

Fun and games

by Murray Chandler

WHAT HAVE John Walker, Joe Bugner, Adam Faith, Stanley Kubrick and Alistair Cooke got in common? Or how about John Wayne, John Lennon, Karl Marx, Yehudi Menuhin and Casanova? The answer is that they were or are all keen chessplayers, according to a witty new book called *The Complete Chess Addict*, by Mike Fox and Richard James. It goes further than naming names: it gives anecdotes, photos, gossip and puzzles ranging from the greatest to the bizarre. Even quotes. My namesake, Raymond Chandler describes our noble game (in *The Long Goodbye*): "... as elaborate a waste of human intelligence as you could find anywhere outside an advertising agency."

Many of the stories related are well known on the international circuit, but for various reasons (ie, libel) many have never been published before. Publishers Faber and Faber could be unlucky if certain Eastern European grandmasters decide to raise some hard currency by suing. Even if everyone knows someone threw a game for a \$400 bribe, it is another matter to prove it in court! But most of the book is good honest fun. The Pope problem-composing hoax is exposed (*Solving in Style* is not John Paul

II's favourite bedside book), just before the chapter on famous chessplaying sinners.

Looking up some of the stars coming to the \$200,000 Plaza International in Wellington seemed a good idea. West German grandmaster Robert Hubner, because of his world ranking, is listed in the "greatest players of all time" section. He also features with a game:

Hubner-Rogoff,
World Student Teams Championship 1972

1. c4 Draw agreed

This is an important improvement on an earlier game between Fischer and Panno which went: 1.c4 Resigns. The trouble with encounters this short is that there is so little scope for anything original, such as the Irish Gambit (1.e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nxe5). The inventor of this opening was asked on his deathbed what possessed him to take the pawn. "I didn't see it was defended," he gasped, and expired.

The Plaza International, Australasia's most prestigious ever tournament, starts on March 15 at the Plaza Hotel in Wellington. Play is daily, starting 1.30pm, until March 27, except for rest days on the 21st and 26th.

Former Soviet World Champion Boris

Spassky, who now lives in France, has also accepted the invitation to the Plaza International. One of his entries in the book is this week's game — a classic King's Gambit win over David Bronstein from the 27th USSR Championship. In one sense it is the most famous game ever; the final position was featured in the film *From Russia with Love*.

USSR 1959

SPASSKY	BRONSTEIN
1. e4	e5
2. f4	exf4
3. Nf3	d5

The Falkbeer Counter-gambit, returning the pawn, is a good active defence to the dangerous King's Gambit.

4. exd5	Bd6
5. Nc3	Ne7
6. d4	O-O
7. Bd3	Nd7
8. O-O	h6?

Better was 8... Ng6 or 8... Nf6; now Spassky seizes the initiative with another pawn offer.

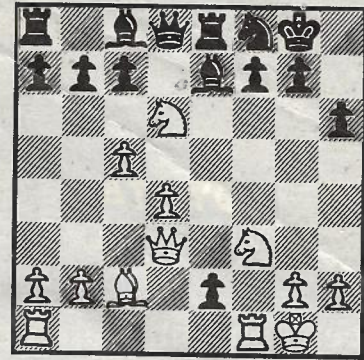
9. Ne4!	Nxd5
10. c4	Ne3
11. Bxe3	fxe3
12. c5	Be7
13. Bc2	Re8
14. Qd3	e2

Obviously Bronstein realised Spassky had evil intentions along the b1-h7 diagonal, but simply expected 15. Rf2 Nf8. Usually opponents move rooks when they are molested by pawns.

15. Nd6!?

One beautiful finish goes 15... exf1=Q ch 16. Rxf1 Nf6 17. Nxf7 Kxf7 18. Ne5 ch Kg8 19. Qh7 ch! Nxe7 20. Bb3 ch Kh8 21. Ng6 mate. The toughest defence, according to Spassky, was 15... Bxd6 16. Qh7 ch Kf8 17. cxd6 exf1=Q ch 18. Rxf1 cxd6 19. Qh8 ch Ke7 20. Re1 ch Ne5 21. Qxg7 Rg8 22. Qxh6 Qb6 23. Kh1 Be6 24. dxe5 when it still

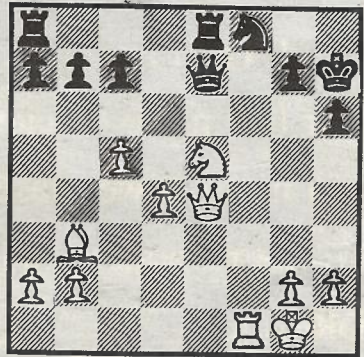
remains for the wandering Black king to be exploited.



16. Nxf7! exf1=Q ch
17. Rxf1 Bf5

If 17... Qd5 18. Bb3 or 17... Kxf7 18. Ne5 ch Kg8 19. Qh7 ch! (again) Nxe7 20. Bb3 ch and 21. Ng6 mate. Bronstein tries to scramble out the exchange down by returning a bishop, but the Black king is still too vulnerable.

18. Qxf5	Qd7
19. Qf4	Bf6
20. N(3)e5	Qe7
21. Bb3	Bxe5
22. Nxe5 ch	Kh7
23. Qe4 ch	Resigns



23... Kh8 is met by 24. Rxf8 ch! and 25. Ng6 ch.



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