "bad" white-squared bishop for White's good one at the expense of a few tempi. In game one Sokolov tried 8.Bb5 ch Bd7 9.Bd3 but lost all initiative to the Nimzowitschian queen manoeuvre 9...Ba4 10.h4 h6 11.h5 Nbc6 12.Rh4 c4 13.Be2 Kd7!? 14.Be3 Qg8! 15.Qd2 Qh7.

8. a4	Ba6
9. Bxa6	Nxa6
10. 0-0	Nb8!?
11. dxc5	

11.a5 bxa5 12.Ba3 is more aggressive.

11. ...	bxc5
12. c4	0-0
13. cxd5	Nxd5
14. Qd3	h6
15. c4	Ne7
16. Qe4	Nd7
17. Rb1?	

Surprisingly too ambitious, though the reason why is very difficult to fathom even when it happens!

17. ...	Qa5
18. Rd1	Rad8!
19. Qc2	

Expecting 19. ... Nb6 20.Be3 Qxa4 21.Qxa4 Nxa4 22.Rdc1! with 23.Ra1 to follow, when white regains his pawn with a promising endgame.

19. ...	Nxe5!
20. Nxe5	Qc3!

The brilliantly concealed point — 21.Qxc3 Rxd1 ch 22.Qe1 Rxe1 checkmate. So Yusupov collects back his knight and remains a pawn up.

21. Qe2	Qxe5*
22. Be3	Nf5
23. Qf3	Rxd1 ch
24. Rxd1	Nd4
25. Bxd4	cxd4

Pieces are coming off and the cliché "just a matter of technique" is applicable; Soviet grandmasters learn such things in their cradles.

26. Qd3	Rd8
27. g3	Qc5
28. f4	Qb4
29. Ra1	a5
30. h4	h5
31. Rb1	Qxa4
32. Rb5	g6
33. Kf2	Qa2 ch
34. Kf3	a4
35. Rb6	Kg7
36. Rb1	Kg8
37. Rb6	Qa1
38. Ke2	a3
39. Ra6	Qb2 ch
40. Qd2	d3 ch

Resigns
After 41.Ke1 Qd4 42.Kf1 Rb8 checkmates or wins the queen