

# Kostic commemoration

THE YUGOSLAVS certainly know how to honour their departed national heroes. I was in the small community of Panonija in May, as a trainer at the European Girls championship, when the anniversary of President Tito's death occurred. With touching sincerity the locals showed us photos of the day, a year before, when the tragic news had been broken. One was of a major football match — abandoned when the players broke down weeping on the field. Even the great Bugojno chess tournament adjourned for seven days.

It was during this visit that I received my invitation for the 1981 Boris Kostic Memorial Tournament in Vrsac. Kostic, who was born in this small town in 1887, may not objectively have been one of the all-time chess giants, but during his life he became the greatest ambassador for chess Yugoslavia has ever had, globe-trotting with a chessboard under his arm, talking about himself, Serbia, and the game he loved.

From Vrsac (which has named a street after him) Kostic went forth to promote chess throughout Europe, South and North America, Australasia and India with his simultaneous exhibitions and casual games. He was the first Yugoslav professional, and even once played an unofficial match with world champion Capablanca, which he lost. But he was just as much at home playing in bars for cups of tea and cake, and did so in such an entertaining manner that everywhere crowds would gather to watch his games.

In New Zealand, which he toured in 1925, Kostic played some 482 games in exhibitions — winning 408, drawing 65 and losing 9. The outcome of one particular game is, however, unclear. Kostic, apparently in zugzwang, is said to have made his move by picking up his king, waving it in the air for a while, and then replacing it — on the same square!

After his sudden death in 1963, at the age of 77, the biennial memorial events were initiated in Vrsac, and this year's strong grandmaster tournament was certainly a worthy tribute. It was won by the fine Hungarian GM Gyula Sax on 11½ points out of 15, followed by 2, GM J. Smejkal (Czechoslovakia) 11; 3, GM T. Petrosian (USSR) 10; 4-6, IM D. Campora (Argentina), GM B. Kura-jica and GM M. Matulovic (both Yugoslavia) 8½; 7, GM L. Ftacnik (Czechoslovakia) 8; 8-9, GM P. Popovic and GM D. Velimirovic (both Yugoslavia) 7½; 10-12, IM M. Chandler (New Zealand), IM P. Nikolic and GM D. Rajkovic (both Yugoslavia) 7; 13, IM M. Cebalo (Yugoslavia) 6½; 14, IM S. Velickovic (Yugoslavia) 6; 15, FM M. Kapelan (Yugoslavia) 4½; 16, S. Simic (Yugoslavia) 1.

More about Sax's victory next week. Meanwhile, here is a first-round game of mine.

## SICILIAN DEFENCE

<b>M. CHANDLER</b> (New Zealand)	<b>M. CEBALO</b> (Yugoslavia)
1. e4	c5
2. g3!?	g6
3. Bg2	Bg7
4. d3	d6
5. f4	Nc6
6. c3!?	e6
7. Nf3	Nge7
8. 0-0	

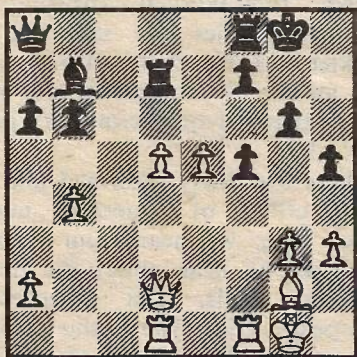
*I decided to try this rare line against Miso Cebalo's habitual Sicilian after reading a very fine article by the Canadian IM Laurence Day in Modern Chess Theory. He christened it "The Big Clamp" as White arranges his pawn structure to cut down Black's mobility.*

8. ...	d5
9. e5	b6
10. Na3	a6?!
11. Be3	Bb7
12. Bf2	h5
13. Rc1	Nf5
14. h3	Bf8
15. Nc2	Be7
16. Qd2	Rc8
17. d4	cxd4
18. Ncxd4	Nfxd4
19. Nxd4	Nxd4
20. Bxd4	Bc5
21. Bxc5	Rxc5
22. c4	0-0
23. f5!	

*The standard break, which in this case gains a passed d-pawn as Black can hardly recapture 23...gxf5 exposing his king to the elements.*

23. ...	exf5
24. b4	Rc7
25. cxd5	Rd7
26. Rcd1	Qa8?

CEBALO



CHANDLER

27. Rxf5! Bxd5  
*If 27...gxf5 then 28.Qg5 ch Kh8 29.Qxh5 ch Kg7 30.Qg5 ch Kh8 31.Rd4 with the unstoppable threat of Rh4 checkmate.*

28. Rf4 Bxg2  
*After 28...Rfd8 29.Rd4 or 29...Bc6 30.Qxd7 White won material in any case.*

29. Qxd7	Bc6
30. Qd6	Ba4
31. Rc1	Re8
32. Rxf7!	

*My rook-for-bishop advantage was winning, but this speeds things up. Now 32...Kxf7 33.Qf6 ch Kg8 33.Rc7 leads to a quick mate.*

32. ...	Qe4
33. Rcf1	Bc6
34. Rf8 ch	Kh7
35. Rf7 ch	Kh6
36. Qd2 ch	Resigns

MURRAY CHANDLER