

Three from the 70s

ORIGINALLY a Czech and then a Soviet Grandmaster, Salo Flohr was at one stage of his career one of the top players in the world. Making his debut for Czechoslovakia in the 1930 Olympiad he scored 14½/17, which was bettered only by Alekhine and Rubinstein on top board, and between then and 1939

he scored a number of major successes, including firsts or first-equals at Hastings in 1931, 1932 and 1933, Moscow in 1935, Podebrady in 1936, and Kemer in 1937.

But in 1938 the Germans started to occupy Czechoslovakia, and soon afterwards Flohr changed homelands and went to live permanently

in the USSR.

Continual encounters with aggressive Soviet players from then on, however, caused a change in his vigorous, combinative style. He began to depend more on sheer technique, and never quite reached the same peaks again.

He has been generally rec-

ognised as a positional player who could set imaginative traps behind seemingly innocuous moves. His famous win over Mikhail Botvinnik in 1931 featured a superb utilisation of the two bishops against two knights in the endgame.

Born in November 1908, Flohr recently celebrated his

70th birthday in Moscow, where he now lives.

KEMERI 1937

Caro Kann Defence

W. R. Hasenfuss	S. Flohr
1. e4	c6
2. d4	d5
3. e×d5	c×d5
4. c4	Nf6
5. Nc3	Nc6
6. Bg5	e6!?

Nowadays the more flashy 6...Qa5 is in vogue, but the game Sveshnikov-Bagirow, USSR Championships 1978, continued 7.B×f6 e×f6 8.c×d5 Bb4 9.Qd2 B×c3 10.b×c3 Q×d5 11.Ne2! 0-0 12.Nf4 Qa5 13.Be2 Rfd8 14.Rd1 with a plus for White.

7. Nf3

The clearest way to play for an advantage is 7.c5! although White must be careful not to overextend. Boleslavsky gives 7...Be7 8.Bb5 0-0 9.B×c6 b×c6 10.Nf3 Ne4 (10...Ba6 11.Ne5 planning 12.Qa4) 11.B×e7 Q×e7 12.0-0 N×c3 13.b×c3, when White's knight is superior to the Black bishop.

In the game Flohr allows White no chance to transpose back into this line.

7. ...	d×c4
8. B×c4	Be7
9. 0-0	0-0
10. Rc1	a6
11. a3	

Preferable is 11.Bd3 h6 12.Bf4 Re8 13.a3 Nd5 14.Bg3 N×c3 15.R×c3 Bf6 16.Be5!

11. ...	b5
12. Ba2	Bb7
13. Qd3	Nd5
14. Ne4?	

A blunder, allowing a rare and original sacrificial offer that nets bishop for knight. Hasenfuss should have chosen the natural 14.Bb1, eg, 14...g6 15.Bh6 Re8 16.Ne4 as suggested in the Kemer tournament book, but I believe the interesting 14...f5! secures Black reasonable chances, viz, 15.N×d5 B×g5! 16.N×g5? Q×g5 17.Nc7 N×d4! with a crushing position. White must content himself with 15.B×e7 Nc×e7 16.Ba2.

14. ...	Ncb4!
15. Qb1	

Or 15.a×b4 N×b4 16.Qb1 N×a2 17.Q×a2 B×e4 and Black has an extra pawn.

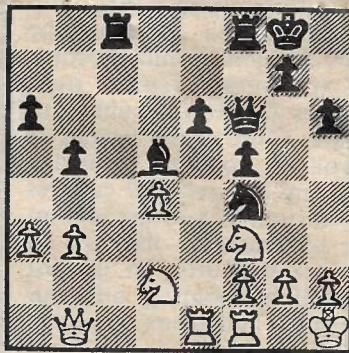
15. ...	N×a2
16. Q×a2	B×g5
17. Ne×g5	h6
18. Ne4	Nf4
19. Rce1	Bd5

Flohr commands the board with his well-posted bishop in the centre, combining the diagonals. He threatens to win material with 20...Bc4.

20. b3	f5
21. Ned2	Qf6
22. Kh1	Rac8
23. Qb1?	

After this, White's position caves in, but there is little he can do. Sir Stuart Milner-Barry gives the pretty variation 23.Re3 Qg6 24.Rg1 Rcl! 25.Ree1 (25.Nh4 Q×g2 ch!

mates! Rfc8 26.Qb2 Nd3! 27.R×c1 N×f2 checkmate!



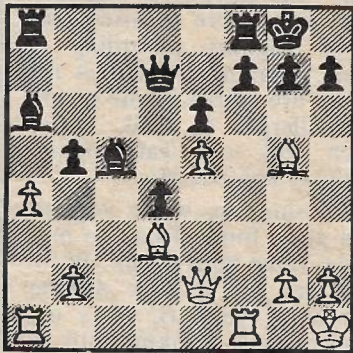
23. ...	N×g2!
24. K×g2	Qg5 ch
25. Kh1	Q×d2
26. Re3	Q×d4
27. Resigns	

Like Flohr, Leningrad Master Andrei Batuyev recently turned 70. Now a pensioner, he was a well-known master, trainer and judge in Leningrad, and has connections with the "house of pioneers", the training ground for young players.

One of his best games features an aggressive finishing combination.

LENINGRAD 1934

I. Robinovich

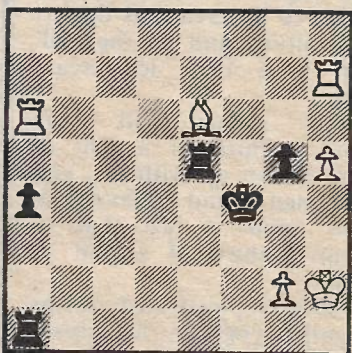


A. Batuyev
1.B×h7 ch! K×h7 2.Qh5 ch Kg8 3.Bf8! (Obviously the bishop cannot be taken, and meanwhile White threatens 4.Qg5 g6 6.Qh6 mating. Black intends to defend by 4...Bf8 but is thwarted by the white rook joining the fray.) 3...Rfd8 4.Rf4! Bb7 5.Rh4 B×g2 ch 6.K×g2 Qd5 ch 7.Kh3 Qb3 ch 8.Kg4 Resigns.

Seeing that everyone seems to be turning 70, here is a combination from yet another player who has just done the same. White seems to be winning easily — he is a bishop up — and it is even his move! But Donner, who by now is probably more famous in China than anywhere else, allowed birthday boy Ed Spanjaard a combination to treasure...

VEENENDOOOL 1961

Spanjaard



Donner
1.Rha7?? Rh1 ch! 2.K×h1 Kg3 3. Resigns. White's extra pieces are powerless to prevent the coming mate. Yet another Donner classic!