

**CHESS**

# Test of time

by Murray Chandler

**C**HAMPAGNE and caviare flowed as the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, dressed in black and white, opened the first half of the Kasparov-Karpov World Championship in London. In her speech in the ballroom of the Park Lane Hotel she revealed that the USSR Foreign Minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, had given her a chess set at their recent meeting. "I give him full marks for diplomacy, the chess set is in fact blue and white," she said. She then selected an envelope which resulted in challenger Anatoly Karpov choosing white in game one.

This clash between the 23-year-old Kasparov and 35-year-old Karpov is the final one to decide the world champion for the next two years. If Kasparov ties or wins the 24-game contest, which switches to Leningrad halfway through, Karpov will have to qualify to meet him again. If Karpov wins, it will be Kasparov who drops back to the final candidates matches in the next cycle. But to both of these Soviet superstars the outcome is at least as important politically. On British TV Kasparov has publicly denounced what he calls the "international chess mafia". Retaining his title is vital for his campaign to remove Florencio Campomanes from the presidency of FIDE, the world chess federation.

The match began with a relatively quick draw, with Karpov surprised by Kasparov's Grunfeld defence. In game two the capacity crowd (swelled by some 600 accredited journalists) were treated to some real action when Karpov unleashed a sixth-move opening novelty in the Nimzo-Indian defence. It took Kasparov 44 minutes to find a way to keep an endgame edge — only to miss an instant win in time-trouble on move 39. But in game four Kasparov made no such mistake and converted his opening advantage to victory. The bookmakers, already heavily backing the young titleholder, revised their odds — temporarily. Next game Karpov wiped Kasparov's Grunfeld defence off the board. In game six, a Petroff defence, Karpov gained further psychological points when he forced Kasparov to abandon his attack and grovel for a draw. In game seven Karpov had a dangerous initiative before letting Kasparov escape in mutual time-pressure.

Two hours before game eight started, as the usual queue for tickets began outside the hotel, Karpov's prospects had never looked better. Seven hours later they were in shreds. Two pawns up, but facing a decisive attack, he suffered the first loss on time in a championship match since Botvinnik overstepped the limit against Smyslov some 30 years ago. Here is that dramatic game:

**QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED**

<b>G KASPAROV.</b>	<b>A KARPOV</b>
1. d4	d5
2. c4	e6
3. Nc3	Be7

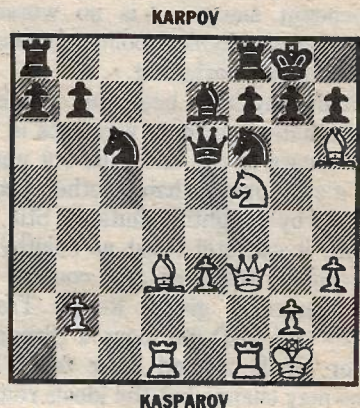
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| 4. cxd5 | exd5 |
| 5. Bf4! |      |

*The same line that Karpov had used with White in the previous game! Perhaps worried that Kasparov might play his own new idea against him (5... c6 6. Qc2 g6 7. e3 Bf5 8. Qd2!?) Karpov decides on straight-forward castling, but this enables the White king's bishop immediately to adopt its most aggressive stance on d3.*

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| 5. ...   | Nf6  |
| 6. e3    | 0-0  |
| 7. Bd3   | c5   |
| 8. Nf3   | Nc6  |
| 9. 0-0   | Bg4  |
| 10. dxc5 | Bxc5 |
| 11. h3   | Bxf3 |
| 12. Qxf3 | d4   |
| 13. Ne4  | Be7  |
| 14. Rad1 | Qa5  |
| 15. Ng3  |      |

*Instead 15. Bg5 Nd5! holds. Now Karpov grabs a hot pawn before rushing his queen back to the defence of his menaced king position.*

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| 15. ...  | dxe3 |
| 16. fxe3 | Qxa2 |
| 17. Nf5  | Qe6  |
| 18. Bh6! |      |



*Not a sacrifice, as 18... gxh6 19. Qg3 ch forces checkmate in two moves.*

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| 18. ...  | Ne8 |
| 19. Qh5! | g6  |
| 20. Qg4  | Ne5 |
| 21. Qg3  | Bf6 |
| 22. Bb5? |     |

*This must have been a miscalculation. 22. Bxf8 Kxf8 23. Nd4 Qb6 is clearly in White's favour although Black retains drawing chances.*

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| 22. ...  | Ng7  |
| 23. Bxg7 | Bxg7 |
| 24. Rd6  | Qb3! |

*Missed by the champion?*

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|-----------|------|
| 25. Nxg7  | Qxb5 |
| 26. Nf5   | Rad8 |
| 27. Rf6!? | Rd7  |
| 28. Qg5   | Qxb2 |
| 29. Kh1   | Kh8? |

*Already in desperate time-trouble (each player must make 40 moves in two and a half hours) Karpov blunders. 29... a5! was highly unclear.*

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|-----------|--------------------|
| 30. Nd4   | Rxd4               |
| 31. Qxe5! | Black lost on time |

*After 31... Rd2 32. Qe7 Rdd8! 33. Rxf7 Rxf7 34. Rxf7 Black can almost save himself with 34... Kg8! (intending 35. Rxf7 Rf8), but 36. e4! wins. Black has no defence against 37. e5 followed by 38. Rg7 ch. That Black was lost anyway was some minor consolation, but this loss on time — with still nine moves left to make — did not bode well for Karpov's chances.*