

Read all about it

by Murray Chandler

IN THE OLD days, when columns were weekly and super-tournaments rare, it was possible to cover all major competitions in this organ. Now one has to sacrifice writing about the annual Dutch grandmaster event in Tilburg (won by Timman) in order to mention several new books. Fortunately the books deal with swindles, secrets, allegations and politics as much as boring opening moves, and I will deal with them in the aforementioned order.

Saving Lost Positions (Batsford), by Leonid Shamkovich and Eric Schiller, is dedicated to "anyone who has ever thrown away a winning position". Although I prefer to study books that help me to avoid lost positions, many of the 93 games and positions given as examples are quite amusing. You might appreciate something this lighthearted if you had just finished reading *Secrets of Grandmaster Play*, also published by Batsford and also co-authored: English grandmaster John Nunn teamed up with experienced chess teacher Peter Griffiths to write a deeply annotated collection of his own games. So deep, in fact, that only 24 games are covered in 212 pages. Instruction manuals based around games collections have become classics in the past, and this one is certainly worth delving into.

Coincidentally, *London-Leningrad Championship Games* (Pergamon), by Garri Kasparov, also features 24 deeply annotated games. This is World Champion Kasparov's authoritative account of his 1986 match with compatriot Anatoly Karpov. For once this World Championship account deals predominantly with events on the actual board, although the protagonists continue radically to disagree over who was winning game 24.

But there is a reason for Kasparov's verbal restraint. As his latest title match with Karpov, in Seville, Spain, began in October, a remarkable Kasparov autobiography was released. *Child of Change* (Century Hutchinson), co-authored with London *Sunday Telegraph* editor Donald Trelford, is a riveting account of Soviet chess politics from the Brezhnev to the Gorbachev era.

For a Soviet citizen to publish allegations of corruption and repression a few years ago would have been absolutely unthinkable. Even now it is astonishing, but Kasparov openly alleges a grand conspiracy by Soviet officialdom to shield Karpov from dangerous challengers. Kasparov claims he would never have been allowed to win the title had his rise not fortuitously coincided with the new spirit of *glasnost* now sweeping the Soviet Union.

Karpov, he says, "... ruled like a Czar of Chess" after taking the American Bobby Fischer's world crown by default in 1975. Referring to the match in Seville, Kasparov stated: "Let's hope it is a classic and that it finally settles my

historic feud with Karpov at the chess-board."

Here is game five from that feud:

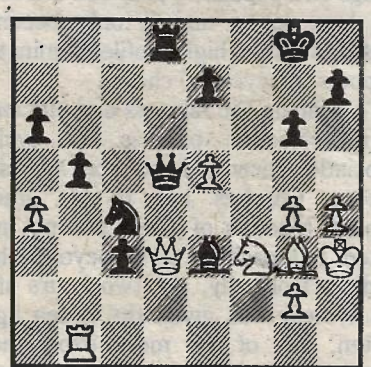
| KARPOV | KASPAROV |
|--------------|----------|
| 1. d4 | Nf6 |
| 2. c4 | g6 |
| 3. Nc3 | d5 |
| 4. cxd5 | Nxd5 |
| 5. e4 | Nxc3 |
| 6. bxc3 | Bg7 |
| 7. Bc4 | c5 |
| 8. Ne2 | Nc6 |
| 9. Be3 | O-O |
| 10. O-O | Bg4 |
| 11. f3 | Na5 |
| 12. Bxf7ch!? | |

Karpov used this temporary bishop sacrifice several times in the match. White wins a pawn, but Black gains some positional pressure in compensation.

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| 12. ... | Rxf7 |
| 13. fxg4 | Rxf1ch |
| 14. Kxf1 | Qd6 |
| 15. e5 | Qd5 |
| 16. Bf2 | Rf8 |
| 17. Kg1 | Bh6 |
| 18. h4 | Qf7 |
| 19. Bg3 | Be3ch |
| 20. Kh2 | Qc4 |
| 21. Rb1 | b6 |
| 22. Rb2 | Qd5 |
| 23. Qd3 | Nc4 |
| 24. Rb1 | b5! |

Setting a nasty trap: if 25. Rxb5? Nxe5! 26. Bxe5 Rf2 and the threat of checkmate on g2 cannot be parried.

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| 25. Kh3 | a6 |
| 26. Ng1 | cxd4 |
| 27. Nf3 | Rd8 |
| 28. a4 | dxc3 |



Better was 28. ... bxa4! with promising play for Black: 29. Rb4 Rc8 30. Rxa4 a5! (not 30. ... Nb2 31. Qxa6) and now Black really threatens the knight fork on b2.

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| 29. Qxc3 | Qe6 |
| 30. Kh2 | bxa4 |
| 31. Rb4 | Nd2 |
| 32. Rxa4 | Nf1ch |
| 33. Kh3 | Rd1? |

Karpov's bishop retreat on move 36 neutralises this over-ambitious rook infiltration; 33. ... h5! was still unclear.

| | |
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| 34. Qc2 | Rc1 |
| 35. Qe2 | h5 |
| 36. Be1! | Qd7 |
| 37. Qxa6 | Ra1? |

This disastrous time-pressure blunder loses instantly. Obviously 38. Rxa1? allows Qxg4 mate, but Kasparov simply overlooked the attack on his g-pawn. Instead, after 37. ... Kg7, White must still convert his winning position to an actual point.

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| 38. Qxg6ch | Resigns |
|------------|---------|