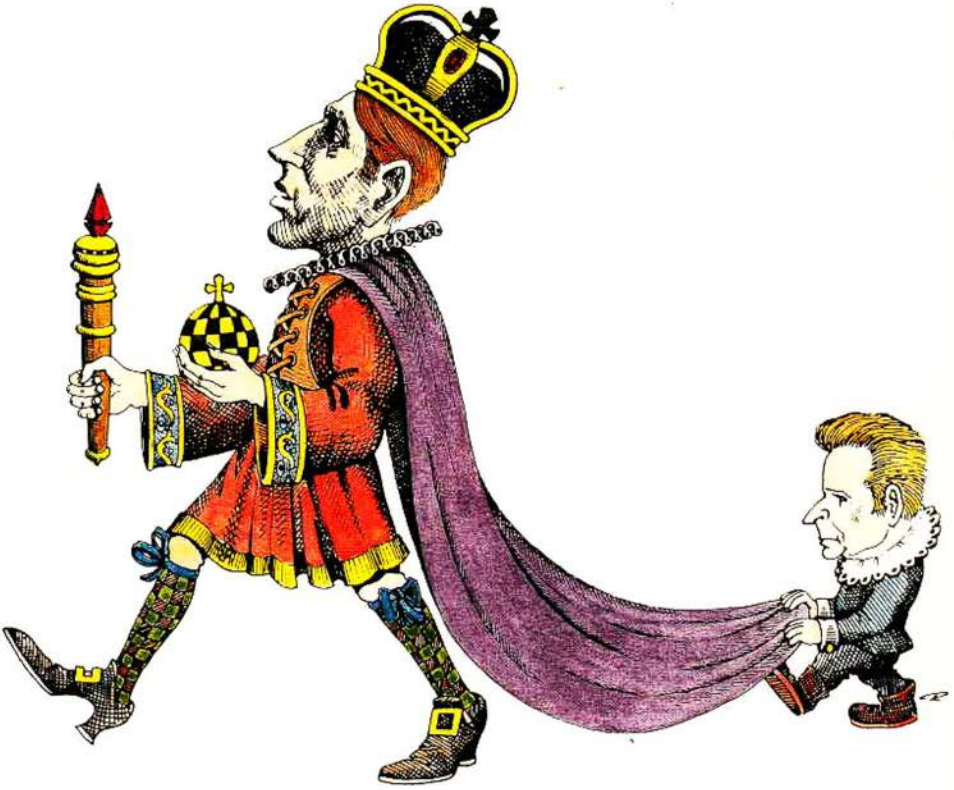
FISCHER – SPASSKY II

THE RETURN OF A LEGEND



INTERNATIONAL GRANDMASTER RAYMOND KEENE

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RAYMOND KEENE

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To Sir Brain and Mary

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Contents

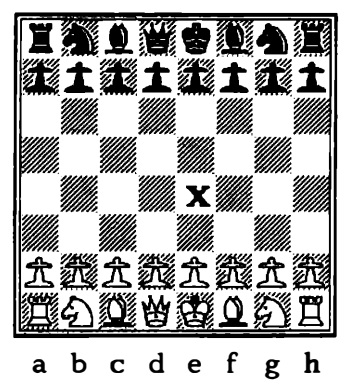
Algebraic Notation	*6*
1) Introduction	*7*
2) Early Encounters	*15*
3) Reykjavik 1972	*19*
4) The Press Conference	*28*
The Games	*30*
Conclusion	*129*

Algebraic Notation

The moves contained in this book are given in what is known as 'Figurine Algebraic' notation. This somewhat complicated-sounding term actually describes a very simple way of writing down the moves. Readers familiar with the system can jump ahead to the games themselves, but those who are comparatively new to the game or who have only learned the older English Descriptive notation will find what follows helpful. It is assumed that the reader already knows how to *play* chess.

Each piece is represented by a symbol, called a 'Figurine', as follows:

Pawn
Knight
Bishop
Rook
Queen
King



The squares on the chessboard are described by coordinates, consisting of a letter followed by a number (see diagram). For instance the square marked with a cross is called 'e4'. This follows exactly the same principle as reading off a reference on an A–Z street guide or road map. Everybody can pick this up in a matter of minutes. There is no mystery to it at all!

1) Introduction

The Return of Bobby Fischer

The summer of 1992 witnessed an unusual and amazing burst of activity in the arena of mental sports. In Canterbury, three hundred sportsmen and sportswomen of the brain competed in the European Championship of the venerable Japanese game of Go; in London computers fought out their own Olympic games; while, also in London, Dr Marion Tinsley, the World Champion in draughts, a game so ancient that Ajax and Achilles are reputed to have played it before the gates of Troy, was challenged for his title by a computer. Finally, as the culmination of all this, the greatest mind-warrior in the history of the planet emerged onto the warpath once again, but in his own singular and distinctive style. Bobby Fischer, the reclusive and controversial American chess genius, has made his comeback.

Regarded by many as the most brilliant and incisive chess mind in history, Fischer played for a record $5 million (£2.6 million) against Boris Spassky, his old rival, in two locales in the former state of Yugoslavia. Their match, starting on 2nd September, blasted the chess world, as well as those fascinated by the mind-bending eccentricity of the game's most superb practioner, into frenzies of excitement and anticipation.

Twenty years ago, to the very day, Fischer had swept to victory, to become crowned as the 11th World Champion, against the self-same Spassky, the then Soviet World Champion. That memorable event was staged in Reykjavik, and was fraught with threats to withdraw, endless arcane protests, and massive political overtones. By winning, Fischer became the first American World Chess Champion, and was immediately swamped with offers which would have made him a millionaire many times over. Indeed, it was only the intervention of high finance that saved the Reykjavik match itself from Fischer's tantrums and initial reluctance to play. Only when Jim Slater, the British millionaire and chess fan, to taunts of

"chicken", added $100,000 to the prize fund, could Fischer finally be persuaded to sit down and play chess.

In the two decades since that 1972 confrontation, Fischer had driven his supporters to distraction and infuriated the chess world by refusing to play even one game of chess in public. Fischer himself increasingly turned into a recluse, a prey to religious eccentrics existing off the charity of friends. He became an adept of the Worldwide Church of God and began to distribute scurrilous pamphlets whenever the opportunity arose. Many saw in such activities evidence of the ruin of a once superb and dominant intellect.

But suddenly, in July, Fischer announced that he was to contest a self-styled "World Chess Championship" against his old rival, Spassky. In spite of many doubts amongst the worldwide chess community that the match would actually happen, the promoter, Jezdimir Vasiljevic, proprietor of Jugoskandik, a Belgrade bank, stated that Fischer would certainly play against Spassky. Their long-awaited revenge match would begin in the villa once belonging to President Tito, on the Montenegran island of Sveti Stefan. where Sophia Loren also owns property. The Tito villa has now been transformed into the luxury Hotel Maestral. The second half of the match would be played in Belgrade, where Fischer had also prepared before the match, in the Sava Hall. Lothar Schmid, the urbane German Grandmaster who umpired the Reykjavik clash, was re-hired as arbiter for game one, while Fischer's old sparring partner, Grandmaster Svetozar Gligoric, would take over in that role for the remainder of the contest. Schmid it was who in 1972, buffeted by Fischer's daily protests, earned the sobriquet of the world's most patient man. Now he returned for a second helping of the same. As it turned out, though, Gligoric was himself to be replaced by the Yugoslav chess master and disc-jockey Nick Karaklaic.

Boris Spassky, World Champion from 1969 to 1972, confirmed the news: "Yes, Bobby and I have signed a contract to contest the World Chess Championship match", and Spassky added movingly "Fischer pulls me out of oblivion. He makes me fight. It is a miracle and I am grateful." The match would be for the first to ten wins, with the victor receiving $3.35 million and the loser $1.65 million. By a huge margin this is the largest prize ever offered for any chess competition. It exceeds by $1 million the prize for the official World Championship between Gary Kasparov and either Holland's Jan Timman or England's Nigel Short, set for 1993. Gary

Kasparov, the World Champion, a self-confessed admirer of Fischer's genius, nevertheless dismissively described the $5 million prize fund for the Belgrade match as "the highest sum ever earned by two retired champions." But Jezdimir Vasiljevic, the Serbian bank owner who is putting up the money, raised the stakes by throwing down a diamond-studded gauntlet to Kasparov himself. This amounts to a staggering half a million dollars per game if Kasparov also consents to play Fischer. Kasparov has not yet reacted to this fresh gambit in the Bobby Fischer saga, but it sounds like the kind of offer which cannot be ignored.

Fischer was a brash unschooled young man from Brooklyn who toppled the might of the Soviet chess system before his 30th birthday. His story epitomised the self-reliant, frontier ideals of modern America and provided the inspiration for the Tim Rice/Abba musical CHESS which hit the West End stage in 1986. But the dream evaporated after Fischer had stormed Soviet chess domination and taken the world title from Spassky in 1972. Inexplicably, at that point he renounced chess totally. His self-imposed exile recalls the seclusion of the only other American to earn World Championship status - Paul Morphy, the mid-19th century genius from New Orleans, who smashed Europe's best masters and then defied the world to play him at the odds of a pawn, but received no challengers.

Fischer's 1972 match against Spassky was characterised by the American's detailed demands and his near refusal to play before the match was even underway. Spassky had never lost a game to his antagonist and his meticulous pre-match preparation, both mental and physical, was well known. Spassky enjoyed playing tennis to keep fit and in Reykjavik was supported by a host of sports psychologists and seconds. Spassky won the first game and was awarded the second by default, when Fischer failed to put in an appearance at the board.

But once Fischer had condescended to play, he unleashed an unprecedented and unparalleled psychological blitzkrieg, protesting about the presence of television cameras, the playing conditions and the board. He demanded the exclusive use of his hotel swimming pool and insisted that the official chess board be reduced in size by precisely three millimetres. In retaliation, the Soviet delegation declared that Spassky was being distracted by electronic equipment and demanded a complete search of the playing hall, including an X-ray of the players' chairs. But this only revealed two dead flies. The circus ended with Fischer taking

the title 12½ points to 8½, but also with some of the most profound, innovative and exciting top-level chess ever witnessed. Harry Golombek, chess correspondent of *The Times*, wrote: "The nature and shape of the ideas in this match were such as only two superb players could have achieved." The noted Argentine Grandmaster and critic, Miguel Najdorf, even compared Fischer with Mozart, such was the enthusiasm of informed observers for the standard of play. Inevitably, the superpower clash between representatives of the USSR and USA in 1972 became overladen with Cold War symbolism, which attracted the glare of the world media. Perhaps the Western press exposure, to which Spassky, being a Russian, was quite unaccustomed, helped to knock the stuffing out of him. After 1972, chess enthusiasts witnessed an amazing and unexpectedly permanent decline in his morale. He never staged a real comeback and his reputation was rapidly eclipsed by that of his younger compatriot, Anatoly Karpov.

Strangely, the 1972 match exerted an even more disastrous impact on its victor. In 1975, after lengthy wrangling, much of it conducted long-distance by Fischer, FIDE, the World Chess Federation, stripped Fischer of his title when he refused to defend against the new challenger, Anatoly Karpov. Fischer thus earned the dubious distinction of becoming the only player in the history of World Championship chess to have lost his title by default. Fischer's self-imposed exile angered and exasperated chess enthusiasts and the general public alike. It seemed just one more capricious exploit by the most demanding and volatile star that chess had ever known.

To most observers, Fischer's conduct was, at best, dereliction of duty to his loyal and admiring public and, at worst, insane, yet Fischer's refusal to play was, in some weird fashion, comprehensible: having once scaled the peak of Everest there is a reluctance - even a mental block - against performing the feat a second time. Fischer regarded himself as "World Champion" - period - and saw no necessity to demonstrate this fact again. Those champions of the past who have descended from Olympus to defend their hard-won titles have, by losing to a challenger at some point, compromised their reputations, however infinitesimally. This is a standard human experience. Eventually the old and the strong must give way to the young and strong. But Fischer wanted to deny the ravages of time and leave his reputation untarnished.

By a feat of mental legerdemain, total and sudden withdrawal from the arena at the peak of his powers, Fischer, like his com-

patriot Morphy, preserved a mythical nimbus of invincibility. But the world passed Fischer by, an isolated figure on his lonely peak, while attention shifted inexorably towards those actively involved, Kasparov, Karpov, Timman and Britain's Nigel Short.

Yet it transpired that Fischer's apparently endless demands, with their attendant upsurge of publicity for chess, acted as a major catalyst in improving the lot of the professional chess player. In 1969, Spassky's World Championship prize had been a paltry few thousand roubles, amounting, at prevailing rates of exchange, to just $1,600. In 1972, the prize fund had rocketed to an unprecedented $250,000. In 1990, the prize purse for the New York-Lyons Kasparov-Karpov match was no less than $3 million. This was a development that grew from Fischer's insistence that chess champions should be remunerated on the same scale as other international celebrity sportsmen. Yet it was others who benefited from this explosion, not Fischer himself.

Fischer had demonstrated almost overnight that chess was not just a closet activity for ageing, bespectacled Soviet intellectuals. He endowed the game with mass appeal in the West. Moreover, he showed that chess players could make headline news and that the game could reward individual effort. There was a massive upsurge in the popularity of chess, which still has continuing effects some two decades later. Nigel Short, Britain's top player, is a product of the Fischer boom.

Now, finally, Bobby Fischer was ready, once again, to face the world, emerge from his two decades of self-imposed hibernation, and at last reap the rewards of the harvest he had himself sown. Interestingly, the conditions for this new contest are those that Fischer had demanded, but which FIDE had rejected, for the 1975 match with Karpov which never took place. The main one is that this match would continue until one player wins ten games. The remaining match conditions also mirrored Fischer's own wishes to an alarming extent. He could not dictate the terms so unilaterally to Kasparov or Karpov, but Spassky was desperate to play - he had nothing to lose and everything to gain.

The schedule was to be four games per week, every game played to a finish with no possibility of adjourning. This undoubtedly reflected Fischer's fear that if a game was adjourned, his opponent might enlist the aid of a computer to find the correct line. Furthermore, the game was to be timed by a special chess clock which Fischer has personally developed and patented. At the start of the game both players have a reserve of 90 minutes on the

clock. Each time one player makes a move, he gains 2 minutes. In theory, this device (based on Japanese timing in their national mind games of Shogi and Go) should eliminate the wild time scrambles which characterise so much modern chess, in which grandmasters rush to make their moves while simultaneously racing to beat the clock. Making up to 20 moves in just 3 minutes in such crises is normal. As I see it, the common theme of all Fischer's innovations and rule changes is to eliminate what he sees as chance elements. In this case, pure talent must triumph and Fischer sees himself as the embodiment of talent and genius over training and routine.

Although all earlier endeavours to entice Fischer out of hiding had proved fruitless, this latest initiative had the ring of truth about it. Nevertheless, many experts were still adamant that Fischer would inevitably find some excuse for sliding out of the match. What seemed encouraging, though, to the optimist camp, was that Fischer, in many ways the Muhammed Ali of chess, was back to his old contentious verbal form. In a vintage utterance, lambasting the current World Champion, Gary Kasparov, and his chief rival, Anatoly Karpov, Fischer added that he had studied the matches between the two for over a year and a half. He now planned to prove conclusively that they were "fixed". If Fischer had drawn back this time, though, the international chant of Jim Slater's old taunt, "chicken" would have risen to deafening proportions. Fischer had advanced too close to the brink of actually moving a pawn, and he could no longer find a pretext to withdraw without suffering a massive loss of face.

Dr Eric Schiller, a Chicago chess commentator, claimed that Fischer had been deeply upset by the recent death, in his mid-fifties, of the former World Champion, Mikhail Tal. Tal had been both Fischer's great rival and close friend in the late 1950s and 1960s. His death appears to have been one key factor galvanising Fischer into action. In appearance Fischer, not captured by any photographer or seen by any chessplayer in public for so long, is now a revelation. He is balding, bearded and has a high domed brow, the very model of a severe intellectual. It is some distance from the lanky, striding athlete he seemed to be in 1972. Such factors can mount up. Time's arrow was becoming increasingly perceptible to the genius of chess, who had existed in his own private time capsule for so long.

A further element in Fischer's return has been a desire to enrage the world establishment by playing in Yugoslavia. The match has been viewed as violating the international sanctions

against Yugoslavia imposed by the UN to stop the fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nations in disfavour with the world community exert a strange fascination over Fischer. He clearly identifies with them in some inexplicable fashion. In former years, the only offers which seriously attracted Fischer were those to play in South Africa. Bankroller Vasiljevic, expanding enthusiastically on this theme, rammed the point home: "By bringing Fischer to Yugoslavia, we have broken the international blockade in a most spectacular manner. The world hit us with all its force and we have returned at least one punch. We practically had to abduct Fischer from the airport in Budapest because we were afraid they might take his passport and ban him from entering Yugoslavia. Bobby still considers himself the World Champion, because no-one has ever beaten him."

The US Senate also became involved in this question. Two weeks before match launch, they started to examine whether the match contravened the UN embargo. In the light of this, Fischer would be well advised to invest the rest of his soon to be acquired millions (he has already taken $50,000 in advance) outside the USA.

Women have never played a conventional role in Fischer's life. His mother Regina (Latin for "queen", a coincidence that popular psychologists have been swift to seize upon) was virtually a professional international peace protester, prone to chaining herself to the railings of US Embassies across the world, and Fischer's subsequent attachment to two members of the US chess sisterhood, Lina Grumette and Claudia Makarow, represented, perhaps, a maternal substitute. Lina became, for a time, his so-called "chess mother", while Claudia, who, in bizarre circumstances sheltered and fed an impoverished Fischer for years in her basement, exerted a kind of Svengali hold over him. According to one-time house guest, International Chess Master David Levy, Fischer's domestic arrangements were as singular as his personality: "Fischer had a huge white dog but absolutely no furniture ... the floor was strewn with chess magazines." If someone wanted to speak to Fischer there was an automatic $5,000 fee, payable in advance, and Claudia was the sole conduit. Now, however, Fischer, in a novel move for him, has a girlfriend, the 19-year-old Hungarian chess master, Zita Rajcsaniy - born in 1973, a year after Fischer beat Spassky in Reykjavik. She has a chess rating of 2100 on the FIDE scale, which undoubtedly pushes her well into the upper echelons of female players. She has won the Hungarian Women's Junior

Chess Championship and become famous because many think that she is responsible for persuading Fischer to play again. The story is as follows: two years ago she read a book about Fischer, and wrote him a letter saying that he was her favourite chessplayer and asking why he did not play anymore. They started to correspond and to call each other. This April she spent some weeks with him in Los Angeles. Fischer had already decided that he wanted to make a comeback and so her role was to ask Janos Kubat, the director of the championship, whether he was interested in this match and to get the two people together. She is interested in biology, computers and foreign languages. She has not decided whether to become a brain researcher or work in a mental hospital to take care of lunatics.

In the past, Fischer has relied very little on seconds or sports psychologists. In a reversal of this trend, he engaged the Philippine Grandmaster, Eugenio Torre, as his assistant, while Spassky is supported by Alexander Nikitin (Kasparov's former aide) and Yuri Balashov, for many years Karpov's number two. The job of a second is complex, preparing openings and keeping the player calm, but in Torre's hands lay the very future of chess. He had to get Fischer to the chessboard - and keep him there.

Writing before the match I predicted that if Fischer could shake off the rust of 20 years' inactivity over the first four or so games against Spassky, he would go on to win. He is still "hungry" in modern sporting terms, and he has a lot to prove. Spassky, too, can rise to the occasion. He no longer has anything to lose, and possession of the championship title no longer weighs down his creative spirit. This fresh challenge from his ancient foe may help him to slough off the years of dispiriting draws, agreed with no fight, and reawaken his creative passion. If Fischer was to lose badly over the initial stretch, though, he might just stop or withdraw, but if he emerged victorious, after a well-fought struggle, as I believed he would, he could go on to a fresh and glorious challenge against Kasparov, which would inevitably usher in a golden age for chess. More frustratingly, though, Achilles might return to sulk in his Pasadena tent for a further two decades, while consoling himself with the thought that he is three million dollars the richer. Always the wonder of the cerebral world, who can tell? Perhaps not even Fischer himself.

2) Early Encounters

As an example of the gloriously exciting chess these two can produce when on form I now give, in this chapter and the next, all of their old battles, games which roused the chess fraternity of the day to unprecedented levels of anticipation and excitement.

Spassky - Fischer
Mar del Plata 1960
King's Gambit

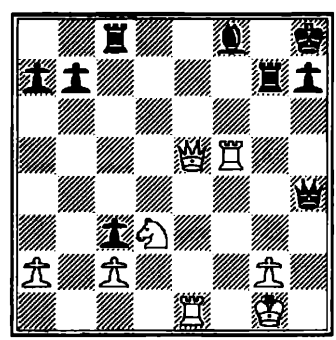
1	e4	e5
2	f4	exf4
3	♘f3	g5
4	h4	g4
5	♘e5	♘f6
6	d4	d6
7	♘d3	♘xe4
8	♗xf4	♗g7
9	♘c3	

Fischer himself criticises this move and suggests instead 9 c3 ♕e7 10 ♕e2, but after 10 ... ♗f5 Black appears to have a splendid position.

9	...	♘xc3
10	bxc3	c5
11	♗e2	cxd4
12	0-0	♘c6
13	♗xg4	0-0
14	♗xc8	♖xc8
15	♕g4	f5

This move nets a second pawn but weakens his kingside. 15 ... ♔h8 would be stronger, although the text still leaves Black with excellent prospects.

16	♕g3	dxc3
17	♖ae1	♔h8
18	♔h1	♖g8
19	♗xd6	♗f8
20	♗e5+	♘xe5
21	♕xe5+	♖g7
22	♖xf5	♕xh4+
23	♔g1	



23 ... ♕g4

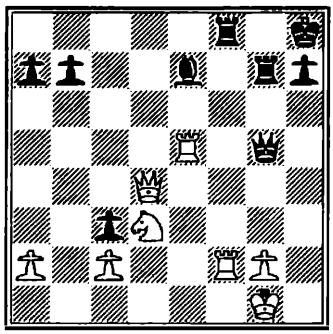
A pawn up, Fischer dreams of launching an attack of his own, but he has underestimated the power of White's centralised forces. Correct is 23 ... ♕g3! trying to bring about an

exchange of queens.

24 ♖f2 ♗e7
25 ♖e4 ♕g5

Here Black should have played for a draw with 25 ... ♕d1+.

26 ♕d4 ♖f8



27 ♖e5

A dramatic moment. Black's queen is attacked and it has no good square. If 27 ... ♕g6 then 28 ♖xe7 wins; 27 ... ♔h4 28 ♖xf8+; 27 ... ♗f6 28 ♕d6 when Black can resign.

27 ... ♖d8
28 ♕e4 ♕h4

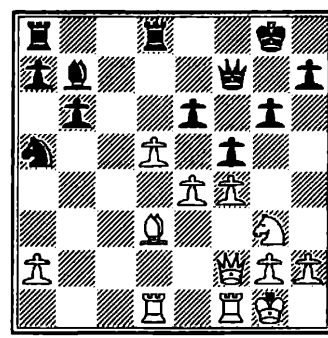
Fischer wrote of this position: "I knew I was losing a piece, but just couldn't believe it. I had to play one more move to see if it was really true!"

29 ♖f4 1-0

After 29 ... ♕g3 30 ♖xe7 is deadly.

Spassky - Fischer
Santa Monica 1966
Grünfeld Defence

1 d4 ♘f6
2 c4 g6
3 ♘c3 d5
4 cxd5 ♘xd5
5 e4 ♘xc3
6 bxc3 ♗g7
7 ♗c4 c5
8 ♘e2 ♘c6
9 ♗e3 0-0
10 0-0 ♕c7
11 ♖c1 ♖d8
12 ♕e1 e6
13 f4 ♘a5
14 ♗d3 f5
15 ♖d1 b6
16 ♕f2 cxd4
17 ♗xd4 ♗xd4
18 cxd4 ♗b7
19 ♘g3 ♕f7
20 d5!



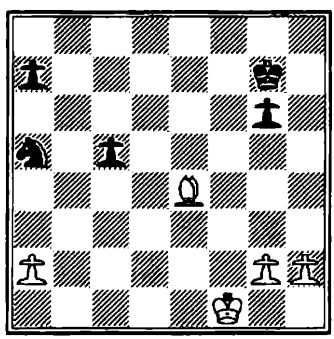
This energetic breakthrough in the centre determines White's advantage. The unstable king's position and the unfortunate placement of the knight on a5 are the basic shortcomings of Black's game.

20 ... fxe4
21 dxe6 ♕xe6
22 f5 ♕f7
23 ♗xe4 ♖xd1
24 ♖xd1 ♖f8
25 ♗b1 ♕f6

26 ♕c2

In spite of the simplification, White's advantage remains evident. The black king is still not comfortable.

26	**...**	**♔h8**
27	**fxg6**	**hxg6**
28	**♕d2**	**♔g7**
29	**♖f1**	**♕e7**
30	**♕d4+**	**♖f6**
31	**♘e4**	**♗xe4**
32	**♗xe4**	**♕c5**
33	**♕xc5**	**♖xf1+**
34	**♔xf1**	**bxc5**



In this endgame White has an extra pawn on the kingside, a superiority of bishop against knight, and the black pawns are isolated. All of this indicates a clear positional advantage for White.

35	**h4**	**♘c4**
36	**♔e2**	**♘e5**
37	**♔e3**	**♔f6**
38	**♔f4**	**♘f7**
39	**♔e3**	**g5**

This simplifies White's task, as he now obtains a passed pawn. Better was 39 ... ♘d6.

40	**h5**	**♘h6**
41	**♔d3**	**♔e5**
42	**♗a8**	**♔d6**
43	**♔c4**	**g4**
44	**a4**	**♘g8**
45	**a5**	**♘h6**
46	**♗e4**	**g3**
47	**♔b5**	**♘g8**
48	**♗b1**	**♘h6**
49	**♔a6**	**♔c6**
50	**♗a2**	**1–0**

Fischer – Spassky
Santa Monica 1966
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♘f6 5 0–0 ♗e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♗b3 0–0 8 c3 d5 9 exd5 ♘xd5 10 ♘xe5 ♘xe5 11 ♖xe5 c6 12 g3 ♘f6 13 d4 ♗d6 14 ♖e1 ♗g4 15 ♕d3 c5 16 dxc5 ♗xc5 17 ♕xd8 ♖axd8 18 ♗f4 h6 19 ♘a3 g5 20 ♗e3 ♗xe3 21 ♖xe3 ♖d2 22 ♘c2 ♖e8 23 ♖xe8+ ♘xe8 24 ♘e3 ♗f3 25 ♗c2 ♘d6 26 b3 ♔f8 27 a4 ♘e4 28 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 29 axb5 axb5 30 b4 ♖b2 31 g4 ♔g7 32 ♔f1 ♔f6 33 ♖a5 ♖b1+ 34 ♔e2 ♖b2+ 35 ♔f1 ½–½

Fischer – Spassky
Havana Olympiad 1966
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♘f6 5 0–0 ♗e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♗b3 0–0 8 c3 d6 9 h3 h6 10 d4 ♖e8 11 ♘bd2 ♗f8 12 ♘f1 ♗d7 13 ♘g3 ♘a5 14 ♗c2 c5 15 b3 cxd4 16 cxd4 ♘c6 17 ♗b2 g6 18 ♕d2 ♗g7 19 ♖ad1 ♕b6 20 ♘f1 ♖ad8 21 ♘e3 ♕b8 22 ♗b1 ♕b7 23 ♖c1 ♔h7 24 a3 ♗c8 25 ♗c3 ♗d7 26 ♕b2 ♕b8 27 b4 ♔g8 28 ♖cd1 ♘h7 29 ♗a2 ♘g5 30 ♘xg5 hxg5

31 dxe5 dxe5 32 ♘d5 ♘e7 33 ♘xe7+ ♖xe7 34 ♕d2 ♗f6 35 ♕d6 ♔g7 36 ♕xa6 ♖c8 37 ♖d6 ♖xc3 38 ♖xf6 ♗e6 39 ♖xe6 fxe6 40 ♖d1 ♕b7 41 ♕xb7 ♖xb7 42 ♗xe6 ♖xa3 43 ♔h2 ♖a4 44 ♖b1 ♖c7 45 f3 ♖a6 46 ♗b3 ♖a3 47 ♖b2 ♖a1 48 ♔g3 ♖c6 49 ♔g4 ♖c3 50 ♗d5 ♖aa3 51 h4 gxh4 52 ♔xh4 ♖a1 53 ♖d2 ♖aa3 54 ♔g4 ♖d3 55 ♖c2 ♖ac3 56 ♖a2 ♖a3 57 ♖b2 ½–½

Spassky – Fischer
Siegen Olympiad 1970
Grünfeld Defence

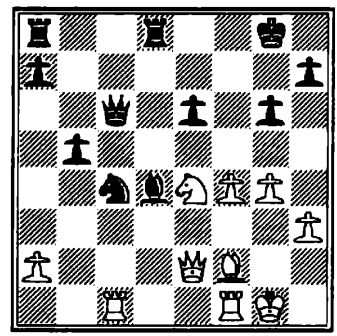
1	d4	♘f6
2	c4	g6
3	♘c3	d5
4	cxd5	♘xd5
5	e4	♘xc3
6	bxc3	♗g7
7	♗c4	c5
8	♘e2	♘c6
9	♗e3	0–0
10	0–0	♕c7
11	♖c1	♖d8
12	h3	

Spassky diverges from their game at Santa Monica by preparing to play f4 and g4 to assault the strategically important e5-square.

12	...	b6
13	f4	e6
14	♕e1	♘a5
15	♗d3	f5
16	g4	fxe4
17	♗xe4	♗b7
18	♘g3	♘c4

This is a very ambitious plan: Fischer is playing to win Spassky's d-pawn. An alternative was the prophylactic 18 ... ♖f8 followed by ... ♖ae8.

19	♗xb7	♕xb7
20	♗f2	♕c6
21	♕e2	cxd4
22	cxd4	b5
23	♘e4	♗xd4



The culmination of Fischer's risky plan.

24	♘g5	♗xf2+
25	♖xf2	♖d6
26	♖e1	♕b6
27	♘e4	♖d4
28	♘f6+	

The attack commences.

28	...	♔h8
29	♕xe6	♖d6
30	♕e4	♖f8

Now Black loses. A better chance was 30 ... ♖ad8.

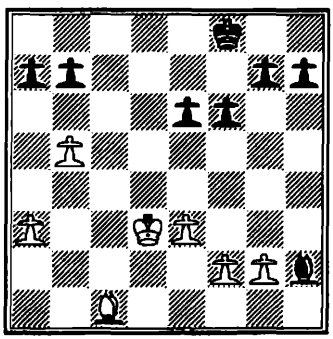
31	g5	♖d2
32	♖ef1	♕c7
33	♖xd2	♘xd2
34	♕d4	♖d8
35	♘d5+	♔g8
36	♖f2	♘c4
37	♖e2	♖d6
38	♖e8+	♔f7
39	♖f8+	1-0

3) Reykjavik 1972

The original clash between Fischer and Spassky at Reykjavik 1972 is the most famous chess match of all time. Here we present the complete scores of the games from that memorable event.

Spassky - Fischer
Game 1
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 d5 4 ♘c3 ♗b4 5 e3 0-0 6 ♗d3 c5 7 0-0 ♘c6 8 a3 ♗a5 9 ♘e2 dxc4 10 ♗xc4 ♗b6 11 dxc5 ♕xd1 12 ♖xd1 ♗xc5 13 b4 ♗e7 14 ♗b2 ♗d7 15 ♖ac1 ♖fd8 16 ♘ed4 ♘xd4 17 ♘xd4 ♗a4 18 ♗b3 ♗xb3 19 ♘xb3 ♖xd1+ 20 ♖xd1 ♖c8 21 ♔f1 ♔f8 22 ♔e2 ♘e4 23 ♖c1 ♖xc1 24 ♗xc1 f6 25 ♘a5 ♘d6 26 ♔d3 ♗d8 27 ♘c4 ♗c7 28 ♘xd6 ♗xd6 29 b5 ♗xh2 30 g3 h5 31 ♔e2 h4 32 ♔f3 ♔e7 33 ♔g2 hxg3 34 fxg3 ♗xg3 35 ♔xg3 ♔d6 36 a4 ♔d5 37 ♗a3 ♔e4 38 ♗c5 a6 39 b6 f5 40 ♔h4 f4 41 exf4 ♔xf4 42 ♔h5 ♔f5 43 ♗e3 ♔e4 44 ♗f2 ♔f5 45 ♗h4 e5 46 ♗g5 e4 47 ♗e3 ♔f6 48 ♔g4 ♔e5 49 ♔g5 ♔d5 50 ♔f5 a5 51 ♗f2 g5 52 ♔xg5 ♔c4 53 ♔f5 ♔b4 54 ♔xe4 ♔xa4 55 ♔d5 ♔b5 56 ♔d6 1-0

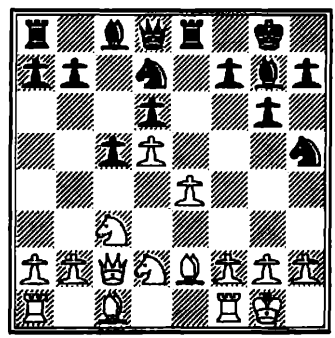


Fischer - Spassky
Game 2

0-1 (default)

Spassky - Fischer
Game 3
Modern Benoni

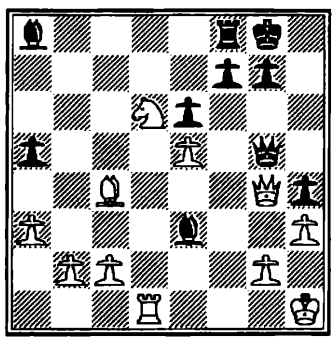
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 c5 4 d5 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 ♘c3 g6 7 ♘d2 ♘bd7 8 e4 ♗g7 9 ♗e2 0-0 10 0-0 ♖e8 11 ♕c2 ♘h5



12 ♗xh5 gxh5 13 ♘c4 ♘e5 14 ♘e3 ♕h4 15 ♗d2 ♘g4 16 ♘xg4 hxg4 17 ♗f4 ♕f6 18 g3 ♗d7 19 a4 b6 20 ♖fe1 a6 21 ♖e2 b5 22 ♖ae1 ♕g6 23 b3 ♖e7 24 ♕d3 ♖b8 25 axb5 axb5 26 b4 c4 27 ♕d2 ♖be8 28 ♖e3 h5 29 ♖3e2 ♔h7 30 ♖e3 ♔g8 31 ♖3e2 ♗xc3 32 ♕xc3 ♖xe4 33 ♖xe4 ♖xe4 34 ♖xe4 ♕xe4 35 ♗h6 ♕g6 36 ♗c1 ♕b1 37 ♔f1 ♗f5 38 ♔e2 ♕e4+ 39 ♕e3 ♕c2+ 40 ♕d2 ♕b3 41 ♕d4 ♗d3+ 0–1

Fischer – Spassky
Game 4
Sicilian Defence

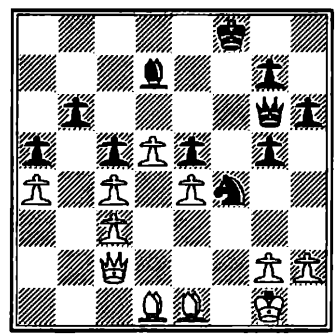
1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6 6 ♗c4 e6 7 ♗b3 ♗e7 8 ♗e3 0–0 9 0–0 a6 10 f4 ♘xd4 11 ♗xd4 b5 12 a3 ♗b7 13 ♕d3 a5 14 e5 dxe5 15 fxe5 ♘d7 16 ♘xb5 ♘c5 17 ♗xc5 ♗xc5+ 18 ♔h1 ♕g5 19 ♕e2 ♖ad8 20 ♖ad1 ♖xd1 21 ♖xd1 h5 22 ♘d6 ♗a8 23 ♗c4 h4 24 h3 ♗e3 25 ♕g4



25 ... ♕xe5 26 ♕xh4 g5 27 ♕g4 ♗c5 28 ♘b5 ♔g7 29 ♘d4 ♖h8 30 ♘f3 ♗xf3 31 ♕xf3 ♗d6 32 ♕c3 ♕xc3 33 bxc3 ♗e5 34 ♖d7 ♔f6 35 ♔g1 ♗xc3 36 ♗e2 ♗e5 37 ♔f1 ♖c8 38 ♗h5 ♖c7 39 ♖xc7 ♗xc7 40 a4 ♔e7 41 ♔e2 f5 42 ♔d3 ♗e5 43 c4 ♔d6 44 ♗f7 ♗g3 45 c5+ ½–½

Spassky – Fischer
Game 5
Nimzo-Indian Defence

1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘c3 ♗b4 4 ♘f3 c5 5 e3 ♘c6 6 ♗d3 ♗xc3+ 7 bxc3 d6 8 e4 e5 9 d5 ♘e7 10 ♘h4 h6 11 f4 ♘g6 12 ♘xg6 fxg6 13 fxe5 dxe5 14 ♗e3 b6 15 0–0 0–0 16 a4 a5 17 ♖b1 ♗d7 18 ♖b2 ♖b8 19 ♖bf2 ♕e7 20 ♗c2 g5 21 ♗d2 ♕e8 22 ♗e1 ♕g6 23 ♕d3 ♘h5 24 ♖xf8+ ♖xf8 25 ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 26 ♗d1 ♘f4 27 ♕c2

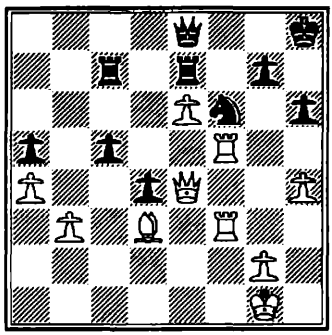


27 ... ♗xa4 0–1

Fischer – Spassky
Game 6
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 e6 2 ♘f3 d5 3 d4 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 ♗e7 5 ♗g5 0–0 6 e3 h6 7 ♗h4 b6 8 cxd5 ♘xd5 9 ♗xe7 ♕xe7 10 ♘xd5 exd5 11 ♖c1 ♗e6 12 ♕a4 c5 13 ♕a3 ♖c8 14 ♗b5 a6 15 dxc5 bxc5 16 0–0 ♖a7 17 ♗e2 ♘d7 18 ♘d4 ♕f8 19 ♘xe6 fxe6

20 e4 d4 21 f4 ♕e7 22 e5 ♖b8 23 ♗c4 ♔h8 24 ♕h3 ♘f8 25 b3 a5 26 f5 exf5 27 ♖xf5 ♘h7 28 ♖cf1 ♕d8 29 ♕g3 ♖e7 30 h4 ♖bb7 31 e6 ♖bc7 32 ♕e5 ♕e8 33 a4 ♕d8 34 ♖1f2 ♕e8 35 ♖2f3 ♕d8 36 ♗d3 ♕e8 37 ♕e4 ♘f6

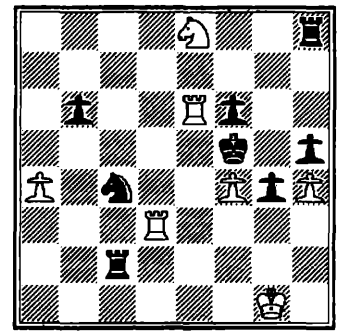


38 ♖xf6 gxf6 39 ♖xf6 ♔g8 40 ♗c4 ♔h8 41 ♕f4 1–0

Spassky – Fischer
Game 7
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♕b6 8 ♕d2 ♕xb2 9 ♘b3 ♕a3 10 ♗d3 ♗e7 11 0-0 h6 12 ♗h4 ♘xe4 13 ♘xe4 ♗xh4 14 f5 exf5 15 ♗b5+ axb5 16 ♘xd6+ ♔f8 17 ♘xc8 ♘c6 18 ♘d6 ♖d8 19 ♘xb5 ♕e7 20 ♕f4 g6 21 a4 ♗g5 22 ♕c4 ♗e3+ 23 ♔h1 f4 24 g3 g5 25 ♖ae1 ♕b4 26 ♕xb4+ ♘xb4 27 ♖e2 ♔g7 28 ♘a5 b6 29 ♘c4 ♘d5 30 ♘cd6 ♗c5 31 ♘b7 ♖c8 32 c4 ♘e3 33 ♖f3 ♘xc4 34 gxf4 g4 35 ♖d3 h5 36 h3 ♘a5 37 ♘7d6 ♗xd6 38 ♘xd6 ♖c1+ 39 ♔g2 ♘c4 40 ♘e8+ ♔g6 41 h4 f6 42 ♖e6 ♖c2+ 43 ♔g1 ♔f5

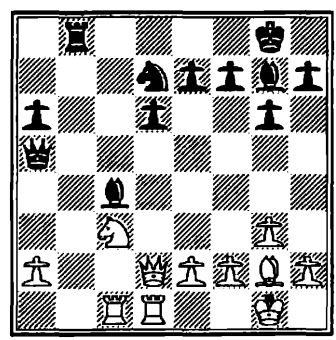
(see following diagram)



44 ♘g7+ ♔xf4 45 ♖d4+ ♔g3 46 ♘f5+ ♔f3 47 ♖ee4 ♖c1+ 48 ♔h2 ♖c2+ 49 ♔g1 ½–½

Fischer – Spassky
Game 8
English Opening

1 c4 c5 2 ♘c3 ♘c6 3 ♘f3 ♘f6 4 g3 g6 5 ♗g2 ♗g7 6 0-0 0-0 7 d4 cxd4 8 ♘xd4 ♘xd4 9 ♕xd4 d6 10 ♗g5 ♗e6 11 ♕f4 ♕a5 12 ♖ac1 ♖ab8 13 b3 ♖fc8 14 ♕d2 a6 15 ♗e3 b5 16 ♗a7 bxc4 17 ♗xb8 ♖xb8 18 bxc4 ♗xc4 19 ♖fd1 ♘d7

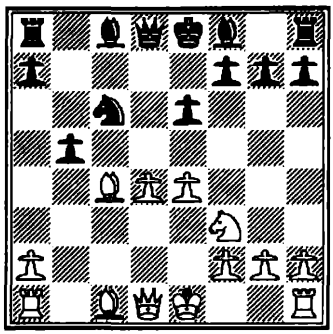


20 ♘d5 ♕xd2 21 ♘xe7+ ♔f8 22 ♖xd2 ♔xe7 23 ♖xc4 ♖b1+ 24 ♗f1 ♘c5 25 ♔g2 a5 26 e4 ♗a1 27 f4 f6 28 ♖e2 ♔e6 29 ♖ec2 ♗b2 30 ♗e2 h5 31 ♖d2 ♗a3 32 f5+ gxf5 33 exf5+ ♔e5 34 ♖cd4 ♔xf5 35

♖d5+ ♔e6 36 ♖xd6+ ♔e7 37 ♖c6 1-0

Spassky - Fischer
Game 9
Queen's Gambit Declined

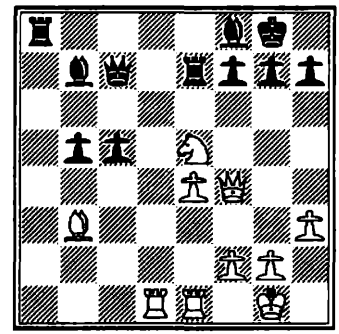
1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 e6 3 ♘f3 d5 4 ♘c3 c5 5 cxd5 ♘xd5 6 e4 ♘xc3 7 bxc3 cxd4 8 cxd4 ♘c6 9 ♗c4 b5



10 ♗d3 ♗b4+ 11 ♗d2 ♗xd2+ 12 ♕xd2 a6 13 a4 0-0 14 ♕c3 ♗b7 15 axb5 axb5 16 0-0 ♕b6 17 ♖ab1 b4 18 ♕d2 ♘xd4 19 ♘xd4 ♕xd4 20 ♖xb4 ♕d7 21 ♕e3 ♖fd8 22 ♖fb1 ♕xd3 23 ♕xd3 ♖xd3 24 ♖xb7 g5 25 ♖b8+ ♖xb8 26 ♖xb8+ ♔g7 27 f3 ♖d2 28 h4 h6 29 hxg5 hxg5 ½-½

Fischer - Spassky
Game 10
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♘f6 5 0-0 ♗e7 6 ♖e1 b5 7 ♗b3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 h3 ♘b8 10 d4 ♘bd7 11 ♘bd2 ♗b7 12 ♗c2 ♖e8 13 b4 ♗f8 14 a4 ♘b6 15 a5 ♘bd7 16 ♗b2 ♕b8 17 ♖b1 c5 18 bxc5 dxc5 19 dxe5 ♘xe5 20 ♘xe5 ♕xe5 21 c4 ♕f4 22 ♗xf6 ♕xf6 23 cxb5 ♖ed8 24 ♕c1 ♕c3 25 ♘f3 ♕xa5 26 ♗b3 axb5 27 ♕f4 ♖d7 28 ♘e5 ♕c7 29 ♖bd1 ♖e7



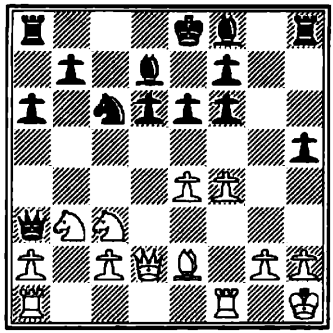
30 ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 31 ♕xf7+ ♕xf7 32 ♘xf7 ♗xe4 33 ♖xe4 ♔xf7 34 ♖d7+ ♔f6 35 ♖b7 ♖a1+ 36 ♔h2 ♗d6+ 37 g3 b4 38 ♔g2 h5 39 ♖b6 ♖d1 40 ♔f3 ♔f7 41 ♔e2 ♖d5 42 f4 g6 43 g4 hxg4 44 hxg4 g5 45 f5 ♗e5 46 ♖b5 ♔f6 47 ♖exb4 ♗d4 48 ♖b6+ ♔e5 49 ♔f3 ♖d8 50 ♖b8 ♖d7 51 ♖4b7 ♖d6 52 ♖b6 ♖d7 53 ♖g6 ♔d5 54 ♖xg5 ♗e5 55 f6 ♔d4 56 ♖b1 1-0

Spassky - Fischer
Game 11
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♕b6 8 ♕d2 ♕xb2 9 ♘b3 ♕a3 10 ♗xf6 gxf6 11 ♗e2 h5 12 0-0 ♘c6 13 ♔h1 ♗d7

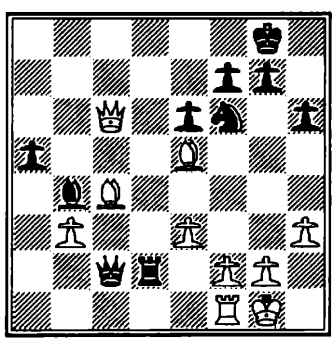
(see following diagram)

14 ♘b1 ♕b4 15 ♕e3 d5 16 exd5 ♘e7 17 c4 ♘f5 18 ♕d3 h4 19 ♗g4 ♘d6 20 ♘1d2 f5 21 a3 ♕b6 22 c5 ♕b5 23 ♕c3 fxg4 24 a4 h3 25 axb5 hxg2+ 26 ♔xg2 ♖h3 27 ♕f6 ♘f5 28 c6 ♗c8 29 dxe6 fxe6 30 ♖fe1 ♗e7 31 ♖xe6 1-0



Fischer – Spassky
Game 12
Queen's Gambit Declined

1 c4 e6 2 ♘f3 d5 3 d4 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 ♗e7 5 ♗g5 h6 6 ♗h4 0-0 7 e3 ♘bd7 8 ♖c1 c6 9 ♗d3 dxc4 10 ♗xc4 b5 11 ♗d3 a6 12 a4 bxa4 13 ♘xa4 ♕a5+ 14 ♘d2 ♗b4 15 ♘c3 c5 16 ♘b3 ♕d8 17 0-0 cxd4 18 ♘xd4 ♗b7 19 ♗e4 ♕b8 20 ♗g3 ♕a7 21 ♘c6 ♗xc6 22 ♗xc6 ♖ac8 23 ♘a4 ♖fd8 24 ♗f3 a5 25 ♖c6 ♖xc6 26 ♗xc6 ♖c8 27 ♗f3 ♕a6 28 h3 ♕b5 29 ♗e2 ♕c6 30 ♗f3 ♕b5 31 b3 ♗e7 32 ♗e2 ♕b4 33 ♗a6 ♖c6 34 ♗d3 ♘c5 35 ♕f3 ♖c8 36 ♘xc5 ♗xc5 37 ♖c1 ♖d8 38 ♗c4 ♕d2 39 ♖f1 ♗b4 40 ♗c7 ♖d7 41 ♕c6 ♕c2 42 ♗e5 ♖d2



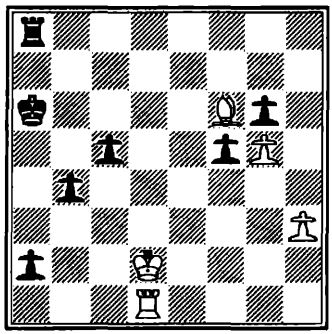
43 ♕a8+ ♔h7 44 ♗xf6 gxf6 45 ♕f3 f5 46 g4 ♕e4 47 ♔g2 ♔g6 48 ♖c1 ♗a3 49 ♖a1 ♗b4 50 ♖c1 ♗e7 51 gxf5+ exf5 52 ♖e1 ♖xf2+ 53 ♔xf2 ♗h4+ 54 ♔e2 ♕xf3+ 55 ♔xf3 ♗xe1 ½–½

Spassky – Fischer
Game 13
Alekhine's Defence

1 e4 ♘f6 2 e5 ♘d5 3 d4 d6 4 ♘f3 g6 5 ♗c4 ♘b6 6 ♗b3 ♗g7 7 ♘bd2 0-0 8 h3 a5 9 a4 dxe5 10 dxe5 ♘a6 11 0-0 ♘c5 12 ♕e2 ♕e8 13 ♘e4 ♘bxa4 14 ♗xa4 ♘xa4 15 ♖e1 ♘b6 16 ♗d2 a4 17 ♗g5 h6 18 ♗h4 ♗f5 19 g4 ♗e6 20 ♘d4 ♗c4 21 ♕d2 ♕d7 22 ♖ad1 ♖fd8 23 f4 ♗d5 24 ♘c5 ♕c8 25 ♕c3 e6 26 ♔h2 ♘d7 27 ♘d3 c5 28 ♘b5 ♕c6 29 ♘d6 ♕xd6 30 exd6 ♗xc3 31 bxc3 f6 32 g5 hxg5 33 fxg5 f5 34 ♗g3 ♔f7 35 ♘e5+ ♘xe5 36 ♗xe5 b5 37 ♖f1 ♖h8 38 ♗f6 a3 39 ♖f4 a2 40 c4 ♗xc4 41 d7 ♗d5 42 ♔g3 ♖a3+ 43 c3 ♖ha8 44 ♖h4 e5 45 ♖h7+ ♔e6 46 ♖e7+ ♔d6 47 ♖xe5 ♖xc3+ 48 ♔f2 ♖c2+ 49 ♔e1 ♔xd7 50 ♖exd5+ ♔c6 51 ♖d6+ ♔b7 52 ♖d7+ ♔a6 53 ♖7d2 ♖xd2 54 ♔xd2 b4

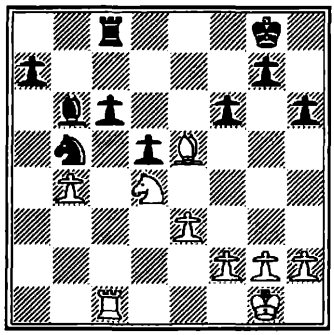
(see following diagram)

55 h4 ♔b5 56 h5 c4 57 ♖a1 gxh5 58 g6 h4 59 g7 h3 60 ♗e7 ♖g8 61 ♗f8 h2 62 ♔c2 ♔c6 63 ♖d1 b3+ 64 ♔c3 h1♕ 65 ♖xh1 ♔d5 66 ♔b2 f4 67 ♖d1+ ♔e4 68 ♖c1 ♔d3 69 ♖d1+ ♔e2 70 ♖c1 f3 71 ♗c5 ♖xg7 72 ♖xc4 ♖d7 73 ♖e4+ ♔f1 74 ♗d4 f2 0-1



Fischer – Spassky
Game 14
Queen's Gambit Declined

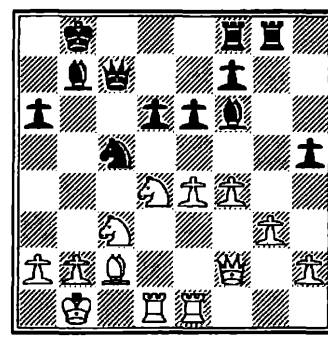
1 c4 e6 2 ♘f3 d5 3 d4 ♘f6 4 ♘c3 ♗e7 5 ♗f4 0-0 6 e3 c5 7 dxc5 ♘c6 8 cxd5 exd5 9 ♗e2 ♗xc5 10 0-0 ♗e6 11 ♖c1 ♖c8 12 a3 h6 13 ♗g3 ♗b6 14 ♘e5 ♘e7 15 ♘a4 ♘e4 16 ♖xc8 ♗xc8 17 ♘f3 ♗d7 18 ♗e5 ♗xa4 19 ♕xa4 ♘c6 20 ♗f4 ♕f6 21 ♗b5 ♕xb2 22 ♗xc6 ♘c3 23 ♕b4 ♕xb4 24 axb4 bxc6 25 ♗e5 ♘b5 26 ♖c1 ♖c8 27 ♘d4 f6



28 ♗xf6 ♗xd4 29 ♗xd4 ♘xd4 30 exd4 ♖b8 31 ♖xc6 ♖xb4 32 ♔f1 ♖xd4 33 ♖a6 ♔f7 34 ♖xa7+ ♔f6 35 ♖d7 h5 36 ♔e2 g5 37 ♔e3 ♖e4+ 38 ♔d3 ♔e6 39 ♖g7 ♔f6 40 ♖d7 ♔e6 ½–½

Spassky – Fischer
Game 15
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 a6 6 ♗g5 e6 7 f4 ♗e7 8 ♕f3 ♕c7 9 0-0-0 ♘bd7 10 ♗d3 b5 11 ♖he1 ♗b7 12 ♕g3 0-0-0 13 ♗xf6 ♘xf6 14 ♕xg7 ♖df8 15 ♕g3 b4 16 ♘a4 ♖hg8 17 ♕f2 ♘d7 18 ♔b1 ♔b8 19 c3 ♘c5 20 ♗c2 bxc3 21 ♘xc3 ♗f6 22 g3 h5

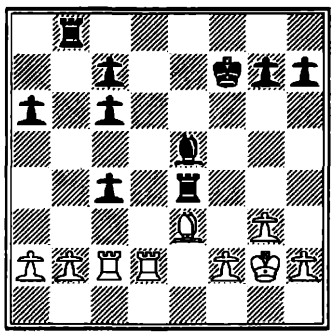


23 e5 dxe5 24 fxe5 ♗h8 25 ♘f3 ♖d8 26 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 27 ♘g5 ♗xe5 28 ♕xf7 ♖d7 29 ♕xh5 ♗xc3 30 bxc3 ♕b6+ 31 ♔c1 ♕a5 32 ♕h8+ ♔a7 33 a4 ♘d3+ 34 ♗xd3 ♖xd3 35 ♔c2 ♖d5 36 ♖e4 ♖d8 37 ♕g7 ♕f5 38 ♔b3 ♕d5+ 39 ♔a3 ♕d2 40 ♖b4 ♕c1+ 41 ♖b2 ♕a1+ 42 ♖a2 ♕c1+ 43 ♖b2 ♕a1+ ½–½

Fischer – Spassky
Game 16
Ruy Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗xc6 dxc6 5 0-0 f6 6 d4 ♗g4 7 dxe5 ♕xd1 8 ♖xd1 fxe5 9 ♖d3

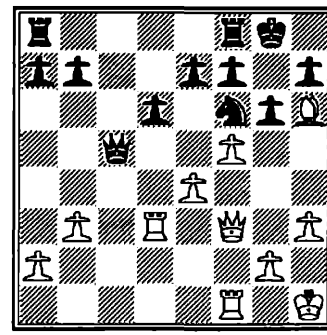
♗d6 10 ♘bd2 ♘f6 11 ♘c4 ♘xe4 12 ♘cxe5 ♗xf3 13 ♘xf3 0-0 14 ♗e3 b5 15 c4 ♖ab8 16 ♖c1 bxc4 17 ♖d4 ♖fe8 18 ♘d2 ♘xd2 19 ♖xd2 ♖e4 20 g3 ♗e5 21 ♖cc2 ♔f7 22 ♔g2



22 ... ♖xb2 23 ♔f3 c3 24 ♔xe4 cxd2 25 ♖xd2 ♖b5 26 ♖c2 ♗d6 27 ♖xc6 ♖a5 28 ♗f4 ♖a4+ 29 ♔f3 ♖a3+ 30 ♔e4 ♖xa2 31 ♗xd6 cxd6 32 ♖xd6 ♖xf2 33 ♖xa6 ♖xh2 34 ♔f3 ♖d2 35 ♖a7+ ♔f6 36 ♖a6+ ♔e7 37 ♖a7+ ♖d7 38 ♖a2 ♔e6 39 ♔g2 ♖e7 40 ♔h3 ♔f6 41 ♖a6+ ♖e6 42 ♖a5 h6 43 ♖a2 ♔f5 44 ♖f2+ ♔g5 45 ♖f7 g6 46 ♖f4 h5 47 ♖f3 ♖f6 48 ♖a3 ♖e6 49 ♖f3 ♖e4 50 ♖a3 ♔h6 51 ♖a6 ♖e5 52 ♔h4 ♖e4+ 53 ♔h3 ♖e7 54 ♔h4 ♖e5 55 ♖b6 ♔g7 56 ♖b4 ♔h6 57 ♖b6 ♖e1 58 ♔h3 ♖h1+ 59 ♔g2 ♖a1 60 ♔h3 ♖a4 ½-½

Spassky - Fischer
Game 17
Pirc Defence

1 e4 d6 2 d4 g6 3 ♘c3 ♘f6 4 f4 ♗g7 5 ♘f3 c5 6 dxc5 ♕a5 7 ♗d3 ♕xc5 8 ♕e2 0-0 9 ♗e3 ♕a5 10 0-0 ♗g4 11 ♖ad1 ♘c6 12 ♗c4 ♘h5 13 ♗b3 ♗xc3 14 bxc3 ♕xc3 15 f5 ♘f6 16 h3 ♗xf3 17 ♕xf3 ♘a5 18 ♖d3 ♕c7 19 ♗h6 ♘xb3 20 cxb3 ♕c5+ 21 ♔h1

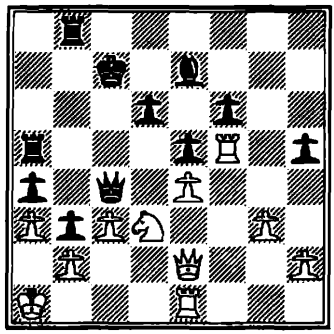


21 ... ♕e5 22 ♗xf8 ♖xf8 23 ♖e3 ♖c8 24 fxg6 hxg6 25 ♕f4 ♕xf4 26 ♖xf4 ♘d7 27 ♖f2 ♘e5 28 ♔h2 ♖c1 29 ♖ee2 ♘c6 30 ♖c2 ♖e1 31 ♖fe2 ♖a1 32 ♔g3 ♔g7 33 ♖cd2 ♖f1 34 ♖f2 ♖e1 35 ♖fe2 ♖f1 36 ♖e3 a6 37 ♖c3 ♖e1 38 ♖c4 ♖f1 39 ♖dc2 ♖a1 40 ♖f2 ♖e1 41 ♖fc2 g5 42 ♖c1 ♖e2 43 ♖1c2 ♖e1 44 ♖c1 ♖e2 45 ♖1c2 ½-½

Fischer - Spassky
Game 18
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 d6 3 ♘c3 ♘c6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♘xd4 ♘f6 6 ♗g5 e6 7 ♕d2 a6 8 0-0-0 ♗d7 9 f4 ♗e7 10 ♘f3 b5 11 ♗xf6 gxf6 12 ♗d3 ♕a5 13 ♔b1 b4 14 ♘e2 ♕c5 15 f5 a5 16 ♘f4 a4 17 ♖c1 ♖b8 18 c3 b3 19 a3 ♘e5 20 ♖hf1 ♘c4 21 ♗xc4 ♕xc4 22 ♖ce1 ♔d8 23 ♔a1 ♖b5 24 ♘d4 ♖a5 25 ♘d3 ♔c7 26 ♘b4 h5 27 g3 ♖e5 28 ♘d3 ♖b8 29 ♕e2 ♖a5 30 fxe6 fxe6 31 ♖f2 e5 32 ♘f5 ♗xf5 33 ♖xf5

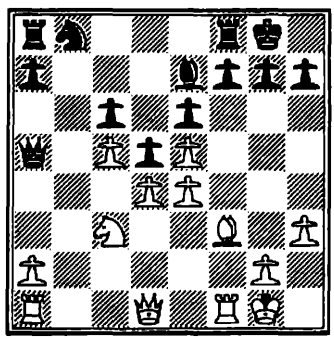
(see following diagram)



33 ... d5 34 exd5 ♕xd5 35 ♘b4 ♕d7 36 ♖xh5 ♗xb4 37 cxb4 ♖d5 38 ♖c1+ ♔b7 39 ♕e4 ♖c8 40 ♖b1 ♔b6 41 ♖h7 ♖d4 42 ♕g6 ♕c6 43 ♖f7 ♖d6 44 ♕h6 ♕f3 45 ♕h7 ♕c6 46 ♕h6 ♕f3 47 ♕h7 ♕c6 ½–½

Spassky – Fischer
Game 19
Alekhine's Defence

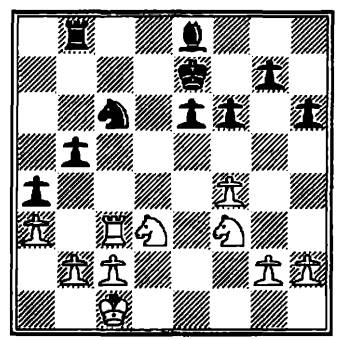
1 e4 ♘f6 2 e5 ♘d5 3 d4 d6 4 ♘f3 ♗g4 5 ♗e2 e6 6 0-0 ♗e7 7 h3 ♗h5 8 c4 ♘b6 9 ♘c3 0-0 10 ♗e3 d5 11 c5 ♗xf3 12 ♗xf3 ♘c4 13 b3 ♘xe3 14 fxe3 b6 15 e4 c6 16 b4 bxc5 17 bxc5 ♕a5



18 ♘xd5 ♗g5 19 ♗h5 cxd5 20 ♗xf7+ ♖xf7 21 ♖xf7 ♕d2 22 ♕xd2 ♗xd2 23 ♖af1 ♘c6 24 exd5 exd5 25 ♖d7 ♗e3+ 26 ♔h1 ♗xd4 27 e6 ♗e5 28 ♖xd5 ♖e8 29 ♖e1 ♖xe6 30 ♖d6 ♔f7 31 ♖xc6 ♖xc6 32 ♖xe5 ♔f6 33 ♖d5 ♔e6 34 ♖h5 h6 35 ♔h2 ♖a6 36 c6 ♖xc6 37 ♖a5 a6 38 ♔g3 ♔f6 39 ♔f3 ♖c3+ 40 ♔f2 ♖c2+ ½–½

Fischer – Spassky
Game 20
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 ♘c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 ♘f6 5 ♘c3 d6 6 ♗g5 e6 7 ♕d2 a6 8 0-0-0 ♗d7 9 f4 ♗e7 10 ♗e2 0-0 11 ♗f3 h6 12 ♗h4 ♘xe4 13 ♗xe7 ♘xd2 14 ♗xd8 ♘xf3 15 ♘xf3 ♖fxd8 16 ♖xd6 ♔f8 17 ♖hd1 ♔e7 18 ♘a4 ♗e8 19 ♖xd8 ♖xd8 20 ♘c5 ♖b8 21 ♖d3 a5 22 ♖b3 b5 23 a3 a4 24 ♖c3 ♖d8 25 ♘d3 f6 26 ♖c5 ♖b8 27 ♖c3

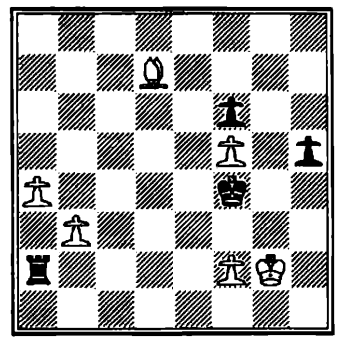


27 ... g5 28 g3 ♔d6 29 ♘c5 g4 30 ♘e4+ ♔e7 31 ♘e1 ♖d8 32 ♘d3 ♖d4 33 ♘ef2 h5 34 ♖c5 ♖d5 35 ♖c3 ♘d4 36 ♖c7+ ♖d7 37 ♖xd7+ ♗xd7 38 ♘e1 e5 39 fxe5 fxe5 40 ♔d2 ♗f5 41 ♘d1 ♔d6 42 ♘e3 ♗e6 43 ♔d3 ♗f7 44 ♔c3 ♔c6 45 ♔d3 ♔c5 46 ♔e4 ♔d6 47 ♔d3 ♗g6+ 48 ♔c3 ♔c5 49 ♘d3+ ♔d6 50 ♘e1 ♔c6 51

♔d2 ♔c5 52 ♘d3+ ♔d6 53 ♘e1 ♘e6 54 ♔c3 ♘d4 ½–½

Spassky – Fischer
Game 21
Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♘f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♘xd4 a6 5 ♘c3 ♘c6 6 ♗e3 ♘f6 7 ♗d3 d5 8 exd5 exd5 9 0-0 ♗d6 10 ♘xc6 bxc6 11 ♗d4 0-0 12 ♕f3 ♗e6 13 ♖fe1 c5 14 ♗xf6 ♕xf6 15 ♕xf6 gxf6 16 ♖ad1 ♖fd8 17 ♗e2 ♖ab8 18 b3 c4 19 ♘xd5 ♗xd5 20 ♖xd5 ♗xh2+ 21 ♔xh2 ♖xd5 22 ♗xc4 ♖d2 23 ♗xa6 ♖xc2 24 ♖e2 ♖xe2 25 ♗xe2 ♖d8 26 a4 ♖d2 27 ♗c4 ♖a2 28 ♔g3 ♔f8 29 ♔f3 ♔e7 30 g4 f5 31 gxf5 f6 32 ♗g8 h6 33 ♔g3 ♔d6 34 ♔f3 ♖a1 35 ♔g2 ♔e5 36 ♗e6 ♔f4 37 ♗d7 ♖b1 38 ♗e6 ♖b2 39 ♗c4 ♖a2 40 ♗e6 h5 41 ♗d7 0-1



Final score: **Fischer 12½**
Spassky 8½

4) The Press Conference

On September 1st 1992 Fischer and Spassky held a joint press conference which electrified the world's media and seized front page billing on virtually every major newspaper around the globe.

The Times wrote: "The Bobby Fischer show is on the road again. In an amazing display of histrionics, the grand old man of chess yesterday railed against all and sundry in a bizarre press conference marking his return to the chessboard after a 20-year absence."

The Daily Telegraph reported, in a huge page one splash: "Questions to Mr. Fischer had to be submitted in writing, but it was clear that he had not seen them when he arrived at the podium. The chairman announced smugly that the first question would be symbolic, from a journalist from Reykjavik. Mr. Fischer then uttered his first public words: 'Uh, naw, I wanna choose the questions.' 'Uhh, there are mistakes in these questions', continued Mr Fischer shuffling the papers moodily, 'Who typed these questions?' Eventually he settled down sufficiently to answer what he called some 'impudent questions'."

When asked whether he was worried by the prospect of being jailed or fined in the US for breaking UN sanctions, Fischer pulled out a letter from the US Treasury Department which warned him against playing, leant forward and pretended to spit on it. "This is my reply to the order not to defend my title here", he said.

Fischer: "I don't support the sanctions against Yugoslavia. I don't support the UN. Look at Israel. There is resolution after resolution against them to give up the West Bank. They have ignored these resolutions and there were never any sanctions against them. There was, I thought, a pretty good resolution against Israel that Zionism is racism and now this has been rescinded, so for many other reasons I have no respect for the UN. Do I consider myself in violation of the UN sanctions? Yes."

When asked for a response that he had been characterised as Anti-Semitic, Fischer said: "Anti-Semitism is a nonsense term

because my understanding is that Arabs are also Semites, not only the Jews, so I don't know what that means. I'm definitely not anti-Arab."

Fischer was also scathingly controversial about the three great K's, Korchnoi, Karpov and Kasparov. Fischer: "All of the matches between Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov were pre-arranged." "Even the blunders were staged," he said and he would write a book to expose everything: "These criminals - Karpov, Kasparov, Korchnoi - have absolutely destroyed chess by their immoral, unethical pre-arranging of games. These people are the lowest dogs around, and if people knew the truth they would be held in more contempt than Ben Johnson."

Spassky agreed that there was some suspicion over certain games. He recalled game 19 from the Kasparov - Karpov match in Lyons 1990, in which he had thought that Kasparov had refused to press home a winning position: "I lost my temper. I smashed the pieces from the board and said something like 'dirty guys!'"

These allegations are, of course, impossible to accept. I was closely involved in the matches between Korchnoi and Karpov, Korchnoi and Kasparov, and Karpov and Kasparov, both as second and organiser, and I can vouch from first-hand experience that they were all fought-out, honestly and hard. What, after all, would possibly be the point of fixing the final of the World Chess Championship? Who would benefit?

Fischer on computers: Fischer thought computers would soon be able to beat any human because they could call up so many sequences of moves: "I think we need a change in the rules, so that we shuffle the first row of the pieces, a random shuffling, except for one white bishop and one black bishop. It would stop chess becoming more and more about the power of memory. We are coming to the end of chess under the present rules."

Why had he turned down so many offers to play? "That's not quite true. Karpov in 1975 refused to play under my conditions." What was his view on the war in Yugoslavia? "I'll pass on that." Did he think his chess had improved? "Well, we'll see."

If you beat Spassky, will you challenge Kasparov for a World Championship match? he was asked. "Can't you read what stands behind me?" And Fischer pointed to the logo - "Fischer - Spassky - The World Chess Championship Revenge Match of the Century."

1 Fischer - Spassky 2nd September 1992 Ruy Lopez

Dazzling Fischer Routs Spassky
Spassky Admits "I Was Killed"

Bobby Fischer scored a great triumph in the opening fusillade of his revenge match against Boris Spassky, in a game which bore the authentic stamp of Fischer's old genius. Those who had believed that 20 years of hibernation would have blunted the edge of the former champion's talent were utterly confounded by a brilliant game in which Fischer alternated attacks on both sides of the board and finally brought Boris Spassky to his knees.

Spassky, who has sunk considerably in the world ranking list over the past few years, nevertheless put up a grand fight, sacrificing material at one stage to try to wrench back the initiative. Fischer's victory, playing with the white pieces, came after 49 moves and over six hours of play. The opening was the Spanish or Ruy Lopez Opening, Fischer's favourite two decades ago. By move 15 Spassky, following a line known as the Breyer Defence, had established a massive fortification which would prove immensely difficult to break down.

Yugoslav experts in Sveti Stefan were predicting that the game was equal and could possibly end in a draw. However, it was at this stage, around the 22nd move, that Fischer proved what an innovative genius he still is. He concentrated his forces on the extreme queen's flank, building up for a possible penetration. The crowning move was to transfer a knight from the kingside onto a seemingly insignificant square on the other side of the board. Although to most players these manoeuvres would have seemed arcane and recondite, Spassky recognised their hidden force and on the 29th move, in a bold effort to gain counterplay, he made a sacrifice of a knight for two central pawns. At this moment, many players, faced with the fierce counterplay by the former World Champion would have panicked and crumbled, but not Fischer. In a series of moves replete with polished tactical points, he main-

tained his advantage. Fischer's 39th move, sacrificing a bishop back to expose the black king, came in for particular praise.

Fischer's 40th move, a stunning coup, had been overlooked by virtually every grandmaster, while his 42nd move, bringing his knight into a decisive attacking formation, was a superbly aesthetic tactic. After the 44th move, Spassky's position was in ruins. His king was open to the winds and almost every one of his pawns was incapable of being defended. Experts were unanimous that this was a sensational performance, especially for a man who has not moved a pawn in anger since 1972.

After his victory Fischer said: "This was a very good game." Spassky, sporting as ever, replied: "I was killed." Chess experts were awe-struck by Fischer's play. It was as if he had never stopped playing chess. Such past champions as Emanuel Lasker had made comebacks after long spells of inactivity, but nobody has ever previously returned with the blazing force and brilliance that Fischer had displayed here. The question now on everyone's lips was: "Could Fischer maintain this sensational form, or was it just a 'flash in the pawn'?"

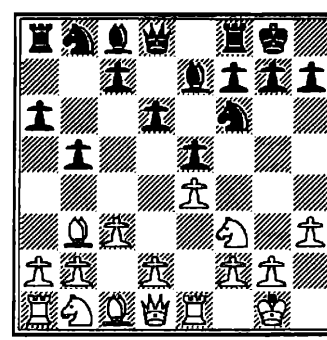
1 e4

"The historic re-match had begun. Well almost. The prototype 'Fischer chess clock' refused to start and had to be coaxed into life" (*British Chess Magazine*).

1	**...**	**e5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**♗b5**	

In the past Fischer has flirted with the King's Gambit but it was no surprise here that he resorted to his standard favourite, the Ruy Lopez.

3	**...**	**a6**
4	**♗a4**	**♘f6**
5	**0-0**	**♗e7**
6	**♖e1**	**b5**
7	**♗b3**	**d6**
8	**c3**	**0-0**
9	**h3**	**♘b8**



The so-called Breyer Defence which looks retrograde and time-wasting but enables Black to set up an extremely solid position in the centre.

10	**d4**	**♘bd7**
11	**♘bd2**	**♗b7**
12	**♗c2**	**♖e8**
13	**♘f1**	

In game 10 at Reykjavik 1972 Fischer played 13 b4 against

Spassky (see chapter four).

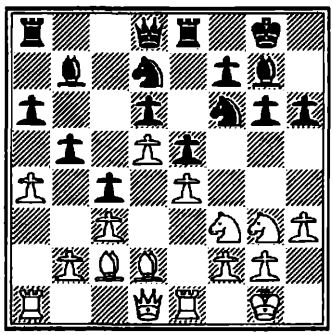
13	...	♗f8
14	♘g3	g6
15	♗g5	h6
16	♗d2	♗g7

In game 3 Spassky was to vary with 16 ... exd4, which does, indeed, seem an improvement.

17	a4	

17 ♖c1 was used by Spassky himself to defeat Unzicker at Santa Monica 1966.

17	...	c5
18	d5	c4



19	b4	

After this ambitious stroke Black has no choice but to open up the queenside with 19 ... cxb3. As played, Spassky hopes that Fischer will not be able to break through, but experience has taught that these positions are, in general, too passive for Black. Nevertheless after 19 ... cxb3 20 ♗xb3 ♘c5 21 c4, Black still has problems, according to Lopez expert Nigel Short.

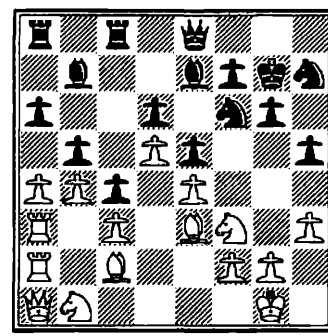
19	...	♘h7
20	♗e3	h5
21	♕d2	♖f8
22	♖a3	♘df6
23	♖ea1	

While Spassky is condemned to inconsequential shuffling of his pieces, Fischer conceives the plan of massing his forces for a breakthrough on the a-file.

23	...	♕d7
24	♖1a2	♖fc8
25	♕c1	♗f8
26	♕a1	♕e8
27	♘f1!	

The first stage of a brilliant and profound manoeuvre.

27	...	♗e7
28	♘1d2	♔g7
29	♘b1!	



The amazing culmination of White's plan. Paradoxical though it may seem, White's pieces, bunched into the corner, and especially the knight on b1, exert tremendous influence on the further course of the game. White's threat is to trade all the major pieces on the a-file, finishing with the move ♘a3 to annex Black's pawn on b5. Recognising the hidden force of Fischer's scheme, Spassky

seeks to disturb the natural flow of events with a turbulent piece sacrifice.

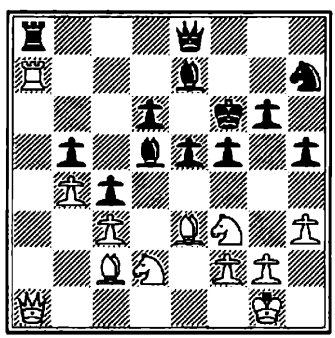
29 ... ♘xe4
30 ♗xe4 f5

The German grandmaster Robert Hübner later indicated that with 30 ... ♘f6! Spassky could still have made a serious fight of it.

31 ♗c2 ♗xd5
32 axb5 axb5
33 ♖a7 ♔f6
34 ♘bd2 ♖xa7

Black has a mass of pawns for his sacrificed material. If he can trade off all the major pieces into an endgame he will almost certainly avoid defeat.

35 ♖xa7 ♖a8



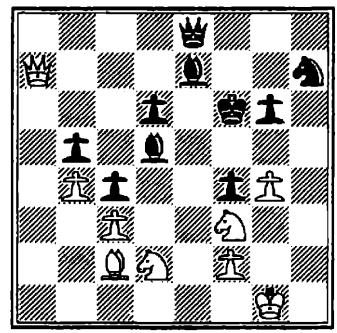
36 g4

The best plan, trying to get at Black's king. If Black captures twice on g4 then White has ♘h2.

36 ... hxg4
37 hxg4 ♖xa7
38 ♕xa7 f4

If White were now to play the supine 39 ♗b6 his pieces would be offside after 39 ... ♕c8 and Black would enjoy plenty of counterplay. Instead, Fischer ingeniously counter-sacrifices his extra piece to drag Black's king into the firing line.

39 ♗xf4 exf4



40 ♘h4

A wonderful coup. The grandmasters in the press room were unanimously expecting 40 ♕d4+ ♔e6 which does not lead anywhere in particular.

40 ... ♗f7

If 40 ... ♘f8 41 ♕d4+ ♔e6 42 ♘xg6 ♘xg6 43 ♗f5+ ♔f7 44 ♗xg6+ ♔xg6 45 ♕xd5 winning.

41 ♕d4+ ♔e6

Or 41 ... ♔g5 42 ♕g7!

42 ♘f5

Another beautiful blow. If 42 ... gxf5 43 ♗xf5 is a pure checkmate.

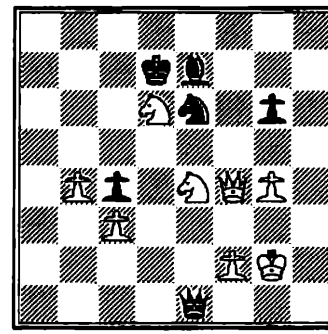
42 ... ♗f8

If 42 ... ♔d7 43 ♕a7+.

43 ♕xf4 ♔d7
44 ♘d4

Fischer's strategy has been triumphant. Black's pawns fall like rotten apples.

44	**...**	**♕e1+**
45	**♔g2**	**♗d5+**
46	**♗e4**	**♗xe4+**
47	**♘xe4**	**♗e7**
48	**♘xb5**	**♘f8**
49	**♘bxd6**	**♘e6**
	1-0	



Fischer intended 50 ♕e5 with multiple and deadly threats such as ♕b5+ or ♘c5+ and ♘f6+.

Fischer	1	**1**
Spassky	0	**0**

When the match started, Spassky's official FIDE rating was published at 2560. Fischer had an unpublished FIDE rating of 2780, equivalent to his last published rating in the mid-1970s. After each game of this match, I shall give new ratings calculated for the two, adjusted to take their progressive scores into account. These ratings have been calculated especially for this book by International Master Bob Wade, a member of the FIDE Qualification Commission. The new rating calculations after game 1 are:

Fischer's rating	**2782.2**
Spassky's rating	**2557.8**

2 Spassky - Fischer 3rd September 1992 King's Indian Defence

Fischer's Mistake Enables Spassky to Salvage a Draw

The second game ended in a draw after 59 moves. For much of the time it had appeared that Fischer was going to score a second win, but accurate defence saved the day for Spassky. The game, with Spassky playing White, opened with a King's Indian Defence. Queens were exchanged as early as the 7th move and on the 10th, Fischer introduced an entirely new concept to chess theory. But was it a valid innovation? By move 19, Spassky had built up what appeared to be a commanding initiative, though at the cost of sacrificing a pawn.

One of Fischer's great strengths in the past has been a determination to win material whenever possible and to cling on through any opposing attacks. This game was a perfect example of that philosophy. He emerged from Spassky's onslaught with an extra pawn on the kingside and, by some intricate tactics from moves 36 to 40, gained the further advantage of rook for knight. At this moment, all the experts, including Gary Kasparov, the World Champion, who telephoned from Moscow to discuss the position, had given up Spassky's position for lost.

But on the 50th move, when a win seemed in the bag, Fischer committed a colossal error. Instead of capturing a pawn with his knight, which would have led to a certain win, he made a careless move in entirely the wrong direction. This slip permitted Spassky to wriggle out. By the unexpected sacrifice of a bishop on the 58th move, in order to advance his passed pawn, Spassky forced a draw. Fischer had the immense advantage of rook against pawn, but with no way of preventing the queening of White's pawn without sacrificing his own rook, thus leading to a dead draw. A tragic missed opportunity for Fischer, whose lack of practice clearly told against him.

1	d4	♘f6
2	c4	g6
3	♘c3	♗g7
4	e4	d6
5	f3	c5

I regard this as dubious, since it unnecessarily forfeits the right to castle. Nevertheless, Fischer has tried it before, with moderate success.

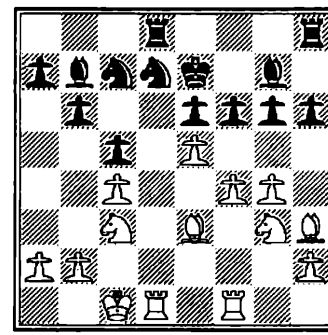
6	dxc5	dxc5
7	♕xd8+	♔xd8
8	♗e3	♘fd7
9	♘ge2	

9 0-0-0 b6 10 f4 ♗xc3 11 bxc3 ♗b7 12 ♘f3 is good for White (Spassky - Gheorghiu, Moscow 1971) but Black is not obliged to capture on c3.

9	...	b6

9 ... ♘c6 10 0-0-0 b6 11 f4 ♗b7 12 g3 ♘a5 13 ♗h3 e6 14 b3 ♔e7 15 ♖d2 ♖hd8 with equality was the first game in this line, Gheorghiu - Fischer, Siegen Olympiad 1970. In the book of that tournament I recommended instead 15 ♖hf1! leading to the pawn sacrifice 15 ... ♘f6 16 f5! ♘xe4 17 ♘xe4 ♗xe4 18 fxe6 fxe6 19 ♗g5+. Interestingly in a later game played by Eugenio Torre, one of Fischer's seconds in this match, White played the immediate 15 f5 and achieved the better game after 15 .. ♗e5 16 fxe6 fxe6 17 ♗f4 ♘c6 18 ♘b5 ♘f6 19 ♖d6!; Portisch - Torre, Rio de Janeiro Interzonal 1979. Indeed, in this game, Spassky soon tries a very similar f5-sacrifice.

10	0-0-0	♘a6
11	g3	♘c7
12	f4	e6
13	♗h3	♔e7
14	♖hf1	h6
15	e5	♗b7
16	g4	♖ad8
17	♘g3	f6



18	♘ce4	

Going for the pawn sacrifice, but 18 exf6+ would have ensured a slight advantage.

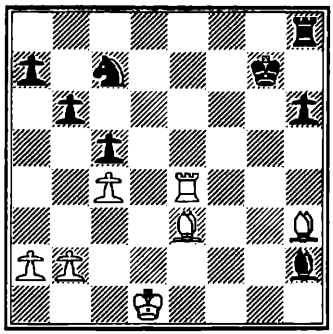
18	...	fxe5
19	f5	♗xe4
20	♘xe4	gxf5

Kasparov, who called me from Moscow during the game, thought 20 ... g5 much stronger.

21	gxf5	♘f6
22	♖g1?	

Spassky misses his way. 22 ♘g3! would pile up the pressure.

22	...	♖xd1+
23	♔xd1	♗f8
24	♘xf6	♔xf6
25	♖f1	exf5
26	♖xf5+	♔g7
27	♖xe5	♗d6
28	♖e4	♗xh2!



A belated revenge for the faulty ... ♘xh2?? which cost Fischer a piece in the celebrated 1st game, Reykjavik 1972. Here, White's two bishops and active rook seem to give superb compensation, but Black is the one trying to win.

29	**♔e2**	**h5**
30	**♖e7+**	**♔f6**
31	**♖d7**	**♘e5**
32	**b3**	**h4**
33	**♔f3**	**♖g8**
34	**♘g4?**	

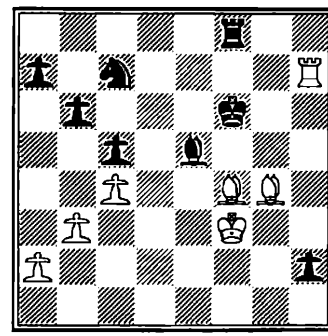
After this, Black's h-pawn becomes a real menace. Kasparov thought 34 ♘f2 ♘g3 35 ♘g4! ♘xf2 36 ♖xc7 a draw though Chandler (in the *British Chess Magazine*) opined that Black still has chances after 36 ... ♘g3 37 ♖xa7 ♔e5 threatening ... ♔d4 plus ... ♖f8+ and ... ♖f2.

34	**...**	**h3!**

The black h-pawn is a torpedo. If 35 ♘xh3?? ♖g3+ forks king and bishop.

35	**♖h7**	**h2**
36	**♘f4**	**♖f8!!**

Evil tactics. 36 ... ♔g6 37 ♖xh2 ♖f8 38 ♘h5+ ♔g7 39 ♖h4 is only a draw, but now 37 ♖xh2 ♔g7! wins for Black.



37	**♘xe5+**	**♔g6+**

This discovered check is the hideous point behind Black's sulphurous 36th. White loses the exchange.

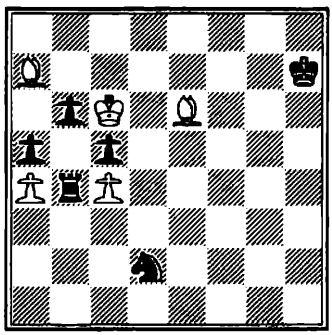
38	**♔e4**	**♔xh7**
39	**♘xh2**	**♖e8+**
40	**♔f5**	**♘e6**
41	**♔f6**	**♘d4**
42	**♘d6**	**♖e4**
43	**♘d7**	**♖e2**
44	**a4**	

White's active king (and Black's remote counterpart) combined with the two bishops still give hope for salvation if he can eliminate Black's queenside pawns.

44	**...**	**♖b2**
45	**♘b8**	**a5**
46	**♘a7**	**♖xb3**
47	**♔e5**	**♘f3+**
48	**♔d6**	**♘d2**
49	**♘e6**	**♖b4**
50	**♔c6**	

Fischer misses a simple win at this stage: 50 ... ♘xc4! 51 ♘xc4 ♖xc4 52 ♘xb6 ♖xa4 53 ♔xc5 ♖a1! 54 ♔b5 a4 55 ♘d4

♖d1! 56 ♗b2 ♖b1 or 56 ♗c5 ♖d5 57 ♔c4 ♖xc5+ 58 ♔xc5 a3 (*BCM*). Fischer had seen this, of course, but decided he could win more simply.



50 ... ♘b3??

He has overlooked White's 57th and now the win evaporates.

51	**♗d5**	**♖xa4**
52	**♗xb6**	**♖a1**
53	**♗xc5**	**a4**
54	**♗b4**	**a3**
55	**c5**	**♘d4+**
56	**♔d7**	**♖d1**
57	**♗xa3!**	

For if 57 ... ♘b5 58 ♗b4 ♖xd5+ 59 ♔c6.

57	**...**	**♘c2**
58	**c6**	**♖xd5+**
59	**♗d6**	**½–½**

Black must give back the rook to stop White's pawn.

Fischer	1	½	**1½**
Spassky	0	½	**½**

Fischer's rating	**2779.4**
Spassky's rating	**2560.6**

3 Fischer - Spassky
5th September 1992
Ruy Lopez

Close Shave for Fischer

Spassky staged a tremendous fightback in the third game. After a poor beginning, in which he lost the first game and scraped a draw in the second, Spassky made an aggressive start to game three and at one stage seemed to have Fischer under pressure. The opening, another Ruy Lopez, duplicated that of game one until Spassky's 16th move. This was a new attack designed to clear the centre of the board for his forces. By move 29 it was clear that Spassky's position, with two raking bishops against two hobbled knights, was superior. But in the closing stages, Fischer stabilised the game and forced a draw with a perpetual motion attack by his knight against Spassky's rook. Spassky had evidently missed a good chance at some point, but at least he had been in no danger throughout the game.

Meanwhile, away from the board Fischer demanded that those attending journalists who failed to bill the match as "The World Chess Championship Match", be forbidden entry to the hall.

1	e4	e5
2	♘f3	♘c6
3	♗b5	a6
4	♗a4	♘f6
5	0–0	♗e7
6	♖e1	b5
7	♗b3	0–0
8	c3	d6
9	h3	♘b8
10	d4	♘bd7
11	♘bd2	♗b7
12	♗c2	♖e8
13	♘f1	♗f8
14	♘g3	g6
15	♗g5	h6
16	♗d2	exd4

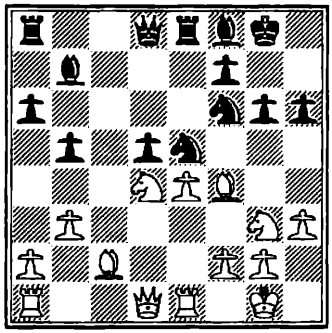
Clearing the centre, Spassky's improvement over his choice in game 1.

17	cxd4	c5
18	♗f4?	

Feeble; 18 d5! was later tried in game 5.

18	...	cxd4
19	♘xd4	♘e5
20	b3	d5

Suddenly, Black stands better.



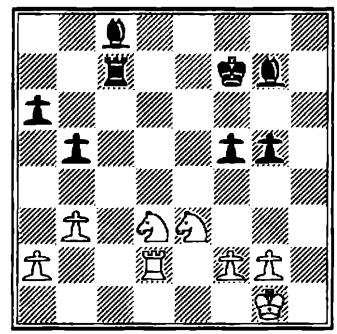
21	♕d2	**dxe4**
22	♘xe4	♘d5
23	♗g3	

23 ♗xh6 fails to 23 ... ♗b4.

23	...	♖c8
24	♖e2	**f5**
25	♗xe5	♖xe5
26	♘g3	♖xe2
27	♘gxe2	♘b4
28	♖d1	♘xc2
29	♘xc2	

Black's two bishops in a wide open position give him a huge edge.

29	...	♕xd2
30	♖xd2	♖c7
31	♘e3	♔f7
32	h4	♗c8
33	♘f4	g5
34	hxg5	hxg5
35	♘d3	♗g7



Letting the advantage slip. 35 ... ♗e6! (Kasparov) keeping White's knights out of d5 is still clearly better for Black.

36	♘d5	♖c6
37	♘5b4	♖c7
38	♘d5	♖c6
39	♘5b4	½–½

One of many games in this match in which Fischer (in the past a noted connoisseur of bishop play) has had knights against enemy bishops.

Fischer	1	½	½	**2**
Spassky	0	½	½	**1**

Fischer's rating	**2776.6**
Spassky's rating	**2563.4**

4 Spassky - Fischer 6th September 1992 Queen's Gambit Accepted

Spassky Fights Back to Make it All-Square

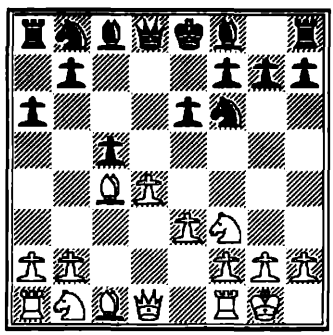
Boris Spassky struck back in decisive fashion to seize a victory in the fourth game of the now self-styled, "World Chess Championship". Spassky's win came after a hard-fought battle of 50 moves and was greeted with loud applause by the audience. After capitulating, Fischer congratulated his opponent saying, "I underestimated Spassky's attack".

This was a game that did justice to the glorious attacking style of Spassky's best days. It recalled bygone wins against Fischer from the 1960s, when Spassky was still able to tame the wild genius of his mighty opponent. As a measure of Fischer's growing irritation and frustration at his inability to score a second win, the mercurial American has demanded that all television and still cameras be banned from taking his picture during the event.

The score has now been levelled at 1-1 with two draws, and by notching up this classic win, Spassky has confounded all those critics - including Gary Kasparov - who had predicted that he would go down without taking a single game. The opening of the fourth game was an unusual choice for Fischer, the first time in his life that he had employed the Queen's Gambit Accepted. After 18 moves, the position seemed level with Fischer, if anyone, standing slightly better. But his 19th move essayed an over-optimistic attacking gesture that brought terrible retribution in its wake. Spassky immediately made a sacrifice of a rook for Fischer's bishop, which tied the American in knots.

Further hammer-blows by Spassky followed on moves 35 and 39. Fischer was obliged to return all his captured material and faced an endgame where he was two pawns down, with Spassky about to promote a pawn on the far queen's flank. After 50 moves, and five and a half hours of play, Fischer conceded defeat.

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♗xc4	c5
6	0-0	a6



7 dxc5

Considered a venom-free way of handling the opening, but Spassky has often resorted to it in the past, and seems to consider that White can maintain a minute edge.

7	...	♕xd1
8	♖xd1	♗xc5
9	b3	

A promising way to develop the queen's bishop.

9	...	♘bd7
10	♗b2	b6

This is actually safer than 10 ... b5 which Fischer was to try in game 6.

11	♘c3	♗b7

White's opening variation is harmless and Black should have no trouble in drawing.

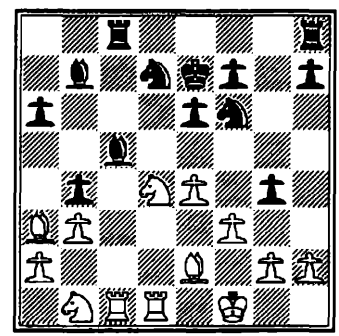
12	♖ac1	♗e7
13	♘d4	♖c8
14	f3	b5
15	♗e2	♗c5
16	♔f1	♔e7
17	e4	g5

Black actually enjoys a modest initiative, and with this move he expands his control of terrain, whilst simultaneously increasing his influence over the dark squares. So far so good.

18	♘b1	g4

But this is, perhaps, going one square too far. Black has no real prospect of gain by prising open the g-file, and he would be better advised to let the pawn stand on g5.

19	♗a3	b4?



Striving for too much. This advance meets with a startling refutation. 19 ... ♗xa3 would still be fine.

20 ♖xc5!!

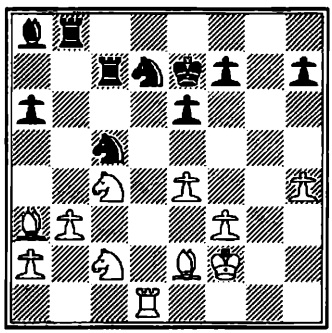
A superb sacrifice of the exchange which leaves Black tied in knots. Fischer must have underestimated its dire consequences for him.

20	...	♘xc5
21	♗xb4	♖hd8
22	♘a3	gxf3.
23	gxf3	♘fd7

24 ♘c4 ♗a8
25 ♔f2 ♖g8

Black is in a most awkward pin. His rooks have nothing to bite on, while White's knights have beautiful squares beckoning, from which they can threaten to leap across the whole black position, spreading death and destruction.

26 h4 ♖c7
27 ♘c2 ♖b8
28 ♗a3



A useful precaution; Spassky does not want Fischer to re-sacrifice with ... ♖xb4 at an inconvenient moment.

28 ... h5

Even in an inferior situation, Fischer still impatiently probes and pushes.

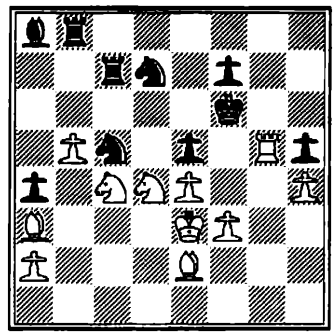
29 ♖g1

Seizing a useful open file.

29 ... ♔f6
30 ♔e3 a5
31 ♖g5 a4

A move in the same vein as his 19th, 28th and 30th. Fischer is always striving to be active, but this has the disadvantage that Spassky now obtains a dangerous passed b-pawn, to add to his other pluses.

32 b4 ♘b7
33 b5 ♘bc5
34 ♘d4 e5



Only seemingly constructing a defence, since White has a fresh sacrifice.

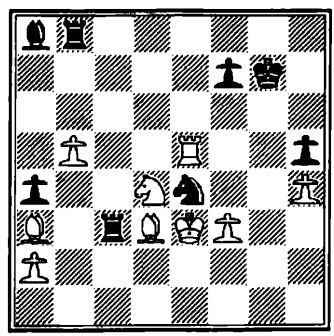
35 ♘xe5! ♘xe5
36 ♖f5+ ♔g7
37 ♖xe5 ♘xe4

A good try, since if 38 fxe4 ♖c3+ forking king and bishop, but Spassky has an elegant refutation available.

38 ♗d3!

Winning material by force, since 39 ♗d6 would smash any knight retreat.

38 ... ♖c3



39 ♗b4!

Accurate to the last. 39 ♗b2 a3! would allow Black to struggle on.

39	**...**	**♖xd3+**
40	**♔xd3**	**♘f6**
41	**♗d6**	**♖c8**
42	**♖g5+**	**♔h7**
43	**♗e5**	**♘e8**
44	**♖xh5+**	**♔g6**

Black could now resign.

45	**♖g5+**	**♔h7**
46	**♗f4**	**f6**
47	**♖f5**	**♔g6**
48	**b6**	**♖d8**
49	**♖a5**	**♗xf3**
50	**h5+**	**1–0**

After 50 ... ♔f7 51 ♖a7+ ♔g8 52 b7 White's passed b-pawn will cost Black a piece. One of Boris Spassky's best attacking games.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	**2**	Fischer's rating	**2768.9**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	**2**	Spassky's rating	**2571.1**

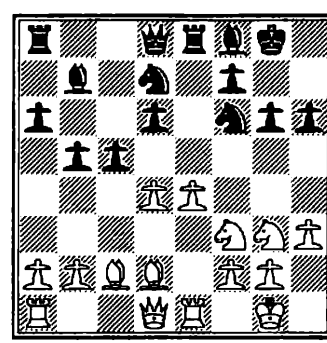
5 Fischer - Spassky 9th September 1992 Ruy Lopez

Boris Blasts Bobby Again

Boris Spassky wins two in a row! His victory came after 45 moves and catapulted Spassky into a 2-1 lead in the series. Spassky won with the black pieces, traditionally the side which has to defend in chess. Fischer, who launched an aggressive and risky attack, failed to prosecute his offensive with sufficient vigour and when Spassky fought back, his position collapsed. Spassky, 55, said afterwards: "I may be an old lion, but don't put your head in my mouth, or I'll bite it off!"

Fischer appeared to be reeling after this game. Never before had Spassky beaten Fischer with the black pieces and Fischer seldom loses two games in a row. Spassky had been waiting twenty years for his revenge after losing the world title to Fischer in 1972. Was he about to get it?

1	e4	e5
2	♘f3	♘c6
3	♗b5	a6
4	♗a4	♘f6
5	0-0	♗e7
6	♖e1	b5
7	♗b3	0-0
8	c3	d6
9	h3	♘b8
10	d4	♘bd7
11	♘bd2	♗b7
12	♗c2	♖e8
13	♘f1	♗f8
14	♘g3	g6
15	♗g5	h6
16	♗d2	exd4
17	cxd4	c5



18 d5

Improving on the feeble 18 ♗f4 of game 3.

18 ... ♘b6

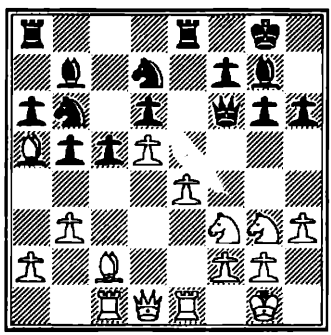
The position in the centre now resembles a Modern Ben-

oni, 1 d4 ♘f6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e6 4 ♘c3 exd5 5 cxd5 d6 6 e4 etc. where White has a central pawn mass, but Black can strike back on the wings. In other words, very sharp and, indeed, double-edged.

19 ♗a5

The bishop looks out of place on this square, but the temporary pin is, in fact, well motivated.

19 ... ♘fd7
20 b3 ♗g7
21 ♖c1 ♕f6



22 ♖b1?

A quite unnecessary defensive measure directed against ... ♕b2. In fact, White should play 22 h4 and if 22 ... ♕b2 23 h5 ♕xa2 24 ♗xb6 ♘xb6 25 hxg6 fxg6 26 ♘h4, with a murderous attack. Imagine how Kasparov would have revelled in such glorious attacking chances against the black king. After 22 h4 h5 23 ♖e3!! White enjoys a multitude of aggressive prospects, such as the plan of ♘g5 followed by ♘xh5, demolishing Black's defences. One illustration of White's chances after 23 ♖e3 is 23 ... c4 24 ♗c3 ♕e7 25 ♗xg7 ♔xg7 26 ♘d4 ♕xh4? 27 ♘g3-f5+ winning. Alternatively 23 ♖e3 ♗h6 24 ♘g5 ♗xg5 25 hxg5 ♕xg5 26 ♘f5! with a murderous attack.

Also dangerous for Black (after 22 h4 h5) is 23 e5 dxe5 24 ♘e4 ♕e7 25 d6 ♕d8 26 b4 and now either 26 ... c4 27 ♘c5 or 26 ... cxb4 27 ♗b3 with tremendous chances for White in both cases (*British Chess Magazine*).

22 ... b4
23 ♘e2 ♕e7

White's best move now is 24 ♕c1!

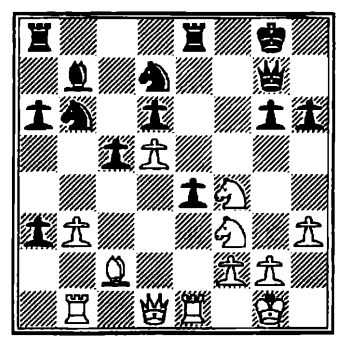
24 a3

A misguided sacrifice.

24 ... bxa3
25 ♗c3 f5

This, combined with Black's 28th, institutes a series of hammer blows which tear apart the white position.

26 ♗xg7 ♕xg7
27 ♘f4 fxe4



28 ♘h4

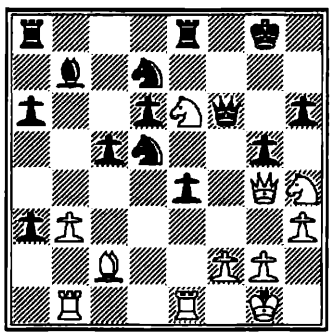
Fischer seeks his salvation in wild complications, but after 28

♗xe4 a2 29 ♖c1 ♘f6 30 ♗xg6 ♖xe1+ 31 ♕xe1 ♘fxd5 32 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 33 ♗e4 ♘f4! White is lost, or 28 ♘e6 ♕f7 29 ♗xe4 ♘f6 and White's centre cannot hold.

28 ... g5
29 ♘e6

No better is 29 ♘h5 ♕f7 30 ♗xe4 gxh4 31 ♕g4+ ♔h8 32 ♗g6 ♖xe1+ 33 ♖xe1 ♕f8.

29 ... ♕f6
30 ♕g4 ♘xd5



The final key to Black's victory. White's impressive-looking knights are shown to be impotent and Black's passed a-pawn decides the game.

31 ♘xg5

31 ♕xe4 is parried by 31 ... ♘f8!

32 ... hxg5
32 ♕xd7 ♘b4
33 ♕xb7 ♘xc2
34 ♖xe4 a2
35 ♖f1 ♘b4

Many roads lead to Rome here, since White's position is already beyond good and evil. The text is the safest and shuts out any awkward checks by White's queen.

36 ♖g4 a1♕
37 ♖xa1 ♕xa1+
38 ♔h2 ♕g7
39 ♕f3 ♕e5+
40 g3 ♖f8
41 ♕g2 ♕f6
42 f4 ♖a7
43 ♖xg5+ ♖g7
44 ♖h5 ♕e6
45 g4 ♖xf4
0–1

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	**2**	Fischer's rating	**2761.4**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	**3**	Spassky's rating	**2578.6**

6

Spassky - Fischer
10th September 1992
Queen's Gambit Accepted

Spassky Misses Chance of Hat-Trick

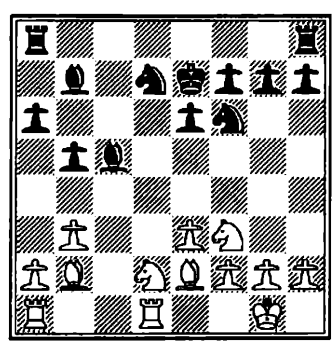
In a fierce eight-hour battle, Bobby Fischer pulled back from an expected third defeat to achieve a draw on the 61st move in the sixth game of the match. Although Spassky had an extra pawn at this stage, it was useless for winning purposes at this level. Spassky commented that he had missed several chances to win and Fischer said: "I was in a difficult position for a very long time." Spassky now leads by 2 games to 1 with three games drawn.

Fischer's nervousness was displayed right at the start of the game; he arrived wearing a dark visor to shield his eyes from non-existent sunlight and ordered Spassky's assistants, Yuri Balashov and Alexander Nikitin, out of the hall. Spassky complied. Fischer, with the black pieces, used the Queen's Gambit Accepted again as in game four. It is a strange choice of opening, since it does not suit his counter-attacking style at all.

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♗xc4	c5
6	0-0	a6
7	dxc5	♕xd1
8	♖xd1	♗xc5
9	b3	♘bd7
10	♗b2	b5

This turns out to present White with a target. 10 ... b6, as in game 4, looks more circumspect.

11	♗e2	♗b7
12	♘bd2	♔e7



The king in the centre can be a disadvantage, as Fischer saw demonstrated in game 4. Worth considering is 12 ... 0-0 13 a4 bxa4 14 ♖xa4 ♗e7; Spassky

– Nikolic, Barcelona World Cup 1989.

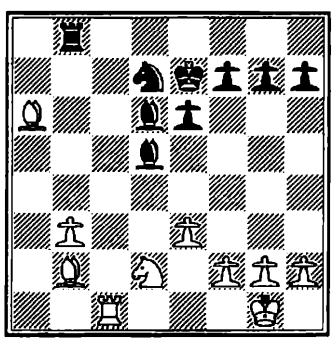
13 a4!

The thematic punch to Black's queen's flank. Now 13 ... b4 cedes the square c4 for occupation by a white knight, so Fischer must acquiesce to an isolated a-pawn, which is weaker than White's b-pawn.

13	**...**	**bxa4**
14	**♖xa4**	**♖hb8**
15	**♖c1**	**♗d5**
16	**♘e5!**	

Fine tactics. White's b3-pawn is immune, viz. 16 ... ♗xb3 17 ♘c6+ ♔e8 18 ♖a5! winning material, or 17 ... ♔d6 18 ♘xb8 ♗xa4 19 ♘xd7 ♘xd7 20 ♘e4+ ♔c6 21 ♘xc5 ♘xc5 22 ♗f3+ winning neatly.

16	**...**	**♗d6**
17	**♘xd7**	**♘xd7**
18	**♖xa6**	**♖xa6**
19	**♗xa6**	



The triumph of Spassky's strategy, but manifold technical hurdles remain to be overcome in converting the full point.

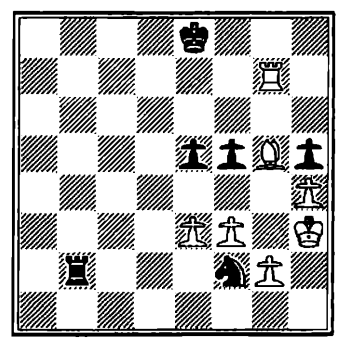
19	**...**	**f6**
20	**♗c4**	**♗xc4**
21	**♖xc4**	**♘c5**
22	**♖c3**	**f5?!**

Perhaps 22 ... ♘a4.

23	**♗a3**	**♘e4**
24	**♖c7+**	**♔d8**
25	**♗xd6**	**♘xd2**
26	**♖xg7**	

After this breakthrough White should win – but Fischer offers fierce resistance, and the single session of play meant that Spassky was becoming more and more tired. There are pluses and minuses to the new Fischer rules which prohibit adjournments.

26	**...**	**♖xb3**
27	**h4**	**h5**
28	**♗f4**	**♔e8**
29	**♔h2**	**♖b2**
30	**♔h3**	**♘e4**
31	**f3**	**♘f2+**
32	**♔g3**	**♘d3**
33	**♗g5**	**e5**
34	**♔h3**	**♘f2+**



35 ♔h2

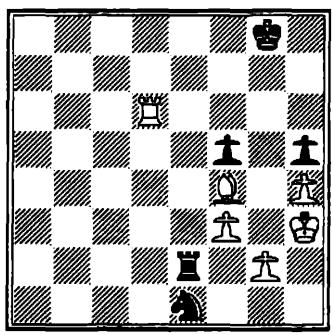
White still has a few problems in liberating his king, but he should win easily enough.

35	**...**	**♘d3**
36	**♗h6**	**♘e1**

37	**♔g1**	**♘d3**
38	**♗g5**	**♖b1+**
39	**♔h2**	**♖b2**
40	**♖e7+**	**♔f8**
41	**♖e6**	**♔g7**
42	**♔h3**	**♖e2**
43	**♖d6**	**♘e1**
44	**♗f6+**	**♔g8**
45	**♗xe5**	**♖xe3**

Now 46 ♗g3 ♘d3 47 ♖f6 ought to notch the full point.

46	**♗f4**	**♖e2**



	47	**♖g6+**

47 ♗d2 is the last realistic try. Spassky has become confused and the win is slipping away.

47	**...**	**♔f7**
48	**♖g5**	**♔e6**
49	**♗c7**	**♖a2**
50	**♗b6**	**♘d3**
51	**♔h2**	**♘e1**
52	**♔h3**	**♘d3**
53	**♗c7**	**♖c2**
54	**♗b6**	**♖a2**
55	**♔g3**	**♘e1**
56	**♖xh5**	**♖xg2+**
57	**♔f4**	**♘d3+**
58	**♔e3**	**♘e5**
59	**♖h6+**	**♔d5**
60	**♗c7**	**♖g7**
61	**♗xe5**	**♔xe5**
	½–½	

White's extra pawn is useless for winning purposes.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	**2½**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	**3½**

Fischer's rating	**2759.0**
Spassky's rating	**2581.0**

7

Fischer - Spassky
12th September 1992
Ruy Lopez

Fischer Strikes Back – At Last

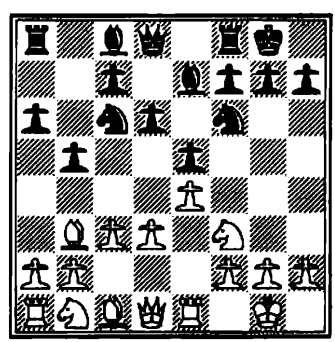
Bobby's long drought was over. At last another win came, with Fischer forcing a resignation after 44 moves of a highly intricate encounter. Experts, who could not understand the complexities of the position, were predicting a draw after 37 moves. But having achieved an advantage, Fischer pressed home his lead surely.

The opening was Fischer's favourite, the fourth Ruy Lopez. But on the ninth move he deviated with a little-known continuation which provoked Spassky into a pawn rush in the centre of the board. This culminated in Black's violent 16th move. Fischer defended coolly, especially at move 25, when a checkmate threatened and, in a fine final phase, pushed through with two passed pawns, one of which would inevitably become a queen. This was the most pugnacious chess produced so far in the match, by both sides. At the end Fischer said: "Spassky's ambitious 16th move was what led to his loss." But how many other players could have exploited this error with such remorseless accuracy? Were we now on the verge of seeing the old Bobby back, and for good?

1	e4	e5
2	♘f3	♘c6
3	♗b5	a6
4	♗a4	♘f6

Another Ruy Lopez, as in games 1, 3 and 5.

5	0-0	♗e7
6	♖e1	b5
7	♗b3	0-0
8	c3	d6
9	d3	



Fischer is the first to vary from the earlier games. In the interim, he has evidently not yet found a convincing way of

dealing with Spassky's Breyer Defence, which would arise after 9 h3 ♘b8 10 d4 ♘bd7. 9 d3, although apparently slow, reaped many victories for the German grandmaster Richard Teichmann, who was mainly active before the First World War.

9 ... ♘a5
10 ♗c2 c5
11 ♘bd2 ♖e8

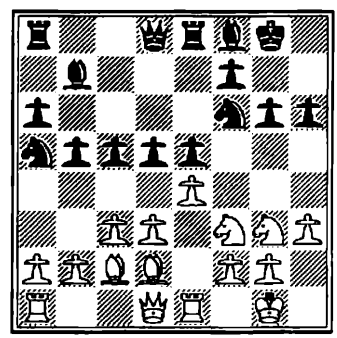
The game Teichmann - Capablanca, Berlin 1913, went instead 11 ... ♘c6 12 a4 ♗e6 13 ♘f1 b4 14 ♗g5 ♖b8 when Black had an active position. Subsequent theory recommended instead for White 12 ♘f1 ♗e6 13 ♘e3. It is noteworthy that Capablanca preferred to develop the black queen's bishop on e6 rather than b7.

Another example was Teichmann - Schlechter, Carlsbad 1911, which went 11 ... ♕c7 12 ♘f1 ♘c6 13 ♘e3 ♗b7 14 ♘f5 ♖fe8 15 ♗g5 ♘d7 16 ♗b3 ♘f8 17 ♗d5 ♘g6 18 ♗xe7 ♘gxe7 19 ♗xf7+ ♔xf7 20 ♘g5+ ♔g8 21 ♕h5 with a decisive attack. As a result of this game, and similar Teichmann wins, it was considered that the black queen's bishop had to stay on the c8-h3 diagonal in order to guard the f5-square from invasion by a white knight. In the current game, Spassky ignores this ancient wisdom.

12 h3 ♗f8
13 ♘f1 ♗b7
14 ♘g3 g6

This appears to be a new move in this position. In two other recent games the immediate 14 ... d5 was successfully tried. After 15 exd5 ♕xd5 16 ♗g5 ♕c6 Kamsky - Timman, Tilburg 1990, continued 17 ♘f5 h6 18 ♗d2 e4! and Black already stood better; whilst 17 a4 also worked out well for Black after 17 ... h6 18 axb5 axb5 19 ♗d2 c4 20 dxc4 ♘xc4 in Illescas - Ivanchuk, Linares 1992. One wonders what Fischer had in mind against 14 ... d5.

15 ♗g5 h6
16 ♗d2 d5



The *British Chess Magazine* describes this as "The start of a tremendously bold tactical excursion, the outcome of which remains unclear for another eleven moves." More circumspect, especially in light of subsequent events, would have been the consolidating 16 ... ♗g7.

17 exd5

Accepting the challenge offers the only possibility to

refute Spassky's play. The weakness of Black's pawn on e5 provides the *leitmotif* of the coming tactical exchanges of fire.

17 ... c4!

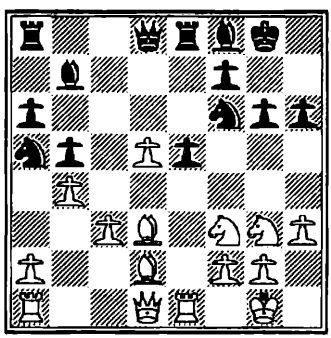
The only move. If 17 ... ♕xd5 18 c4 ♕d8 19 ♘xe5 nets a valuable central pawn for nothing.

18 b4

Not 18 ♘xe5 ♕xd5. This uncompromising thrust again offers the only chance to refute Spassky's conception. Naturally 18 ... cxb3 19 axb3 ♗xd5 20 c4 would now be ruinous for Black, who has material hanging all over the board.

18 ... cxd3

19 ♗xd3



19 ... ♕xd5

This amounts to the sacrifice of a piece. The alternative is 19 ... ♘c4 20 ♗xc4 bxc4 21 ♘xe5 ♕xd5 22 ♕f3! ♖xe5 23 ♖xe5 ♕xe5 24 ♕xb7, when Black has some compensation for his lost material but would face an uphill struggle to draw. Spassky prefers to set the board alight with his sacrifice and events now develop by force and with whirlwind rapidity.

20 ♗e4!

This ensures the win of material, but Spassky takes over the initiative for some time to come.

20 ... ♘xe4

21 ♘xe4 ♗g7

He has to parry the threat of ♘f6+. 21 ... ♗e7 would fail to 22 bxa5 f5 23 c4 bxc4 24 ♘c3.

22 bxa5 f5

23 ♘g3

Immense precision from Fischer. Here 23 c4 dxc4 24 ♘c3 ♕c6 is much less clear.

23 ... e4

24 ♘h4

Fischer is successfully treading a precipice. He avoids falling over the edge with 24 ♘h2 met by 24 ... e3. A key advantage of 24 ♘h4 is to guard g2 against Black's looming threats of checkmate. In order to regain his piece, Spassky must punch the knight away from its guard tower on h4.

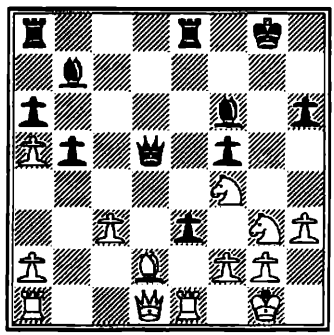
24 ... ♗f6

If 24 ... g5 25 ♘hxf5 e3 26 ♘xe3 ♖xe3! and Black turns the tables. However, White can win with 24 ... g5 25 ♘gxf5! gxh4 26 ♕g4 with a murderous attack.

Alternatively, 24 ... ♔h7 (to defend g6 in preparation for attacking the h4-knight) 25 ♘xg6!! ♔xg6 (25 ... e3 26 ♘f4! as usual) 26 ♕h5+ ♔h7 27 ♕xf5+ ♕xf5 28 ♘xf5 wins.

25 ♘xg6 e3

26 ♘f4



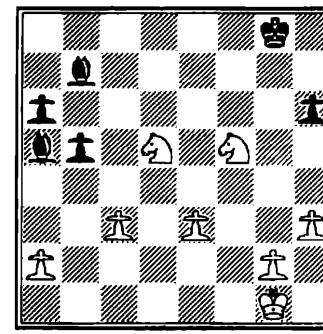
The climax of the game. All this, with more to come, has been forced like clockwork since Black's 19th move. The knight on f4 defends against mate on g2 and forces Spassky to transpose into an inferior endgame, since 26 ... exf2+ 27 ♔xf2 gives inadequate compensation for Black.

26	**...**	**♕xd2**
27	**♖xe3**	**♕xd1+**
28	**♖xd1**	**♖xe3**
29	**fxe3**	**♖d8**

A star defensive move. Black is two pawns down and 29 ... ♗xc3 30 ♘xf5 would be hopeless for him. The text comes remarkably close to drawing.

30	**♖xd8+**	**♗xd8**
31	**♘xf5**	**♗xa5**
32	**♘d5!!**	

A brilliant resource, evidently foreseen a long way back by Fischer. In comparison 32 ♘xh6+ ♔h7 followed by ... ♗xc3 would be much less convincing for White. In any endgame with two bishops ranging on an open board against two knights, the possibility of the bishops' side gaining a pawn majority on some part of the board would grant enormous counterchances. Fischer conducts the endgame with merciless accuracy.



32 ... ♔f8

If 32 ... ♗xd5 33 ♘e7+ ♔f7 34 ♘xd5 ♔e6 35 ♘b4 ♗xb4 36 cxb4 ♔d5 37 ♔f2 ♔c4 38 a3 ♔b3 39 e4 when White wins the king and pawn endgame.

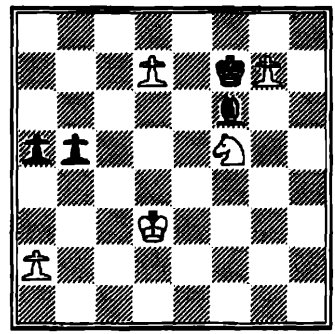
33	**e4**	**♗xd5**
34	**exd5**	**h5**
35	**♔f2**	**♗xc3**
36	**♔e3**	**♔f7**
37	**♔d3**	**♗b2**

There is somewhat more resistance in 37 ... ♗f6. As played, Fischer wins simply, elegantly and powerfully by pushing his passed pawns in sequence, as hard and as fast as possible.

38	**g4**	**hxg4**
39	**hxg4**	**♔f6**
40	**d6**	**♔e6**
41	**g5**	**a5**
42	**g6**	**♗f6**
43	**g7**	**♔f7**

44 d7 1-0

If 44 ... ♗d8 45 ♘d6+ ♔xg7 46 ♘b7 ♗f6 47 d8♕ ♗xd8 48 ♘xd8 or 44 ... a4 45 ♘d6+ ♔g8 (45 ... ♔xg7 46 ♘e8+ wins) 46 ♘xb5 ♔xg7 47 ♘a7 ♔f7 48 ♘c6 ♔e6 49 d8♕ ♗xd8 50 ♘xd8+ and wins.



Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	**3½**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	**3½**

Fischer's rating **2761.7**
Spassky's rating **2578.3**

8 Spassky - Fischer 13th September 1992 King's Indian Defence

Dynamic Fischer Seizes Control

Bobby Fischer took firm control of the match when he won the eighth game. Fischer's win took him into the lead, three games to two with three games drawn. Doubts arose about Fischer's ability to make a convincing comeback when he lost games four and five to Spassky, and fell into severe difficulties in the drawn game six. But games seven and eight showed all his vigour restored.

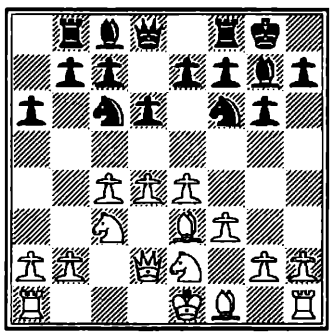
Fischer's play had been accompanied by an increasingly eccentric series of demands starting with the exclusion of Spassky's seconds from the playing hall and culminating with the positioning of a thick wall of glass between the players and the spectators. Fischer also demanded that, when the match transferred at the half-way stage to Belgrade, the players be encased in a giant glass bell, to exclude any possible outside interference. All this is vintage Fischer and showed that he is well back to established form, both on and off the board.

The opening of game eight was a sharp variation of the King's Indian Defence, one favoured by Gary Kasparov in his own games as Black. After 21 moves, Fischer was trying to attack on the queen's flank, while Spassky hoped to create attacking chances on the other side of the board. On the 22nd move, Spassky failed to prosecute his offensive strongly enough and this slight hesitation allowed Fischer to establish a dominating squadron of black knights in the centre.

Seemingly under heavy pressure, Spassky was struck down by a sudden sacrifice of one of Fischer's knights. This raid cost Spassky his queen for inadequate compensation and Fischer followed up with a sacrifice of a rook on the 37th move to break Spassky's defence, forcing his resignation on move 40. But next day, in dramatic fashion, analysts discovered that even after falling into Fischer's diabolical trap, Spassky still would have had good chances, if only he had found an amazing alternate way to sacrifice his

queen. This game, although by no means a masterpiece of accuracy, gave birth to some of the most fascinating complexities ever seen at grandmaster and championship level. I now invite readers to join me in exploration of this fantastic labyrinth of the mind.

1	**d4**	**♘f6**
2	**c4**	**g6**
3	**♘c3**	**♗g7**
4	**e4**	**d6**
5	**f3**	**0–0**
6	**♗e3**	**♘c6**
7	**♘ge2**	**a6**
8	**♕d2**	**♖b8**



This is the starting position of the hypermodern Sämisch.

9 h4

An aggressive move. Alternatives include 9 ♘c1, 9 a3, 9 ♖b1, 9 ♗h6 and 9 0–0–0.

9 ... h5

Black does not allow the h-file to be opened with h4 – h5.

10 ♗h6

Probably Spassky believes that his attack will be strengthened by the inclusion of the pawn moves on the h-file, but the pawn at h5 is better than at h7.

10 0–0–0 is a common alternative, for example 10 ... b5 11 ♘d5 (11 ♘f4 bxc4 12 ♗xc4 e5 13 dxe5 ♘xe5 14 ♗b3 ♕e8! 15 ♔b1 a5 with good play for Black, as in Vaganian – Nunn, Skelleftea 1989; 11 ♗h6 e5 12 ♗xg7 ♔xg7 13 dxe5 ♘xe5 14 ♘f4! bxc4 15 ♗e2 and White has some compensation for the pawn; Plachetka – Sznapik, Copenhagen 1990) 11 ... bxc4 12 ♗h6 ♘xd5 13 exd5 ♘b4 14 ♘c3 c6 15 ♗xc4? (15 dxc6! d5 16 g4 ♗xh6 17 ♕xh6 ♕b6 18 ♖h2 ♕xc6 19 gxh5 ♗f5 20 ♗h3 with unclear complications according to Nunn) 15 ... cxd5 16 ♘xd5 ♗xh6 17 ♕xh6 ♘xd5 18 ♗xd5 ♗f5 19 ♗e4 ♗xe4 20 fxe4 ♕c7+ 21 ♔b1 ♖xb2+!! 0–1 Hurme – Nunn, Helsinki 1983.

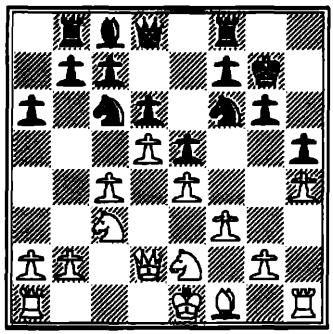
10 ... e5!?

Evidently a novelty, though very much in the spirit of the position. The older line is 10 ... b5 11 ♗xg7 (11 g4?! e5! 12 d5 ♘d4 13 ♘xd4 ♗xh6 14 ♕xh6 exd4 and Black was better in Kraidman – Westerinen, Ramat Hasharon 1982) 11 ... ♔xg7 12 d5 ♘d4 is unclear according to *ECO*.

11 ♗xg7 ♔xg7

12 d5

12 0–0–0 is more logical, because with the bishops gone it does not make sense to head for a closed position.



12 ... ♘e7
13 ♘g3

To stop ... b7 - b5.

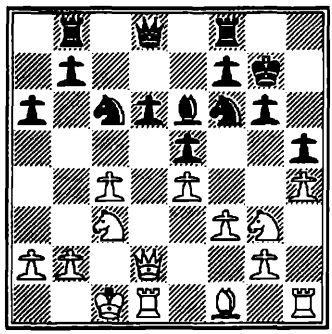
13 ... c6

Time to chip away at the central wedge.

14 dxc6 ♘xc6
15 0-0-0

Black could now shield his backward pawn with ... ♘d4, but the weakness of White's c-pawn and the presence of the king on the c-file provide alternate options.

15 ... ♗e6!



16 ♔b1

Not 16 ♕xd6 ♕xd6 (16 ... ♕b6!? 17 ♘d5 ♗xd5 18 cxd5 ♕e3+ with counterplay; or 16 ... ♕a5 17 ♕d2 ♖fd8 with counterplay) 17 ♖xd6 ♘d4 and White would have difficulty extricating the rook, while the eventual occupation of the c-file by a black rook would cause further problems.

16 ... ♘e8

Now Black protects the d-pawn and the g5-square against the idea of ♘f5+. This disrupts the coordination of the black rooks but the knight will be redeployed at c7 or f6 at an appropriate moment.

17 ♘d5 b5!
18 ♘e3 ♖h8!

Since there is no possibility of playing ... f7 - f5 without great risk, Fischer supports the h5-square and pre-empts sacrifices based on ♘f5+. Here Fischer is playing in the style of Nimzowitsch, the great 1920s strategist, using prophylactic moves.

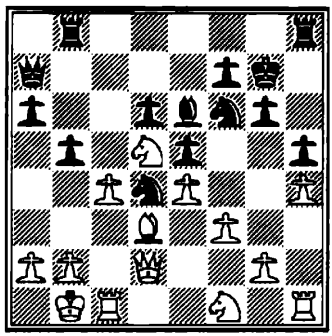
19 ♖c1 ♕b6
20 ♗d3 ♘d4
21 ♘d5 ♕a7!

Black will capture on d5 at a more opportune moment. From a7 the queen can be transferred to e7 and help protect the kingside. If 21 ... ♗xd5 22 cxd5 ♘f6 23 ♖c3 (23 ♘f5+ ♘xf5 24 exf5 ♖bc8 and Black has a comfortable position) 23 ... ♖bc8 24 ♖hc1 with control of the c-file.

22 ♘f1 ♘f6!?

The knight has done its tour of duty at e8 and now it gets out of the way and reconnects

the rooks, although this is rather risky.



23 ♘fe3

Spassky could have more aggressively exploited the Black kingside structure by 23 ♘xf6 ♔xf6 24 c5!? which looks good for White:

a) 24 ... dxc5 25 ♕g5+ ♔g7 26 ♕xe5+ winning.

b) 24 ... ♔g7! is relatively best, though White still has some chances to develop his initiative:

b1) 25 f4 may be dangerous for Black. The advance of the f-pawn to f5 exploits Black's earlier ... h7 - h5 by undermining the pawn chain. 25 ... dxc5 26 f5!? gxf5 (26 ... ♗d7 27 f6+!? ♔h7 28 ♘e3 also gives White a strong attack) 27 exf5 ♗d5 28 ♕g5+ with an attack.

b2) 25 cxd6 ♕b6 26 ♕b4 ♖hd8 and Black is okay.

23 ... ♗xd5
24 cxd5

24 ♘xd5 ♘xd5 25 cxd5 and the knight is obviously much more powerful than the bishop.

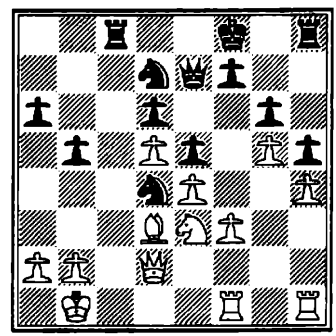
24 ... ♖bc8
25 ♖cf1

Spassky avoids the exchange of rooks and prepares the advance of his f-pawn.

25 ... ♕e7
26 g4 ♘d7
27 g5

White gains some space but his pawn structure may become more vulnerable in any endgame.

27 ... ♔f8?!



This is heavy-duty prophylaxis. Perhaps Fischer re-read Nimzowitsch's book *My System* before the match. But he may have missed the redeployment of White's bishop at h3.

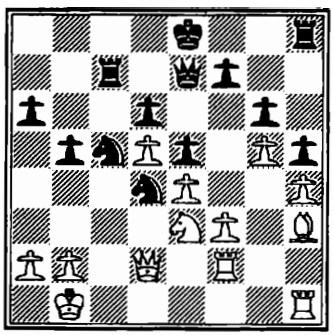
28 ♖f2 ♔e8

Black is moving his king to what he believes will be a more secure position. It can reoccupy the kingside later. The immediate effect is to try to discourage f3 - f4, but that may be impossible.

29 ♗f1! ♘c5
30 ♗h3 ♖c7

In the diagram position Spassky should play the paradoxical-looking 31 ♗g2 (to

protect the pawn on e4 in preparation for f4) with the following possible continuation: 31 ... ♖f8 32 f4 exf4 33 ♖xf4 ♕e5 34 ♖hf1 ♔d8 35 ♘f5! gxf5 36 exf5 when Black's previously dominant squadron of knights, entrenched on the dark squares, are revealed to have hooves of clay.



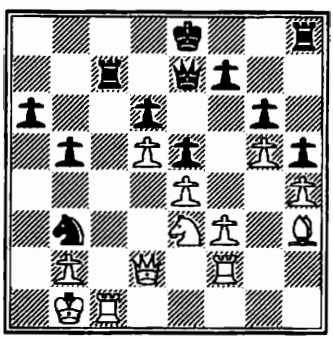
31 ♖c1!?

Unwittingly inviting fabulous complications. Fischer now unleashed the apparently decisive coup ...

31 ... ♘cb3

... when after ...

32 axb3 ♘xb3



33 ♖c6?

... Spassky lost comfortably. (Also bad is 33 ♖xc7 ♘xd2+ 34 ♖xd2 ♕xc7 35 ♖c2 ♕b6 36 ♖c8+ ♔e7 37 ♖xh8 ♕xe3 when Black wins). It has, however, subsequently been established that Spassky had an amazing alternative on move 33, namely 33 ♕c2! ♘xc1 34 ♕d1! and by following up with ♖c2 White will inevitably win the black knight. Another variation is 33 ♕c2 ♖xc2 34 ♖fxc2! ♘xc1 (not 34 ... ♘c5 35 b4 or 34 ... ♔f8 as recommended in numerous chess magazines on account of 35 ♖c8+! ♔g7 36 ♖1c7 when White wins a piece) 35 ♖c8+ ♕d8 36 ♔xc1 ♕xc8 37 ♗xc8 ♔e7 38 ♗xa6 ♖a8 39 ♗xb5 ♖a1+ 40 ♔d2 ♖h1 41 ♗f1 ♖xh4 42 ♗g2 ♖h2 43 ♔e2 h4 44 ♔f2 h3 45 ♔g1 ♖xg2+ 46 ♘xg2 hxg2 47 ♔xg2 when White wins the king and pawn endgame (this is analysis which I did with Kasparov after the game).

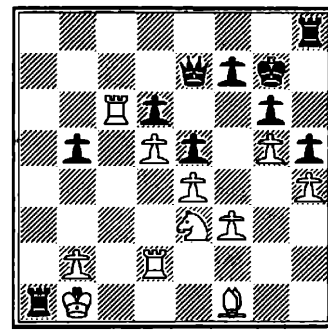
In order to stay in the game in the above line Black has to play 36 ... ♖f8 with the plan of prising open the kingside with ... f6 as quickly as possible. That way he may well be able to resist.

It is also worth pointing out 33 ♕c3 (as suggested by Dzindzihashvili), e.g. 33 ... ♖xc3 34 ♖xc3 ♘c5 35 b4 a5 (35 ... ♔f8 36 ♖fc2) 36 bxc5 dxc5 and here 37 ♖d2 ♕d6 38 ♖b2! is extremely strong. White's idea is to pile up against b5 and provoke the advance ... b4. White will then

occupy the c4-square with his knight and push the d-pawn. This ought to win for him.

Nevertheless, 33 ♕c3 is suspect after 33 ... ♘xc1 34 ♕a3 ♔f8! since White will inevitably trap Black's knight, but Black will have rook plus pawn against bishop and knight, a virtual material equivalent. Black will also enjoy good counterplay on the dark squares and against White's somewhat exposed king. One thematic example here is 35 ♗f1 ♔g7 36 ♖c2 ♖xc2 37 ♘xc2 ♖c8 38 ♔xc1 ♕a7 39 ♕xd6 ♕f2 40 ♕xe5+ ♔h7 41 ♗d3 ♕e1 checkmate.

33	...	**♘xd2+**
34	**♖xd2**	**♔f8**
35	**♖xa6**	**♖a7**
36	**♖c6**	**♔g7**
37	**♗f1**	**♖a1+**



This brutal firework terminates White's resistance.

38	**♔xa1**	**♕a7+**
39	**♔b1**	**♕xe3**
40	**♔c2**	**b4**
	0–1	

One of the most dramatic games from the first half of the match and a great missed opportunity for Spassky who lost from what could have been one of his best and most interesting games.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	**4½**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	**3½**

Fischer's rating	**2764.3**
Spassky's rating	**2575.7**

9 Fischer - Spassky 16th September 1992 Ruy Lopez

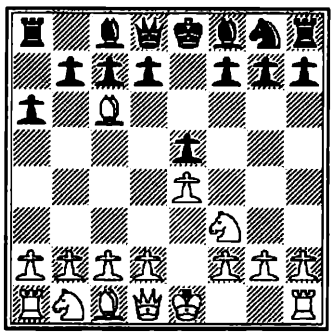
Spassky Bowled Over by Openings Novelty

I have received many letters asking whether the conditions for the Spassky - Fischer match are more fair to the players than those normally in force for a contest between two top grandmasters. The essential differences are that Fischer and Spassky play each game to a finish without the possibility of adjournment and that the victor is the first to win ten games rather than the first player to reach a set number of points. In the Karpov - Kasparov matches 12½ points has been the winning hurdle, since a maximum of 24 games have been played. Thus, it is clear that the importance of draws has been totally eliminated for the Fischer - Spassky clash.

Personally, I prefer Fischer's rules. The exclusion of adjournments means that the players are thrown entirely on their own resources, and cannot ever rely on seconds or computers to help with unfinished games. Further, rendering draws insignificant means that the players must always seek a win in order to finish off the match. For this reason, and in Sveti Stefan it is certainly succeeding, the games have been of an exceedingly bloodthirsty and uncompromising nature. The downside to Fischer's rules is that an extremely dedicated organiser must be found, prepared to host an open-ended match. A further drawback is that the absence of adjournments tends to increase the number of mistakes through exhaustion in the longer games. That said, the Spassky - Fischer games have been dramatic and excellent value for money.

Even the ninth game, brief though it was, evinced points of great interest. Spassky was evidently demoralised, after his tragic loss in game 8, and allowed himself to be thrown off balance by Fischer's unexpected 17 ♘e4! Black has to walk a tightrope anyway in this line; usually this is successful, and a draw is the outcome, but Fischer showed here how dangerously taut and overstretched the rope can become.

1	**e4**	**e5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**♗b5**	**a6**
4	**♗xc6**	



The Exchange Variation was a favourite of the great Emanuel Lasker, who used it, for example, to win the deciding game against Capablanca at St. Petersburg 1914. However, for a long time after that it was considered harmless, since it was regarded as excessively simplifying. But in 1966, at the Havana Olympics, Fischer reintroduced it to great effect in three games against Portisch, Gligoric, and Jimenez.

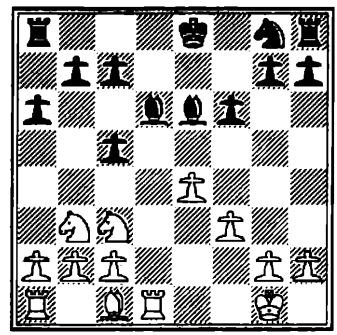
4	**...**	**dxc6**
5	**0-0**	**f6**
6	**d4**	**exd4**

6 ... ♗g4 7 dxe5 (7 c3 exd4 8 cxd4 ♕d7 9 h3 ♗e6 10 ♘c3 0-0-0 11 ♗f4 ♘e7 12 ♖c1 with advantage to White; Fischer - Gligoric, Havana Olympiad 1966; or 9 ... ♗h5 10 ♘e5 ♗xd1 11 ♘xd7 ♔xd7 12 ♖xd1 ♖e8 13 f3 ♘e7 14 ♘c3 also with advantage to White; Fischer - Jimenez, Havana Olympiad 1966) 7 ... ♕xd1 8 ♖xd1 fxe5 9 ♖d3 ♗d6 10 ♘bd2 ♘f6 11 ♘c4 ♘xe4 12 ♘cxe5 ♗xf3 13 ♘xf3 0-0 was Fischer - Spassky, World Championship, Reykjavik (Game 16) 1972.

7	**♘xd4**	**c5**
8	**♘b3**	**♕xd1**
9	**♖xd1**	

Now 9 ... ♗d6 10 ♘a5 b5 11 c4 ♘e7 12 ♗e3 f5 13 ♘c3 f4 14 e5! ♗xe5 15 ♗xc5 with advantage was seen in Fischer - Portisch, also from the Havana Olympiad 1966.

9	**...**	**♗g4**
10	**f3**	**♗e6**
11	**♘c3**	**♗d6**



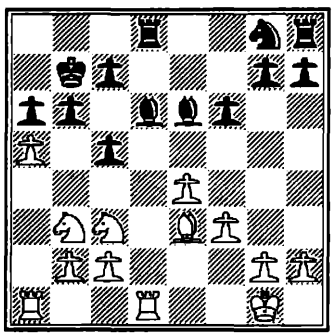
This is the kind of position which established the reputation of the Exchange Variation as being harmless. White enjoys the better pawn structure, due to Black's doubled pawns and White's kingside pawn majority, while in addition White has a slight lead in development. On the other hand, though, Black's position seems extraordinarily solid and he has the bishop pair. In view of the simplifica-

tion such positions tended nearly always to be drawn. But in this game Fischer has other ideas.

12 ♗e3 b6
13 a4

This advance is the only way to put pressure on Black's position.

13 ... 0-0-0
14 a5 ♔b7

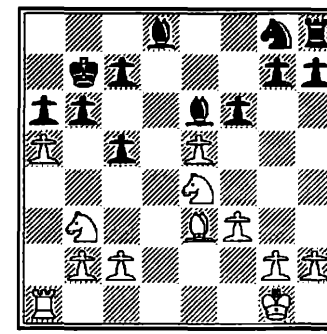


15 e5

A startling blow, but it is, in fact, known theory. 15 e5 is a sophisticated way of emphasising the mobility of White's kingside pawn mass. If now 15 ... fxe5 (15 ... ♗xe5?? is ruled out on account of 16 ♖xd8) then 16 axb6 cxb6 17 ♘e4 threatening ♘xd6+ and if the bishop moves to e7 then 18 ♖xd8 followed by ♘bxc5+ winning.

15 ... ♗e7
16 ♖xd8 ♗xd8
17 ♘e4

This was widely (and wrongly) hailed as Fischer's innovation. Instead the immediate 17 axb6 led to equality and a swift draw in the game Adorjan - Ivkov, Skopje 1976; 17 ... cxb6 18 ♘e4 ♗xb3 19 ♘d6+ ♔c6 20 cxb3 ♘e7 21 ♖xa6 ♘d5 ½-½.

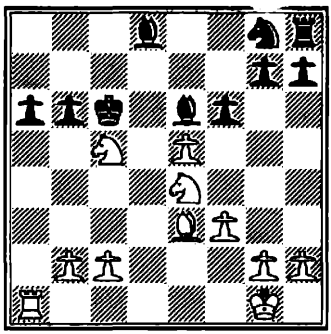


17 ... ♔c6?

White's threat was 18 ♘exc5+ sacrificing a piece temporarily to win the black bishop on e6. Faced with a novel situation Spassky's protective king move seems a sensible way of deflecting this menace, but in fact it is a terrible blunder which Fischer punishes in devastating fashion. Black had to play 17 ... ♗xb3 18 cxb3 f5 though 19 ♖d1 still leaves White with a substantial advantage, as in Biyiasas - Vukovic, Bor 1980 (won by White in 41 moves). This little-known reference is not on *ChessBase* or in the chess *Informators*, which perhaps explains why Spassky and his seconds had overlooked it. In any case, the plausible 17 ... ♗xb3 18 cxb3 fxe5 fails to 19 axb6 when 19 ... ♔xb6 20 ♘xc5 is clearly unacceptable as is 19 ... cxb6 20 ♘d6+ followed by

the crushing ♘f7.

18 axb6 cxb6
19 ♘bxc5!



Absolutely crushing. If now 19 ... bxc5 20 ♖xa6+ ♔d7 21 ♘xc5+ wins, or 20 ... ♔d5 21 ♖d6+ followed by ♖xd8 when Black is paralysed.

19 ... ♗c8
20 ♘xa6 fxe5
21 ♘b4+ 1–0

Black is not only a pawn down but his position has been laid waste. For example 21 ... ♔b5 22 ♘c3+ ♔xb4 23 ♖a4 checkmate. A stunning demonstration of the psychological and practical power of an openings novelty.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	**5½**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	**3½**

Fischer's rating **2766.9**
Spassky's rating **2573.1**

10 Spassky - Fischer 19th September 1992 Nimzo-Indian Defence

Respite for Spassky with Marathon Draw

Spassky's revival in game ten was remarkable, given that opponents who have succumbed in the past to Fischer's psychological domination rarely manage to avoid a devastating series of defeats. This was the fate which overtook Taimanov, Larsen and Petrosian during 1970 and 1971, in Fischer's unstoppable march towards the world crown.

Spassky entered a variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defence, opening quickly and confidently, although by move 14 he seemed to have run out of ideas. He thought for more than twenty minutes on his 15th move, eventually trading off into an endgame where, at most, he had prospects for a draw.

A draw seemed inevitable by move 31, because of the presence of bishops on opposite coloured squares, a well-known drawing mechanism. But, inexplicably, Spassky broke open the position with his 31st move and invited immense complications. It was not until move 68 that Fischer was faced with insuperable problems in trying to win and a draw was agreed. Afterwards Fischer said: "I was not trying to tire Spassky out - I genuinely thought I had winning chances."

In this match draws simply do not count for the final score. Therefore, as a matter of policy, although there have been some interesting situations developing in drawn games, I have concentrated on analysing the decisive games which actually determine the outcome of the match.

1 d4 ♘f6

2 c4 e6

3 ♘c3 ♗b4

4 ♕c2

In the 1972 match Spassky relied exclusively on 4 e3 to combat the Nimzo-Indian. 4 ♕c2 has recently been fashionable after wins by Kasparov, one of which was against Spassky himself!

4 ... d5

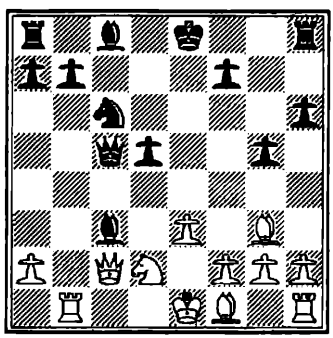
5 cxd5 exd5
6 ♗g5 h6
7 ♗h4 c5
8 dxc5 ♘c6

Not 8 ... 0-0 9 e3 ♘bd7 10 ♗d3 ♕a5 11 ♘ge2 and White is better, Kasparov - Korchnoi, Tilburg 1989.

9 e3 g5
10 ♗g3 ♕a5

Instead 10 ... ♘e4 11 ♘f3 ♕f6 12 ♗b5! with a clear edge for White was Kasparov - Spassky, Linares 1990.

11 ♘f3 ♘e4
12 ♘d2 ♘xc3
13 bxc3 ♗xc3
14 ♖b1 ♕xc5!



A theoretical novelty; 14 ... a6 15 ♗d6 ♗e5 16 ♗xe5 ♘xe5 17 ♗e2 0-0 18 0-0 ♕c7 19 ♖b6 ♘c6 20 ♘f3 ♖e8 21 ♖fb1 was clearly better for White in Glek - Yuferov, USSR 1989. Fischer has done his preparation well.

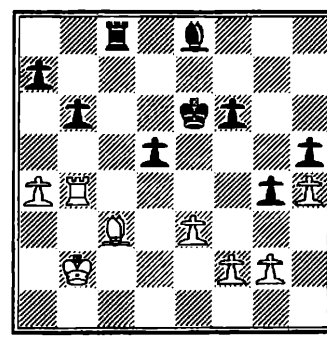
15 ♖b5 ♕a3
16 ♖b3

Not 16 ♖xd5? ♗e6 17 ♖d3 (17 ♖b5 0-0-0) 17 ... ♘b4! 18 ♕xc3 ♘xd3+ 19 ♕xd3 ♕c1+ 20 ♔e2 0-0! (20 ... ♖d8 21 ♕b5+ ♖d7 22 ♗d6!) 21 ♘b3 ♗xb3 22 ♕xb3 ♖ad8 and Black stands better.

16 ... ♗xd2+
17 ♕xd2 ♕a5
18 ♗b5

More or less a draw offer. Alternatives are 18 ♕xa5 ♘xa5 19 ♖b5 "regaining the pawn with interesting play" (Malcolm Pein in *The European*) or 18 ♖c3 ♗e6 19 ♗d3 0-0-0?? 20 ♖xc6+! winning; of course, 19 ... 0-0-0 is the culprit here, but both these 18th move alternatives would have kept life in White's game.

18 ... ♕xd2+
19 ♔xd2 ♗d7
20 ♗xc6 ♗xc6
21 h4 ♔e7
22 ♗e5 f6
23 ♗d4 g4
24 ♖c1 ♔e6
25 ♖b4 h5
26 ♖c3 ♖hc8
27 a4 b6
28 ♔c2 ♗e8
29 ♔b2 ♖xc3
30 ♗xc3 ♖c8



31 e4?!

In spite of the minus pawn

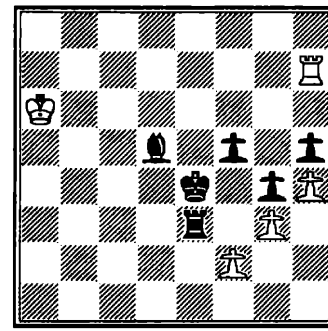
the position is a draw, which 31 ♖f4! would have emphasised. The text makes it interesting again.

31	...	♘c6
32	exd5+	♘xd5
33	g3	♘c4
34	♘d4	♔d5
35	♘e3	♖c7
36	♔c3	f5
37	♔b2	♔e6
38	♔c3	♘d5+
39	♔b2	♘e4
40	a5	bxa5
41	♖b5	a4
42	♖c5	♖b7+
43	♔a3	a6
44	♔xa4	♘d5
45	♔a5	♔e5
46	♔xa6	♖b3
47	♖c7	♔e4
48	♖h7	♖xe3

(see following diagram)

This sacrifice is very close to being winning for Black and Spassky has to defend accurately.

49	fxe3	♔xe3
50	♖xh5	♘e4
51	♖h8	♔f3



52	♖e8	♔xg3
53	h5	♘d3+
54	♔b6	f4
55	♔c5	f3
56	♔d4	♘f5
57	♖f8	♔f4
58	h6	g3
59	h7	g2
60	h8♕	g1♕+
61	♔c4	♕c1+
62	♔b3	♕c2+
63	♔b4	♕e4+
64	♔c3	♕c6+
65	♔b3	♕d5+
66	♔c3	♕c5+
67	♔b2	♕b4+
68	♔a2	½–½

Both kings are too exposed for winning prospects.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	**6**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	**4**

Fischer's rating **2764.4**
Spassky's rating **2575.6**

11 Fischer - Spassky 20th September 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer Charges Further Ahead with Outstanding Fifth Victory

Fischer moved into a commanding lead of five victories to two after winning game 11. The game, with Fischer playing White, was the best so far in the series and will undoubtedly go down as one of his outstanding attacking performances - fully the equal of any of his wins from 1972!

During game 10, Spassky had rallied, holding Fischer to a draw after three consecutive defeats. Spassky's revival followed a postponement, called so that he could recover from exhaustion. In game 11, however, Fischer regained his brilliant form to win in 41 moves, after 5 hours and 41 minutes of play. "I am very satisfied with this game, in which I found a totally new move in the opening" Fischer said.

Grandmasters at the island resort of Sveti Stefan showered Fischer with praise. Many said it was by far the best game, with perfect play by Fischer. One grandmaster, Petar Popovic, dismissed speculation that Fischer might have lost his strength after 20 years away from the board, saying: "Fischer is really Fischer again now."

The opening was an unusual version of the Sicilian Defence. Fischer's seventh move introduced a novel gambit of a pawn. On the eighth move Spassky defended somewhat incautiously, electing to cling to his extra gambit pawn, when he should have returned it on the spot, but the punishment that Fischer meted out for that small error was hard to foresee. Fischer's 15th move was a bombshell, exploding a knight into the very heart of the black position.

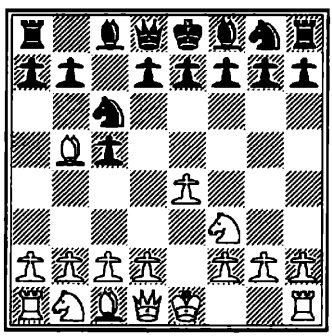
In the final stages, with the advantage of rook against bishop, Fischer's technique was merciless. On the 39th move he sacrificed his rook for Spassky's last dangerous pawn. When Spassky resigned, although he was briefly a bishop ahead, Fischer's advancing

pawns would have soon decided the game in his favour.

1 e4 c5

Evidently alarmed by Fischer's rough handling of his Ruy Lopez in game 9, Spassky switches to the Sicilian Defence.

2 ♘f3 ♘c6
3 ♗b5



A rare treatment for Fischer, who has habitually preferred the Open Sicilian with 3 d4.

3 ... g6
4 ♗xc6

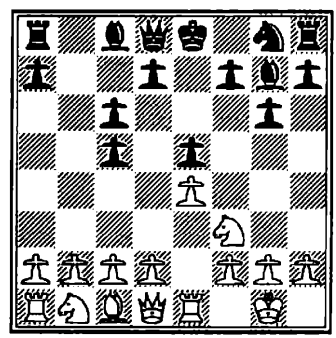
And this early exchange of bishop for knight is quite unexpected. Curiously, Fischer seems to have evinced a marked predilection for knights over bishops in this match.

4 ... bxc6

It is natural enough to recapture towards the centre, while simultaneously giving himself the chance to occupy the b-file with a rook. At this point, though, Spassky should probably have contented himself with the more humble recapture 4 ... dxc6 which would have avoided the troubles to come. To be fair, Fischer's treatment was hard to foresee.

5 0-0 ♗g7
6 ♖e1 e5

Perhaps this move is the true source of Black's difficulties. Two games later Spassky tried Ivkov's paradoxical idea 6 ... f6 and went on to achieve a relatively painless draw.



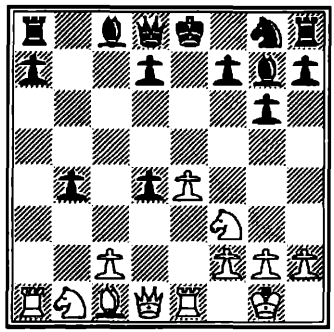
7 b4!!

A brilliant innovation, sacrificing a pawn to gain control of the dark squares. Previous theory recognised only 7 c3 which, by comparison, is harmless.

7 ... cxb4
8 a3 c5

If 8 ... bxa3 White has a pleasant choice between 9 ♘xa3, 9 ♗xa3 or 9 d4 exd4 10 e5 when Black's dark-square situation in the centre is looking perilous. Safest, however, is probably 8 ... b3! giving back the pawn.

9 axb4 cxb4
10 d4 exd4



11 ♗b2

Also attractive is 11 e5 but Fischer has foreseen that Black has grave problems along the dark-squared diagonal a1-h8.

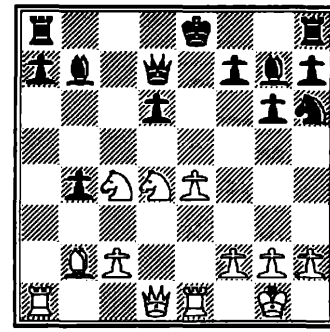
11 ... d6
12 ♘xd4 ♕d7

If 12 ... ♘e7 13 ♘c6 ♘xc6 14 ♗xg7 gives White more than enough compensation in terms of dark-square domination.

13 ♘d2 ♗b7

If instead 13 ... ♘e7 White can try for a central breakthrough with 14 ♘2f3 0-0 15 e5, e.g. 15 ... dxe5 16 ♘xe5 ♗xe5 17 ♖xe5 ♗b7 18 ♕e2 ♘c6 19 ♘f5 gxf5 20 ♕g4+ fxg4 21 ♖g5 checkmate. Attractive as this variation is, though, Black can defend more effectively by means of 16 ... ♕b7 when White has nothing tangible for the pawn. Superior, therefore, after 13 ... ♘e7 is 14 ♘c4 ♗b7 (If 14 ... 0-0 15 ♘b6 wins) 15 ♘e6!! with an overwhelming attack. Spassky's hand, in view of these variations, appears to be forced.

14 ♘c4 ♘h6



14 ... ♘e7 again fails to 15 ♘e6, all the tactics working out in White's favour. Additionally, 14 ... ♔f8 loses attractively to 15 e5 dxe5 16 ♘xe5 ♕d5 (16 ... ♗xe5 17 ♖xe5 is too horrible to contemplate) 17 ♘d7+ ♕xd7 18 ♘e6+ and Black can resign.

15 ♘f5!!

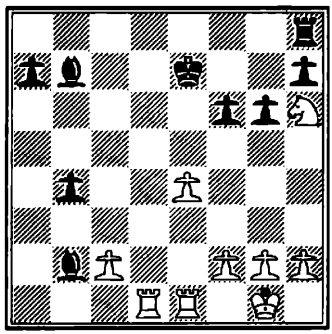
A superb move, which devastates Black's position, and much superior to 15 ♘b5 ♗xb2 16 ♘bxd6+ when 16 ... ♔e7 attacks the white knight. Since now 15 ... ♘xf5 16 exf5 is discovered check, Spassky must fall in with Fischer's plans.

15 ... ♗xb2
16 ♘cxd6+ ♔f8
17 ♘xh6 f6

17 ... ♗xa1 18 ♕xa1 ♕xd6 19 ♕xh8+ ♔e7 20 ♕xh7 ♖f8 21 ♕g7 ♕d2 22 ♕a1!! ♕c3 23 ♕xc3 bxc3 24 f3! a5 25 ♖a1 ♖a8 26 ♘g4 a4 27 ♔f2 a3 28 ♔e3 a2 29 ♔d4 ♖a3 30 ♘e3 wins for White, according to Fischer himself in post-mortem analysis.

18 ♘df7 ♕xd1

19 ♖axd1 ♔e7
20 ♘xh8 ♖xh8



Black has lost the exchange but still has fighting chances due to his passed a-pawn and the bishop pair. However, Fischer now has a fabulous solution available, very much like a conjuror producing a rabbit out of a hat, which dispels any illusion that Black can survive.

21 ♘f5+!! gxf5
22 exf5+ ♗e5

He must give back the material; 22 ... ♔f8 23 ♖d8+ is obviously hopeless.

23 f4 ♖c8
24 fxe5 ♖xc2
25 e6 ♗c6

And not 25 ... ♖xg2+ 26 ♔f1 ♗c6 27 ♖d7+ ♗xd7 28 exd7+ ♔xd7 29 ♔xg2 winning.

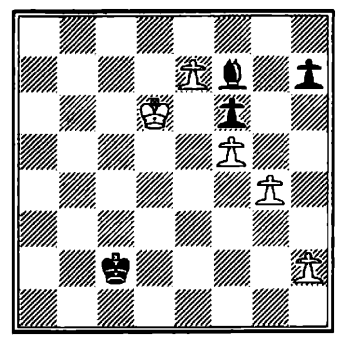
26 ♖c1 ♖xc1
27 ♖xc1 ♔d6
28 ♖d1+ ♔e5

If 28 ... ♔e7 29 ♖a1 wins.

29 e7 a5
30 ♖c1 ♗d7
31 ♖c5+ ♔d4
32 ♖xa5 b3
33 ♖a7 ♗e8
34 ♖b7 ♔c3
35 ♔f2 b2
36 ♔e3 ♗f7

36 ... ♔c2 37 ♔d4 makes no difference.

37 g4 ♔c2
38 ♔d4 b1♕
39 ♖xb1 ♔xb1
40 ♔c5 ♔c2
41 ♔d6 1-0



The final position is an easy win for White. For example 41 ... ♔d3 42 ♔d7 ♔e4 43 e8♕+ ♗xe8+ 44 ♔xe8 ♔f4 45 ♔f7 ♔g5 46 h4+ ♔xh4 47 ♔xf6 ♔xg4 48 ♔e6 h5 49 f6 h4 50 f7 h3 51 f8♕ h2 52 ♕f1 and the game is up.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	**7**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	**4**

Fischer's rating **2767.0**
Spassky's rating **2573.0**

12 Spassky - Fischer 30th September 1992 King's Indian Defence

Belgrade Begins – Spassky Wins!

After game 11 the match was due to switch to Belgrade, but before that happened there was a closing celebration in Sveti Stefan, at which the normally austere Fischer lightened up to the extent of playing five-minute games against the press. One such game was against the former British Ladies Champion, Cathy Forbes, author of a recent book on the Polgar sisters, who was present in Montenegro on an assignment for the BBC. This blitz game has a certain historic importance in that it is the only published game Fischer has ever played against a female opponent and it is his only published game against a human (he played a couple against computers) other than Spassky since 1972.

Forbes - Fischer

1 d4 ♘f6 2 ♘f3 g6 3 ♗f4 ♗g7 4 ♘c3 d6 5 e4 0-0 6 h3 c5 7 dxc5 ♕a5 8 ♗d2 ♕xc5 9 ♗d3 a6 10 a4 b6 11 0-0 ♗b7 12 ♖e1 ♘bd7 13 ♗e3 ♕c7 14 ♕e2 e6 15 ♗f4 e5 16 ♗g3 ♘c5 17 ♘d2 ♘h5 18 ♗h2 ♘f4 19 ♗xf4 exf4 20 ♘b3 ♘d7 21 ♕d2 f3 22 g3 ♘e5 23 ♗f1 h5 24 ♖ad1 ♖ad8 25 ♘d5 ♗xd5 26 exd5 ♘c4 27 ♕d3 ♘xb2 0-1

On switching to Belgrade, the Blue Hall of the Sava Centre to be precise, the match conditions changed somewhat. Instead of a giant glass bell, a huge glass screen was erected across the stage, much larger than the one in Sveti Stefan, apparently, to insulate Fischer from disturbance, while Fischer also ordered the hall to have always at least 2000 spectators present. In Belgrade, where the population is fanatical about chess, this was not a problem. In spite of achieving perfect conditions Fischer was unable to find his form for game 12 and went down in flames when he failed to find the right plan in the opening, allowing Spassky to score a third win.

1	**d4**	**♘f6**	**4**	**e4**	**d6**
2	**c4**	**g6**	**5**	**f3**	**0-0**
3	**♘c3**	**♗g7**	**6**	**♗e3**	**♘c6**

7 ♘ge2 a6

In 1973, a year after the famous match in Reykjavik, I played this variation as Black against Spassky in the international tournament at Dortmund. That game continued 7 ... ♖b8 8 h4 h5 9 ♕d2 ♖e8 10 0-0-0 a6. At this point I realised that my choice of defence had not, perhaps, been particularly felicitous. The King's Indian had been Fischer's favourite defence and Spassky had doubtless prepared thoroughly against it for the 1972 match. In fact, Fischer did not defend at that time with a single King's Indian, which meant that Spassky had a vast quantity of unrevealed ideas against it in reserve. The innovation was not long in coming, namely 11 ♕e1 b5 12 e5 ♘d7 13 g4 when Spassky already had a decisive attack.

8 h4

An earlier Spassky favourite had been 8 ♘c1, e.g. 8 ... e5 9 d5 ♘d4 10 ♘b3 ♘xb3 11 ♕xb3 c5 12 dxc6 bxc6 13 0-0-0 ♗e6 14 ♕a3 ♘e8 15 h4 with advantage, as in Spassky - Korchnoi, Candidates Final (Game 7) 1968. A better defensive plan for Black was revealed in Timman - Kasparov, Moscow 1981, with 13 ... ♕e7 14 ♕b6 ♗b7 15 g4 and now 15 ... ♖fb8 would have been the most satisfactory course.

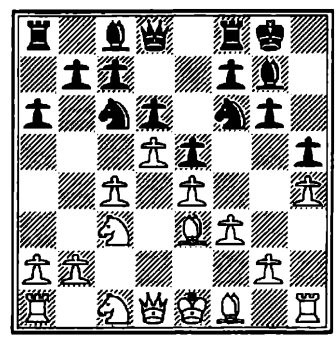
Instead of 10 ... ♘xb3 in this variation, Black can also try the pawn sacrifice 10 ... c5 11 dxc6 bxc6 although after 12 ♘xd4 exd4 13 ♗xd4 c5 14 ♗e3 ♖b8 15 ♕c2 ♗e6 16 ♗e2 ♘d7 17 0-0 ♘e5 18 b3 ♘c6 19 ♕d2 Black's compensation for the pawn was inadequate in Spassky - Gheorghiu, Students Olympiad 1962.

8 ... h5

In my view the insertion of a mutual h4/h5 probably favours Black in this variation.

9 ♘c1 e5

10 d5



10 ... ♘e7?

This is utterly contrary to the spirit of the variation. Black has to play 10 ... ♘d4!, as in game 28, since if 11 ♗xd4 exd4 12 ♕xd4 ♘xe4 13 ♕xe4 ♖e8 and Black wins. The main line after 10 ... ♘d4 runs 11 ♘b3 c5 12 dxc6 bxc6 13 ♘xd4 exd4 14 ♗xd4 c5 15 ♗e3 ♖b8 analogous to the game Spassky - Gheorghiu. Here, however, Black has the advantage that White's king can hardly seek refuge on the kingside with his pawn perched perilously on h4. Since castling queenside will also grant Black

an easy attack along the open files in that sector, one must conclude that Black would have had superb compensation for his pawn and that 10 ... ♘d4 would have been the only correct way to handle the defence. After Fischer's move Black is, in a higher strategic sense, already in hot water.

11 ♗e2 ♘h7
12 ♘d3 f5
13 a4

A deep move which restrains Black's queenside counterplay based on ... b5, before White commits his king to any particular side of the board.

13 ... ♘f6
14 ♘f2 a5
15 ♕c2 c5

This really leaves Black passively placed. Henceforth, he can never break open lines for counterplay with ... c6.

16 0-0-0

As long ago as the mid-nineteenth century Steinitz taught that when the centre is closed it pays to delay castling, so as to give oneself the maximum options for a blitzkrieg against the opposing king. From now on Fischer's king is a sitting target and Spassky can develop his attack in a leisurely and unopposed fashion.

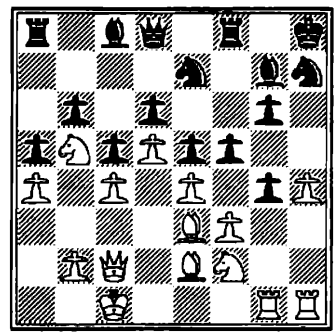
16 ... b6
17 ♖dg1 ♘h7

Fischer's oscillations with his king's knight prove that he has run out of ideas.

18 ♘b5

Improving the position of his queen's knight to the maximum before starting his onslaught on the other wing.

18 ... ♔h8
19 g4 hxg4



This leads to a speedy debacle. He has slightly more chance of keeping the position closed after 19 ... f4.

20 fxg4 f4
21 ♗d2 g5

Otherwise White will play g5 himself and follow up eventually with a crushing h5.

22 hxg5

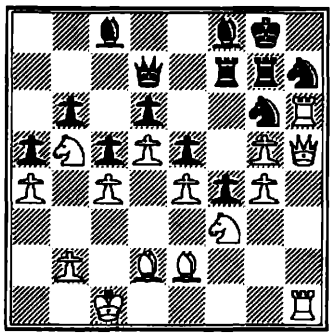
Of course Spassky opens the h-file as quickly as possible.

22 ... ♘g6
23 ♖h5 ♖f7
24 ♖gh1 ♗f8
25 ♕b3

A feint to the left, but the queen is clearly destined for h3.

25 ... ♖b8
26 ♕h3 ♖bb7
27 ♘d3 ♔g8
28 ♘e1 ♖g7
29 ♘f3 ♖bf7
30 ♖h6 ♕d7

31 ♕h5



The culmination of White's massive attack. Black's knight on g6, the linchpin of his defence, has been battered to death. If it moves 32 g6 will win a piece.

31	**...**	**♕xg4**
32	**♖xg6**	**♕xh5**
33	**♖xg7+**	**♖xg7**
34	**♖xh5**	**♗g4**
35	**♖h4**	**♗xf3**
36	**♗xf3**	**♘xg5**

The upshot of White's attack is that Spassky has won a piece and Fischer should resign.

37	**♗g4**	**♖h7**

White's threat was ♗e6+.

38	**♖xh7**	**♔xh7**
39	**♔c2**	**♗e7**

White's e-pawn is immune on account of ♗f5+.

40	**♔d3**	**♔g6**
41	**♘c7**	**♔f7**
42	**♘e6**	**♘h7**
43	**♗h5+**	**♔g8**
44	**♗e1**	**♘f6**
45	**♗h4**	**♔h7**
46	**♗f7**	**♘xd5**

Netting another pawn but this is irrelevant to White's imminent victory.

47	**cxd5**	**♗xh4**
48	**♗h5**	**♔h6**
49	**♗e2**	**♗f2**
50	**♔c4**	**♗d4**
51	**b3**	**♔g6**
52	**♔b5**	**♔f6**
53	**♔c6**	**♔e7**
54	**♘g7**	**1-0**

♘f5+ will be decisive. Of course White has avoided 54 ♔xb6 on acount of 54 ... c4+.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	**7**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	**5**

Fischer's rating **2759.5**
Spassky's rating **2580.5**

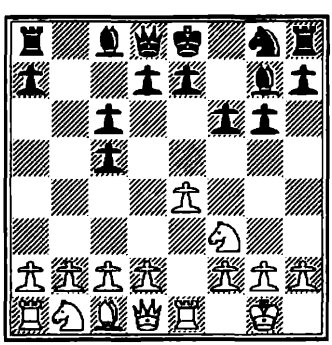
13 Fischer - Spassky
1st October 1992
Sicilian Defence

Spassky's Innovation Secures Draw

Spassky boldly repeated the first five moves of his disaster in game 11, but on move 6 he introduced a stunning innovation, devised by his second, Yugoslav grandmaster Borislav Ivkov. Fischer thought for 30 minutes over his reply, but could find no way of getting an edge.

After 5½ hours of banging his head against a brick wall, Fischer conceded the draw. A success for Spassky's preparation.

1	e4	c5
2	♘f3	♘c6
3	♗b5	g6
4	♗xc6	bxc6
5	0-0	♗g7
6	♖e1	f6!

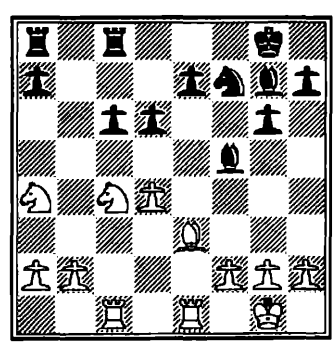


A paradoxical move in that it blocks in the black fianchettoed bishop, but the point is to maintain maximal pawn flexibility in the centre.

7	c3	♘h6
8	d4	cxd4
9	cxd4	0-0
10	♘c3	d6
11	♕a4	

11 ♕c2 may be better.

11	...	♕b6
12	♘d2	♘f7
13	♘c4	♕a6
14	♗e3	♕xa4
15	♘xa4	f5
16	exf5	♗xf5
17	♖ac1	♖fc8



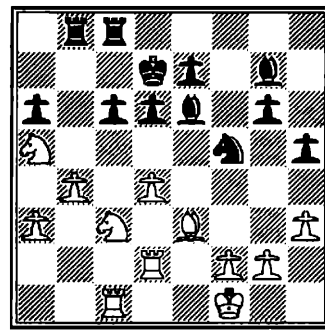
Black's only weakness is the pawn on c6, but it is easily defended.

18	**♘aS**	**♗d7**
19	**b3**	**♖ab8**
20	**♘c3**	**♔f8**
21	**a3**	**♘h6**
22	**b4**	**♘f5**
23	**♖ed1**	**♔e8**
24	**♘e4**	

I now expected 24 ... ♘xe3 25 fxe3 ♗h6, but Spassky decides to cement the position. By maintaining the status quo, his fortress cannot be breached.

24	**...**	**♖bS**
25	**h3**	**hS**
26	**♖d2**	**a6**
27	**♔f1**	**♖dS**
28	**♖cd1**	**♖bS**
29	**♔e2**	**♗e6**
30	**♖c1**	**♔d7**
31	**♘c3**	**♖bb8**
32	**♔f1**	

The king oscillation proves that Fischer has run out of ideas.



32	**...**	**h4**
33	**♔e2**	**♗f6**
34	**♘e4**	**♗d5**
35	**♔d3**	**♗g7**

Spassky is content to wait.

36	**♖dc2**	**♖c7**
37	**♖e1**	**♖f8**
38	**f3**	**♖b8**
39	**♘c3**	**♗g8**
40	**♘e2**	**♗f7**
41	**♗d2**	**♗f6**
42	**♖ec1**	**♖bc8**
43	**♘c4**	**♖b7**
44	**♘aS**	**♖a7**
45	**♘c4**	**♖b7**
	½–½	

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½		**7½**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½		**5½**

Fischer's rating **2757.2**
Spassky's rating **2582.8**

14 Spassky - Fischer 3rd October 1992 Queen's Gambit Accepted

Spassky's Fangs Drawn

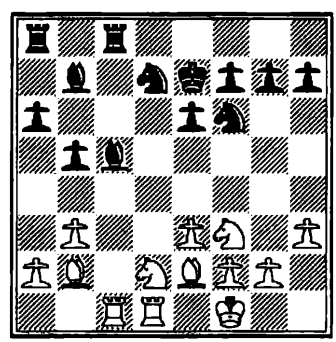
Probably the quietest game of the match so far. Having suffered with King's Indians in games eight and 12, Fischer reverted to the Queen's Gambit Accepted, and this time he achieved a painless draw. When Fischer offered the draw initially, Spassky wanted at first to accept, but then realised that, according to match rules, if any game lasts less then one hour, they must proceed at once, the same day, with the following game. Having indicated at first that he would like to accept the draw, Spassky then changed his mind and decided to play on! Most amusing and although making no difference to the eventual outcome, this would hardly be likely to occur in a match involving Kasparov!

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	♘f3	♘f6
4	e3	e6
5	♗xc4	c5
6	0-0	a6
7	dxc5	♕xd1
8	♖xd1	♗xc5
9	b3	b5
10	♗e2	♗b7
11	♗b2	♘bd7
12	♘bd2	0-0

Finally deciding that it is best to castle, but the king soon returns to e7.

13	♖ac1	♖fc8
14	h3	♔f8
15	♔f1	♔e7

Fischer offered a draw here,



but Spassky refused.

16	♘e1	♗d6
17	a4	♗c6
18	axb5	axb5
19	♖c2	♖c7
20	♖dc1	♖ac8
21	♗f3	

Not 21 ♘d3 ♗xg2+! and ...

♖xc2, winning. The simplification now leads to an inevitable draw.

21	**...**	**♗xf3**
22	**♘dxf3**	**e5**
23	**♖xc7**	**♖xc7**
24	**♖xc7**	**♗xc7**
25	**♘c2**	**♘e4**
26	**♘a3**	**b4**
27	**♘c4**	**f6**
28	**♘e1**	**♘dc5**
29	**♘c2**	**♘xb3**
30	**♘xb4**	**♘bd2+**
31	**♘xd2**	**♘xd2+**
32	**♔e2**	**♘c4**
	½–½	

A teflon performance by Fischer.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	**8**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	**6**

Fischer's rating **2754.5**
Spassky's rating **2585.5**

15 Fischer - Spassky
4th October 1992
Catalan

A Sparkling Draw

For the first time in his career, Fischer opted for the Catalan. White emerged with some pressure from the opening against Black's far-flung e-pawn, and the question was: "Would this be a weakness for Spassky, or a thorn in Fischer's flesh?" The answer was not long in coming. Spassky sacrificed a bishop, his pawn thundered forwards, and the black queen tore into Fischer's defences. On move 33, Fischer felt constrained to sacrifice back his extra knight to force perpetual check. One of the most exciting draws of the match so far.

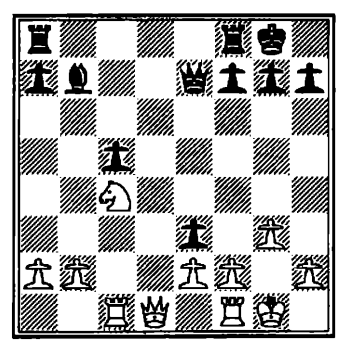
1 c4

When Fischer avoids 1 e4 he either resorts to 1 c4, as here, or 1 b3. He has only done this about ten times in his entire career.

1	...	e6
2	♘f3	♘f6
3	g3	d5
4	♗g2	♗e7
5	0-0	0-0
6	d4	♘bd7
7	♘bd2	b6
8	cxd5	exd5
9	♘e5	♗b7
10	♘df3	♘e4
11	♗f4	♘df6
12	♖c1	c5
13	dxc5	bxc5
14	♘g5	

White has pressure against Black's so-called "hanging pawns" on the c- and d-files, but essentially the position is still in equilibrium.

14	...	♘xg5
15	♗xg5	♘e4
16	♗xe7	♕xe7
17	♗xe4	dxe4
18	♘c4	e3!



Excellent - if 19 ♘xe3 ♕e4

or 19 fxe3 ♕e4, both favouring Black to varying degrees.

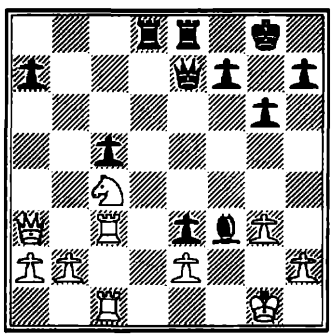
19 f3

So, is Black's e-pawn a source of strength or weakness?

19	**...**	**♖ad8**
20	**♕b3**	**♖fe8**
21	**♖c3**	**♘d5**
22	**♖fc1**	

Avoiding 22 ♖xe3 ♘xc4 23 ♖xe7 ♘xb3 24 ♖xe8+ ♖xe8 25 axb3 ♖xe2 with equality.

22	**...**	**g6**
23	**♕a3**	**♘xf3!!**



A brilliant sacrifice. 23 ... ♘xc4 24 ♖xc4 ♖d2 fails to 25 ♖e4!

After the game, Fischer said that, in view of what now happened, 23 ♕a4! would have been better.

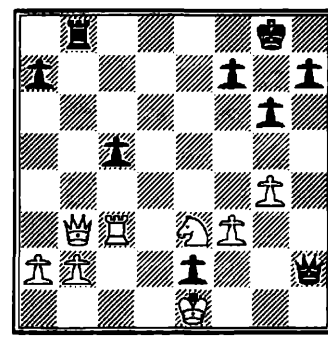
24	**exf3**	**e2**
25	**♖e1**	**♖d1**
26	**♔f2**	**♖xe1**
27	**♔xe1**	**♕d7**
28	**♕b3**	**♕h3**

If 28 ... ♕d4 29 ♘e3 parries all threats.

29	**♘e3**	**♕xh2**
30	**g4**	

30 ♕d5 is the last try to win.

30	**...**	**♖b8**



31 ♕d5

Fischer might have overlooked 31 ♕c2 ♖xb2! 32 ♕xb2 ♕h1+ 33 ♔xe2 ♕h2+ winning White's queen.

31	**...**	**♖xb2**
32	**♕d8+**	**♔g7**
33	**♘f5+**	**½–½**

Forced to avoid losing; 33 ... gxf5 34 ♕g5+ draws. An incredibly exciting finish.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½	**8½**
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½	**6½**

Fischer's rating **2751.7**
Spassky's rating **2588.3**

16 Spassky - Fischer
7th October 1992
Benoni Defence

Fischer Rewrites Opening Theory

Fischer finally hit top form after the switch of venue, during the flying visit of the FIDE President, Florencio Campomanes. "Campo" as he is widely known, checked into the players' hotel, The Intercontinental, ostensibly on "important business", though he was granting no interviews. Is he trying to arrange a Fischer - Kasparov match? If so, the world would certainly welcome it!

As for the game, Fischer introduced a devastating theoretical novelty on move 14, utterly overturning some analysis by the Russian Grandmaster Geller, which had stood unchallenged for 26 years. Spassky emerged from the opening with a wreck of a position, and Fischer happily reduced him to submission with a few sledgehammer blows. Still, if Spassky had studied the footnotes in *BCO 1* (the first edition of the standard openings reference book, *Batsford Chess Openings*, which I wrote with Gary Kasparov) he would have noticed a suspiciously similar reference, starting 14 ♕h5+ ♔d8 and only now 15 h4 g4, which led to a Black advantage in the game Radomsky - Timoschenko, USSR 1976.

Some details have emerged about the players' dietary habits during the games. Fischer drinks milk, Spassky consumes a health food cocktail of strawberry, lemon and orange juice, mixed with honey. Both drink Nescafé during play and revive themselves with cheese and ham.

Spassky took a time-out after this game, claiming exhaustion. Clearly the high percentage of long and hard-fought games was having an effect on him.

1	d4	♘f6	
2	c4	c5	

Fischer revives happy memories of his first ever win against Spassky, the Benoni in game three of the 1972 encounter.

3	d5	d6
4	♘c3	g6
5	e4	♗g7

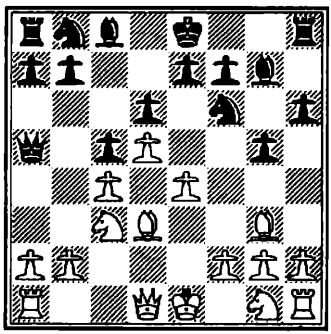
6 ♗g5

This is risky, though considered sound. Safe and solid is 6 ♘f3 followed by ♗e2.

6 ... h6
7 ♗h4 g5

Typically choosing the sharpest reaction.

8 ♗g3 ♕a5
9 ♗d3



Accepting the challenge. The alternative is 9 ♕d2, after which, however, Black can play to achieve ... b5 or try 9 ... ♘h5 to trade White's queen's bishop.

9 ... ♘xe4!

Only apparently a sacrifice, since Black can recoup the piece. Still, it is a dramatic move, and one considered doubtful by theory for over a quarter of a century.

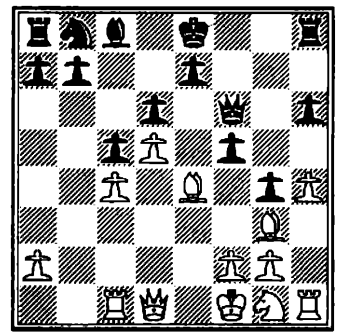
10 ♗xe4 ♗xc3+
11 bxc3 ♕xc3+
12 ♔f1 f5
13 ♖c1

Although 13 ♘e2 ♕f6 14 ♗c2 f4 15 h4 ♖f8! 16 hxg5 hxg5 was better for Black in Stein - Geller, Moscow 1966 (0-1, 23), in his subsequent analysis Geller gave 13 ♖c1 as the probable refutation of Black's play.

13 ... ♕f6

This is where Radomsky played 14 ♕h5+. Spassky instead follows the main recommendation of Geller's old analysis.

14 h4 g4!!



A vital theoretical novelty which rejuvenates Black's prospects. Geller cited only 14 ... fxe4 15 ♕h5+ claiming a White advantage. Fischer's new move overturns this ancient and hallowed verdict.

15 ♗d3 f4

I now see no good move for White. If 16 ♗h2 g3 17 fxg3 fxg3 is discovered check. Or 17 ♕h5+ ♔d8 18 ♗xg3 fxg3 19 ♘f3 ♖g8! with the terrible threat of ... ♗g4.

16 ♘e2 fxg3
17 ♘xg3 ♖f8
18 ♖c2

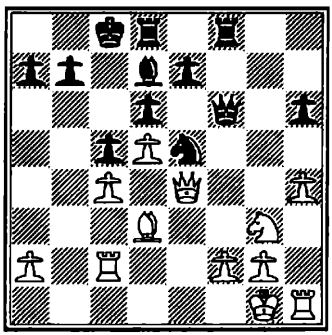
18 ♘e4 may be a slight improvement, but it is not convincing.

18 ... ♘d7!

Giving back the pawn for swift mobilisation and the

chance of cementing the knight on the dominating e5-square.

19	**♕xg4**	**♘e5**
20	**♕e4**	**♗d7**
21	**♔g1**	**0-0-0**



Although in the given circumstance this is a very logical move, it is highly unusual for Black to castle queenside in a Benoni formation.

22	**♗f1**	**♖g8**
23	**f4**	

This is real desperation.

23	**...**	**♘xc4**

A desperado, to repossess the extra pawn.

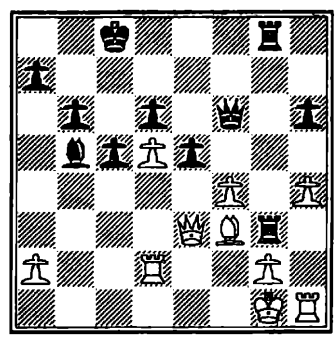
24	**♘h5**	**♕f7**
25	**♕xc4**	**♕xh5**
26	**♖b2**	**♖g3**

26 ... ♕d1 also looks inviting. White is hopelessly uncoordinated, and a pawn down, so the end cannot long be postponed.

27	**♗e2**	**♕f7**
28	**♗f3**	**♖dg8**
29	**♕b3**	**b6**
30	**♕e3**	**♕f6**
31	**♖e2**	**♗b5**
32	**♖d2**	

32 ♕xe7 ♕xe7 33 ♖xe7 ♖xf3 wins a piece for Black.

32	**...**	**e5!**



An inspired way to terminate the game.

33	**dxe6**	**♗c6**
34	**♔f1**	**♗xf3**
	0-1	

If now 35 gxf3 ♕a1+ 36 ♕e1 ♖g1+ 37 ♖xg1 ♖xg1+ 38 ♔xg1 ♕xe1+ and Black wins the house.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	**9½**	Fischer's rating	**2754.5**
Spassky	0	**6½**	Spassky's rating	**2585.5**

17 Fischer - Spassky 8th October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer Wins Classic Endgame

Fischer surged forwards in game 17, winning after 58 moves and six and a half hours play. Spassky resigned when a bishop down in an endgame, his king utterly cornered, with no hope of escape. Fischer now needed just three more wins to clinch the match.

Fischer chose a seemingly quiet line against Spassky's now habitual Sicilian Defence, but the American maintained persistent pressure with his pair of powerful bishops on an open board. On the 24th move Spassky missed a chance to complicate matters and thereafter Fischer treated the 2000 strong audience to a filigree display of endgame artistry, in the grand tradition of those endgame virtuosi, Akiba Rubinstein and José Capablanca. Even on move 50, when Spassky had sacrificed his last knight to stave off defeat, experts in Belgrade were still claiming Spassky could draw, but with a dramatic concluding king march, Fischer delivered the coup de grâce.

Before game 17 Fischer met Serbian State President Milosevic at an official chess function. Fischer's most memorable utterance on this occasion was that chess and politics should not get mixed up. There is food for thought here, both for those who believe the match should not have gone ahead in the Serbian capital, under the prevailing war conditions, and those who hold the opposing view.

1 e4 c5
2 ♘c3

One noticeable feature of this match is that Fischer has consistently avoided the main lines of the Open Sicilian which arise after 2 ♘f3 and 3 d4.

2 ... ♘c6

It is ironic that the Closed Sicilian, as used here by Fischer, is also one of Spassky's favourites, as in the game, Spassky - Kasparov, Bugojno 1982, which went 2 ... e6 3 g3 d5 4 exd5 exd5 5 ♗g2 ♘f6 6 ♘ge2 d4 7 ♘e4 ♘xe4 8 ♗xe4 ♘d7 9 0-0

♘f6 10 ♗g2 ♗d6 11 c3 d3 with manifold complications.

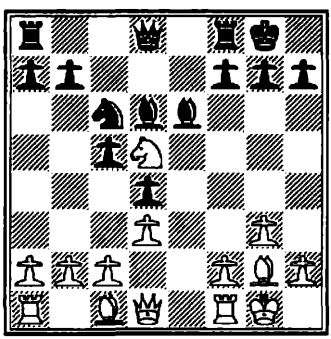
3	**♘ge2**	**e6**
4	**g3**	**d5**
5	**exd5**	**exd5**
6	**♗g2**	**d4**

Fischer, it transpires, is also no stranger to this variation. Fischer - Bertok, Zagreb 1970, had continued 6 ... ♘f6 7 d4 cxd4 8 ♘xd4 ♗g4 9 ♕d3 with pressure against Black's isolated queen's pawn.

7	**♘d5**	**♘f6**
8	**♘ef4**	

Setting the tone for the whole game, namely, the accentuation of White's influence on the central light squares, especially along the h1-a8 diagonal.

8	**...**	**♘xd5**
9	**♘xd5**	**♗d6**
10	**0-0**	**0-0**
11	**d3**	**♗e6**



12 ♘f4

Apparently an innovation, with 12 ♕h5 having previously been played. If Black now seeks to liquidate the central tension and head for a draw by exchanges with 12 ... ♗xf4 13 ♗xf4 ♗d5, then White can continue with 14 ♕h5 ♗xg2 15 ♔xg2 b6 16 ♖fe1 ♕d7 17 ♖e4 ♖fe8 18 ♖ae1 ♖xe4 19 ♖xe4 ♖e8 20 ♕g4! exploiting the vulnerability of Black's back rank in order to gain a dominating post for the white queen. After 20 ♕g4! the further threat of ♗h6 becomes annoying. Note, however, a trap to avoid, namely 20 ♕d5, which looks powerful, but loses the white queen after 20 ... ♕xd5, when White's rook on e4 is pinned and ♖xe8 mate becomes illegal.

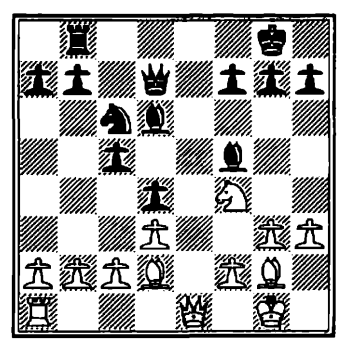
12	**...**	**♗f5**
13	**h3**	

Preparing, in due course, to expand by means of g4.

13	**...**	**♖b8**

Sources in Belgrade criticised this move, suggesting instead, 13 ... ♕c7. Another possible move is 13 ... ♕d7, but if Spassky's 13th move is an error, it is a very subtle one.

14	**♗d2**	**♖e8**
15	**♖e1**	**♖xe1+**
16	**♕xe1**	**♕d7**



Spassky's play is logical in that he now prepares to control the e-file with gain of tempo.

17 g4 ♖e8
18 ♕d1 ♗xf4

Surrendering the bishop pair, but if Black retreats with either 18 ... ♗g6 or 18 ... ♗e6, White could trade-off the more valuable of Black's bishops, the queen's bishop, the guardian of his light squares.

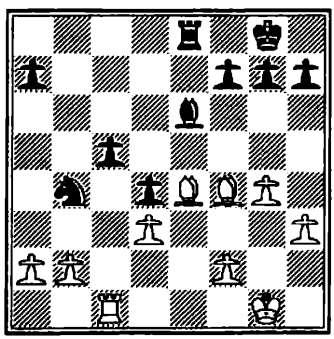
19 ♗xf4 ♗e6
20 ♕f3

Thematically heightening his pressure along the h1-a8 diagonal. In reply, Spassky implements a counter-attack against White's queenside pawns.

20 ... ♘b4

20 ... f6 followed by ... ♗f7 may be the sturdiest defence in place of this move.

21 ♕xb7 ♘xc2
22 ♖c1 ♕xb7
23 ♗xb7 ♘b4
24 ♗e4

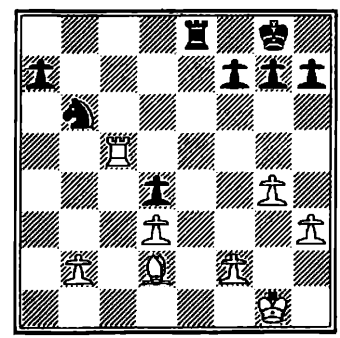


This is the moment of crisis. Spassky's next move is plausible, but he had overlooked or underestimated the force of White's 25th. The most combative line is 24 ... c4 25 dxc4 ♗xg4 (if 25 ... ♘xa2 26 ♖d1 ♗xc4 27 ♖xd4, with two raking bishops on an open board). Now White cannot play 26 ♗xh7+ ♔xh7 27 hxg4 on account of 27 ... ♘d3 winning for Black. Furthermore, 26 ♖e1 ♗f5! 27 ♗d2 ♖xe4 28 ♖xe4 ♗xe4 29 ♗xb4 leads only to a draw. Therefore, if White wants to play for a win, he must try an immensely subtle pawn sacrifice, and I am sure that this is what Fischer had in mind. It goes like this: 26 ♗b1! ♗xh3 27 a3 ♘c6 28 b4 f6 29 b5 ♘e5 30 ♗xe5 fxe5 31 ♗e4. In this position White's golden horde of queenside pawns are very hard to stop.

24 ... ♗xa2

Maybe Spassky expected the immediate 25 ♖xc5 now, but then 25 ... ♗b1! would have solved all of Black's problems.

25 ♗d2 ♗d5
26 ♗xd5 ♘xd5
27 ♖xc5 ♘b6



A most instructive endgame has arisen. Fischer holds the advantage, since his rook and bishop are respectively more active than Black's rook and knight. Additionally, the black d4-pawn is weak. Nevertheless, it is a pleasure over the next few moves to observe the efficiency with which Fischer capitalises on his pluses. Spassky also defends like a demon, and if anyone needs a reminder as to how difficult it can be to cash in on a won endgame, I need only refer them to game six, one that got away.

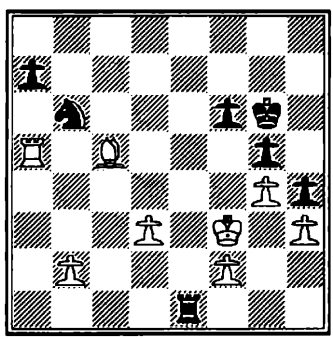
28	**♔f1**	**f6**
29	**♖a5**	**♖e7**
30	**♗b4**	**♖d7**
31	**♗c5**	**♔f7**

First the black pieces are driven into passive positions.

32	**♔e2**	**g5**
33	**♔f3**	**♔g6**

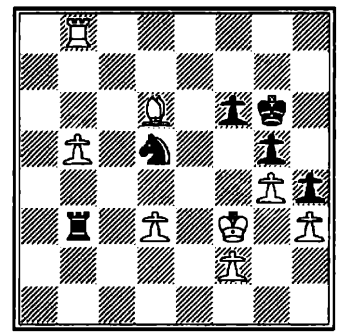
Now the white king approaches to annex the d4-pawn.

34	**♔e4**	**h5**
35	**♗xd4**	**♖e7+**
36	**♔f3**	**h4**
37	**♗c5**	**♖e1**



Spassky finds his best chance - to fix White's h3-pawn as a future target and activate the rook.

38	**♖xa7**	**♘d5**
39	**♗f8**	**♖e8**
40	**♗d6**	**♖e6**
41	**♖d7**	**♘b6**
42	**♖d8**	**♘d5**
43	**b4**	**♖e1**
44	**b5**	**♖b1**
45	**♖b8**	**♖b3**

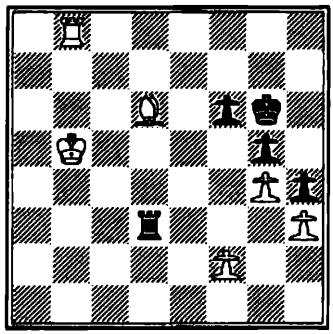


In order to keep his booty Fischer has been obliged to station his own rook somewhat clumsily in front of the passed b-pawn. This grants Spassky the opportunity to sacrifice his knight and come close to a draw.

46	**♔e4**	**♘c3+**
47	**♔d4**	**♘xb5+**
48	**♔c4**	**♖c3+**
49	**♔xb5**	**♖xd3**

Spassky only has to eliminate or exchange the immobile and seemingly defenceless trio of white pawns on h3, f2 and g4 and it will be a draw. His exertions have been heroic, but now an inspired king march by

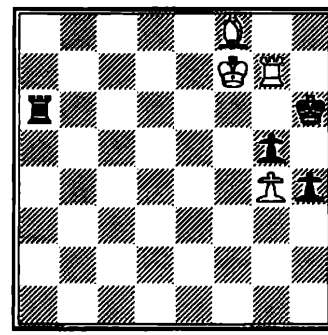
Fischer terminates his resistance.



50	**♔c6**	**♖xh3**
51	**♔d5**	**♖f3**
52	**♔e6**	**♖xf2**
53	**♖g8+**	**♔h7**
54	**♔f7**	**♖a2**

Desperation, but if 54 ... f5 55 ♖g7+ ♔h6 (55 ... ♔h8 56 ♘e5 fxg4+ 57 ♔g6 wins) 56 ♖g6+ ♔h7 57 ♖f6!! threatening both ♘f8 and gxf5.

55	**♖g7+**	**♔h6**
56	**♘f8**	**♖a7+**
57	**♔xf6**	**♖a6+**
58	**♔f7**	**1-0**



A titanic struggle and one of Fischer's classic endgames. If now 58 ... ♖a4 then 59 ♖g6+ ♔h7 60 ♖h6 is checkmate. Otherwise, Black is just a piece down.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	**10½**	Fischer's rating	**2757.3**
Spassky	0	0	**6½**	Spassky's rating	**2582.7**

18 Spassky - Fischer 11th October 1992 Queen's Gambit Accepted

Opposite Bishops Ensure Draw

The 18th game was a steady affair compared with the excitement of the previous two encounters. Fischer resorted once again to the solid Queen's Gambit Accepted, and although Spassky gained what appeared to be significant pressure, this turned out to be largely symbolic and evaporated around the 30th move. In the final position the presence of level pawns and bishops operating on different coloured squares ensured the draw.

1	d4	d5
2	c4	dxc4
3	♘f3	a6
4	e3	♘f6
5	♗xc4	e6
6	0-0	c5
7	dxc5	♕xd1
8	♖xd1	♗xc5
9	♘bd2	0-0

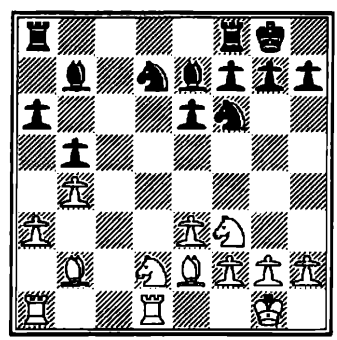
All this has occurred before in the match. Now Spassky tries a new idea.

10	a3	b5
11	♗e2	♗b7
12	b4	♗e7
13	♗b2	♘bd7

(see following diagram)

White is two moves ahead in a symmetrical position, but the situation is so static that he cannot expect any kind of serious advantage.

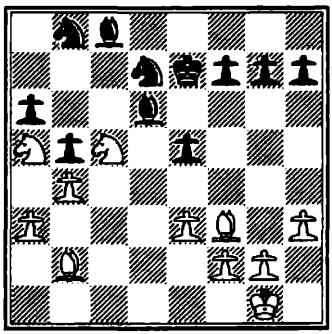
14	♖ac1	♖fc8



15	♘b3	♖xc1
16	♖xc1	♖c8
17	♖xc8+	♗xc8
18	♘fd4	♘b8
19	♗f3	♔f8
20	♘a5	♗d6
21	♘db3	e5
22	♘c5	♔e7
23	h3	♘fd7

"All dressed up but nowhere to go" just about sums up Spassky's position. A draw is

inevitable. Fischer has drawn the teeth of this line and one hopes it does not resurface in the match.



24	**♘d3**	**f6**
25	**♗e4**	**g6**
26	**f4**	**exf4**
27	**exf4**	**♘b6**
28	**♘b7**	**♗c7**
29	**♘bc5**	**♘c4**
30	**♗c1**	**♘d7**
31	**♔f1**	**♘xc5**
32	**♘xc5**	**♗b6**
33	**♗d3**	**♗xc5**
34	**bxc5**	**♗e6**
35	**♔f2**	**♔d7**
36	**♗xc4**	**♗xc4**
	½–½	

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	**11**	Fischer's rating	**2755**
Spassky	0	0	½	**7**	Spassky's rating	**2585**

19 Fischer - Spassky 14th October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer Lets Victory Slip From His Grasp

In game 19 Fischer let slip a golden chance. The game lasted for eight hours and 50 minutes and finished in a draw after 84 moves, the longest game of the match. However, Fischer, in this marathon battle, missed numerous chances to win.

On the 45th move, with an overwhelming position, Fischer rashly advanced his main asset, an extra pawn, on the extreme queen's flank. Spassky snapped it up and thereafter, although Fischer should have had a technical win with two extra pawns in a queen and pawn endgame, he could not drive home his advantage.

Fischer's final error, and the one which definitely threw away the win, was his 68th move. Instead of taking Spassky's last pawn, he pushed on a pawn of his own and after that his king was unable to escape a series of checks. This was a most disappointing performance by Fischer and a sign that he has still not thrown off the rust of two decades of hibernation away from competitive chess.

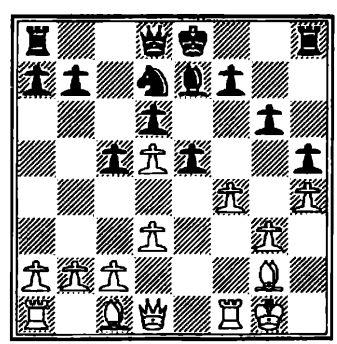
1	e4	c5
2	♘c3	♘c6
3	♘ge2	e5

This weakens d5, but sets up a solid central blockade.

4	♘d5	♘ge7
5	♘ec3	♘xd5
6	♘xd5	♗e7
7	g3	

More harmonious seems 7 ♗c4.

7	...	d6
8	♗g2	h5
9	h4	♗e6
10	d3	♗xd5
11	exd5	♘b8
12	f4	♘d7
13	0–0	g6



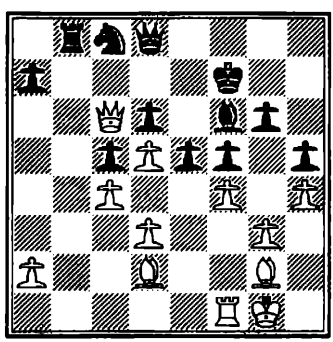
14 ♖b1

An interesting alternative is 14 f5, e.g. 14 ... g5 15 f6!? ♘xf6 16 ♕f3 gxh4 17 ♗g5! winning. This is by no means forced, but is an example of White's strong possibilities on the f-file. Fischer prefers to hold the kingside and open lines elsewhere.

14	**...**	**f5**
15	**b4**	**b6**
16	**bxc5**	**bxc5**
17	**c4**	

This seems very committal and rigid. I would play 17 c3 with a distant option of d4.

17	**...**	**0–0**
18	**♕a4**	**♘f6**
19	**♖b7**	**♘b6**
20	**♕b5**	**♖f7**
21	**♖xf7**	**♔xf7**
22	**♘d2**	**♖b8**
23	**♕c6**	**♘c8?**

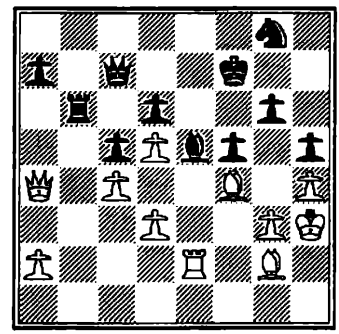


After 23 ... ♖c8! I perceive no advantage for Fischer.

24	**♖e1**	**♘e7**
25	**♕a4**	**♕c7**
26	**♔h2**	**exf4**

Unwisely opening the drawbridge of his central fortress.

27	**♘xf4**	**♘e5**
28	**♖e2**	**♖b6**
29	**♔h3**	**♘g8?**



Spassky overlooks a tactic. This compounds all of his previous errors.

30 ♖xe5!

Strong, but fairly obvious. Less efficacious is 30 ♘xe5 dxe5 31 ♖xe5 ♘f6 with counterplay.

30	**...**	**dxe5**
31	**♘xe5**	**♕e7**

If 31 ... ♕xe5 32 ♕xa7+ wins.

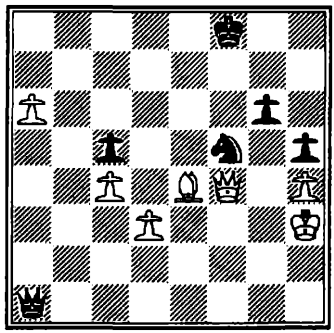
32	**d6**	**♖xd6**
33	**♘xd6**	**♕xd6**
34	**♘d5+**	**♔f8**
35	**♕xa7**	

White should now win easily.

35	**...**	**♘e7**
36	**♕a8+**	**♔g7**
37	**♕b7**	**♔f8**
38	**a4**	**f4**
39	**a5**	**fxg3**
40	**a6**	**♕f4**
41	**♘f3**	**♘f5**
42	**♕e4**	**g2**

A desperate last throw.

43	**♕xf4**	**g1♕**
44	**♘e4**	**♕a1**



45 a7??

Incredible! 45 ♘xf5 wins simply. After 45 ... ♕h1+ 46 ♔g3 ♕g1+ 47 ♔f3 the white king speedily escapes the checks.

45	**...**	**♕xa7**
46	**♘xf5**	**gxf5**
47	**♕xf5+**	**♔g8**
48	**♕g5+**	**♔f8**
49	**♕h6+**	**♔g8**
50	**♕xh5**	**♕c7**

The position is still a win for White, but he must avoid stalemate tricks.

51	**♕g6+**	**♔h8**
52	**♕f6+**	**♔g8**
53	**♕e6+**	**♔h8**
54	**♕d5**	**♕f7**

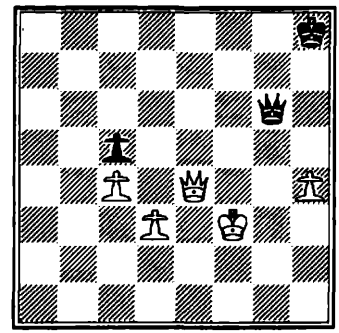
Setting the first stalemate trap: 55 ♕xf7 stalemate. If now 55 ♕xc5 ♕f3+.

55	**♔g2**	**♕g6+**
56	**♔h3**	**♕f7**
57	**♕e5+**	**♔h7**
58	**♔g4**	**♕g6+**
59	**♔f4**	**♕h6+**

Not 59 ... ♕xd3 60 ♕e4+.

60	**♔f3**	**♕g6**
61	**♕e4**	**♔h8**

Setting another stalemate trap. Fischer seems mesmerised by these and loses his self-possession.



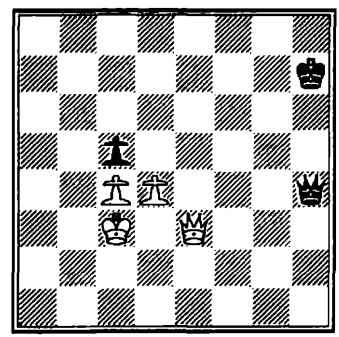
62	**♔e2**	**♕d6**
63	**♕e3**	

There was no need to blunder the h4-pawn!

63	**...**	**♕h2+**
64	**♔d1**	**♕h1+**
65	**♔d2**	**♕h2+**
66	**♔c3**	**♕xh4**
67	**d4**	

67 ♕xc5 ♕e1+ 68 ♔d4 ♕f2+ 69 ♔d5 ♕f5+ 70 ♔c6 should win in the long run.

67	**...**	**♔h7**



68 d5

The final lunacy in this disappointing game; 68 dxc5 should win.

68 ... ♕f6+

69	**♔c2**	**♕d6**		**77**	**♔b3**	**♕b8+**
70	**♕g5**	**♔h8**		**78**	**♕b5**	**♕c7**
71	**♔d2**	**♕b6**		**79**	**♔a3**	**♕a7+**
72	**♕e5+**	**♔g8**		**80**	**♔b3**	**♔e7**
73	**♕e8+**	**♔g7**		**81**	**♔c2**	**♔d8**
74	**♕b5**	**♕c7**		**82**	**♔d2**	**♕c7**
75	**♔c2**	**♔f8**		**83**	**♕a6**	**♕f4+**
76	**♕a6**	**♕h2+**		**84**	**♔c2**	**♕e4+**
					½–½	

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	**11½**	Fischer's rating	**2752.8**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	**7½**	Spassky's rating	**2587.2**

20 Spassky - Fischer 15th October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Spassky Plays His Best Game of the Match

Following Fischer's lacklustre performance in game 19, Spassky struck back to score an outstanding win in game 20. After 43 moves, and with his position in ruins, Fischer resigned.

Fischer, who had enjoyed a commanding lead, must have been increasingly frustrated as he saw Spassky, who in theory should have been exhausted by the previous night's marathon struggle, playing superb chess and refusing to give in.

The 20th game saw a new departure as Spassky tried 1 e4, which he has hitherto not used in this contest. The respective armies eyed each other from a great distance. But then on the twenty-second move Spassky inaugurated a manoeuvre that led to the winning of a pawn by forced stages.

Fischer reacted powerfully in the centre but on the 28th turn the American Grandmaster played a clumsy move that brought a rook into danger. Five moves later Spassky pounced, attacking both of Fischer's rooks with his knight. Fischer could not unshackle himself from the pressure. He was eventually tied in knots and served up for a horrific slaughter. In the final position Fischer was way behind on the material and more was bound to go. This was Spassky's best game of the match so far.

1 e4

At last Spassky decides to sidestep the Queen's Gambit Accepted, which has recently become such an efficient equalising weapon in Fischer's hands.

1	**...**	**c5**
2	**♘e2**	**♘f6**
3	**♘bc3**	**e6**
4	**g3**	

Taking a leaf out of Fischer's own book and adopting the Closed Sicilian, as used by Fischer in games 17 and 19. Of course, in the past Spassky made excellent use of this variation in his world qualifying matches in 1968 against Geller, Larsen and Korchnoi.

4 ... ♘c6

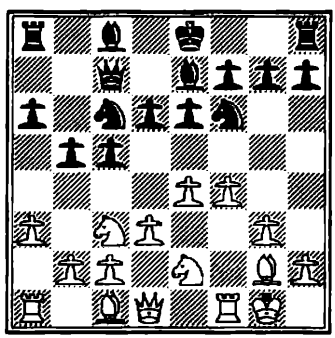
5 ♗g2 ♗e7
6 0–0 d6
7 d3

White could still transpose into normal Open Sicilian channels by means of 7 d4 cxd4 8 ♘xd4.

7 ... a6
8 a3

A most subtle concept. Spassky anticipates in the future that Black will advance on the queenside by means of ... b5 and ... b4. In that eventuality Spassky plans to open the a-file for his own use. Just how important that is will become clear in a few moves.

8 ... ♕c7
9 f4 b5



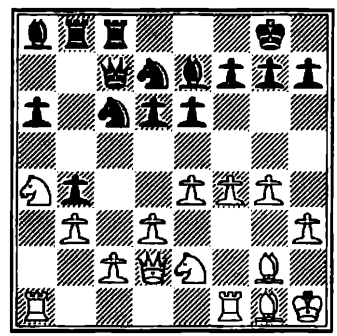
10 ♔h1

White could play 10 e5 dxe5 11 fxe5 since Black clearly cannot recapture on that square. But 11 ... ♘d7 would simply leave White with a weak pawn, stranded in the centre.

10 ... 0–0
11 ♗e3 ♗b7
12 ♗g1 ♖ab8
13 h3 ♗a8
14 g4 b4

Fischer is clearly concerned that Spassky is going to roll him up on the king's flank by means of ♘g3 and g5. Therefore, he inaugurates a counteraction on the opposite side of the board. The problem is that White is given a free hand on the a-file, though the significance of this is not, as yet, fully apparent.

15 axb4 cxb4
16 ♘a4 ♘d7
17 ♕d2 ♖fc8
18 b3



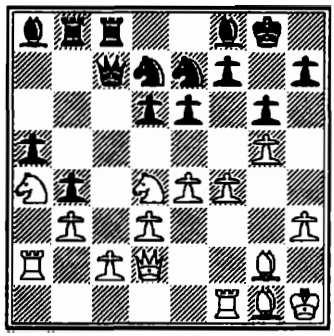
A useful defensive precaution. White's backward pawn on c2 looks like a terrible weakness but it can be defended laterally by means of ♖a2.

18 ... a5
19 g5 ♗f8
20 ♖a2 ♘e7
21 ♘d4 g6

(see following diagram)

22 ♘b2

At last Spassky's plan takes shape. Black's a-pawn is virtually defenceless against the plan of ♘c4 followed if nec-

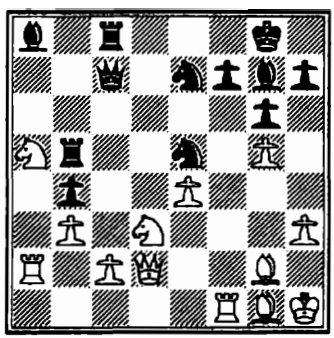


essary by ♖fa1. If now 22 ... e5, in order to attack White's knight and thus crash through on c2, White has 23 fxe5 dxe5 24 ♕f2! exd4 25 ♕xf7+ ♔h8 26 ♗xd4+ ♘e5 27 ♘c4 ♗g7 28 ♕xg7+ ♔xg7 29 ♗xe5+ winning easily. A beautiful variation.

22 ... ♗g7
23 ♘c4 d5

The time honoured reaction to a wing attack. Fischer counters massively in the centre.

24 ♘xa5 dxe4
25 dxe4 e5
26 ♘e2 exf4
27 ♘xf4 ♘e5
28 ♘d3 ♖b5?

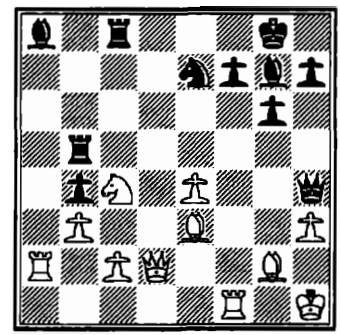


This awkward move simply gets Fischer's rooks into trouble. Unfortunately, Black has no really satisfactory continuation in view of such threats as ♗h2. The conclusion must be that Fischer's whole strategy, based on the sacrifice of his a-pawn, was faulty.

29 ♘xe5 ♕xe5

Whichever method Black chooses to recapture has disadvantages, for example 29 ... ♖xe5 30 ♘c4 ♖xe4 31 ♖xa8 and White wins.

30 ♘c4 ♕xg5
31 ♗e3 ♕h4



32 ♘d6

Almost by sleight of hand Spassky has forked Fischer's rooks. If now 32 ... ♖d8 33 ♖xa8 ♖xa8 34 ♘xb5 winning easily. Fischer must, therefore, acquiesce in a completely hopeless endgame.

32 ... ♗c3
33 ♕f2 ♕xf2
34 ♖xf2 ♖bb8
35 ♘xc8 ♖xc8
36 ♖a7

After this Black could resign.

36 ... ♔f8
37 ♗h6+ ♔e8

38	**♘g5**	**f6**		**41**	**♔g1**	**♘d7**
39	**♘xf6**	**♘xf6**		**42**	**♖d6**	**♘c6**
40	**♖xf6**	**♘c6**		**43**	**♘f1**	**1–0**

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	**11½**	Fischer's rating	**2745.6**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	**8½**	Spassky's rating	**2594.4**

21 Fischer - Spassky 17th October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer Crunches Hedgehog

In game 21 Fischer, for the very first time in the match, chose the Open Variation against the Sicilian Defence, one of the main highways of modern chess opening theory. The middlegame developed along established lines, with Spassky adopting a solid defensive system known as the "Hedgehog". Possibly emboldened by his win in game 20, Spassky lashed out with a vigourous counter-action on moves 23 and 26, culminating in the invasion of the central zone with his knight on move 27. Spassky followed up with the sacrifice of two pawns to seize the initiative but on move 43 Spassky went astray by re-establishing the material equilibrium, instead of pursuing his attack. This incorrect decision presented Fischer with a slightly advantageous endgame, with a dangerous pawn on the extreme queen's flank which could press on and promote.

This time, in sharp distinction to his bungled endgame of game 19, Fischer conducted the technical phase with superlative accuracy and by the 63rd move it was clear that Spassky has been driven into a hopeless situation, where his own rook was paralysed. On move 67 Spassky recognised the hopelessness of his position and capitulated.

Fischer's win in game 21 suggested that he had overcome his recent crisis of form and was now firm favourite to decide ultimate match victory in his favour within just a few more games.

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘f3**	**♘c6**
3	**d4**	

At last an Open Sicilian. Play soon switches into the Taimanov Variation, so named after a famous Soviet grandmaster, coincidentally one of Fischer's victims to succumb by 6-0 in the 1970 Candidates series.

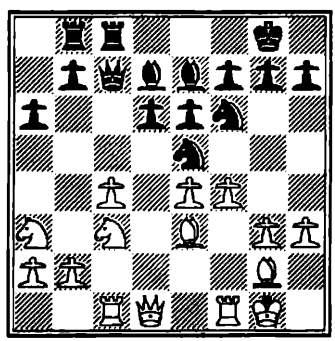
3	**...**	**cxd4**
4	**♘xd4**	**e6**
5	**♘b5**	**d6**
6	**c4**	**♘f6**

Fischer's earlier experience with this variation includes a game against the eponymous Taimanov from Palma de Mallorca 1970. That continued 6 ... a6 7 ♘5c3 ♘f6 8 ♗e2 ♗e7 9 0-0 0-0 10 ♘a3 b6 11 ♗e3 ♗d7 12 ♖c1 ♕b8 with a difficult maneouvring game for both sides.

7 ♘5c3 ♗e7
8 g3

This is unusual but it does not alter the basic well-established contours of the Hedgehog system. White enjoys greater control of space, while Black sits there in a blast-proof concrete bunker and hopes that White can never break through.

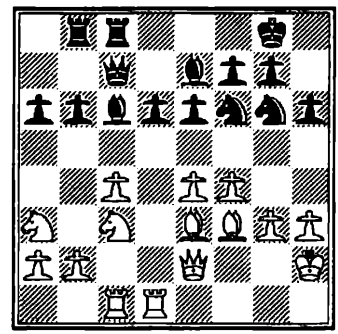
8 ... 0-0
9 ♗g2 a6
10 0-0 ♖b8
11 ♘a3 ♕c7
12 ♗e3 ♗d7
13 ♖c1 ♘e5
14 h3 ♖fc8
15 f4



15 ... ♘g6

Black avoids 15 ... ♘xc4 16 ♘xc4 ♕xc4 17 ♘d5 ♘xd5 18 ♖xc4 ♘xe3 19 ♖xc8+ ♖xc8 20 ♕b3 when his material compensation for the queen is insufficient.

16 ♕d2 ♗e8
17 ♖fd1 b6
18 ♕f2 h6
19 ♔h2 ♕a7
20 ♕e2 ♕c7
21 ♗f3 ♗c6



The critical moves now for White are 22 ♘cb5 and 22 ♘d5. In neither case can Black capture the intrusive knight with a pawn in view of the resulting pin on the c-file. Therefore, let us examine 22 ♘cb5 ♕d7 23 ♘xd6 ♗xd6 24 e5 ♗xf3 25 ♕xf3 and now 25 ... ♖c6 when Black can equalise. Alternatively, 22 ♘d5 ♕d8 23 ♘xe7+ ♕xe7 when White has the bishop pair but Black has counterplay against the e4-pawn and also has ... b5 coming. More testing for Black may be 22 ♘d5 ♕d8 23 ♘xf6+ ♗xf6 (23 ... gxf6 looks horrible) 24 e5 ♗xf3 25 ♕xf3 ♗e7 and now it seems that White has no way to exploit his pressure on the d-file before Black frees

himself with ... ♕c7. The conclusion must be that although both knight sorties are enticing, neither one of them offered concrete gains to Fischer and he was probably right to reject them.

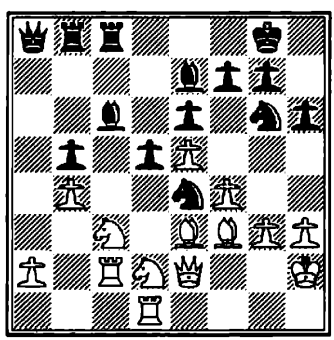
22 ♘ab1

Fischer decides instead to regroup his forces in retrograde fashion. *Reculer pour mieux sauter* is the stock phrase in such situations. Still, this move is dangerously slow and a waiting move such as 22 ♗f2 might have been more prudent.

22	**...**	**♕b7**
23	**♘d2**	**b5**

Spassky begins to assume the initiative.

24	**cxb5**	**axb5**
25	**b4**	**♕a8**
26	**♖c2**	**d5**
27	**e5**	**♘e4?**



This amounts to a pawn sacrifice and it is too optimistic. After the simple 27 ... ♘d7! White's position is left full of holes. His pawn on b4 is under attack, Black possesses pressure along the a-file, and there may even be future sacrifices based on ... ♘gxe5.

28	**♗xe4**	**dxe4**
29	**♗c5!**	

An important consolidating move after which White's main problems are over. Black's bishops are neutralised, a passed pawn comes into being on c5 and the fragile black pawn on e4 is targetted for annexation.

29	**...**	**♗xc5**
30	**bxc5**	**♖d8**
31	**♖e1**	**♘e7**
32	**♘cxe4**	**♘f5**
33	**♘b3**	**♘d4**
34	**♘xd4**	**♖xd4**
35	**♘d6**	**♕a4**

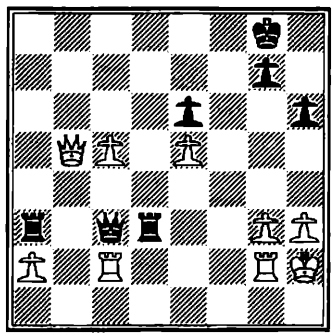
Although things have taken an unpleasant turn for Spassky he still enjoys huge counterplay. Here, for example, the immediate 35 ... ♕a3 deserves very serious consideration.

36	**f5**	**♖a8**
37	**♖b2**	**♕a3**

And here 37 ... ♖b4 38 ♖xb4 ♕xb4 with the startling threat of ... ♖xa2 could well be a superior alternative. Spassky's choice sacrifices a second pawn so that he can flood Fischer's interior with black major pieces. Spassky should still have enough compensation to salvage a draw.

38	**fxe6**	**fxe6**
39	**♘xb5**	**♗xb5**
40	**♕xb5**	**♖d3**
41	**♖g2**	**♕c3**
42	**♖ee2**	**♖a3**

43 ♖c2



43 ... ♕xe5?

Spassky is in too much of a hurry to restore the material equilibrium. More troublesome for White is 43 ... ♕e1 with the threat of ... ♖d1.

44	**♖ce2**	**♖e3**
45	**♖xe3**	**♖xe3**
46	**a4**	**♖c3**

Much of the Black pressure has been extinguished and Fischer is now free to try his chances for a technical win based on an advance of one of his two outside passed pawns.

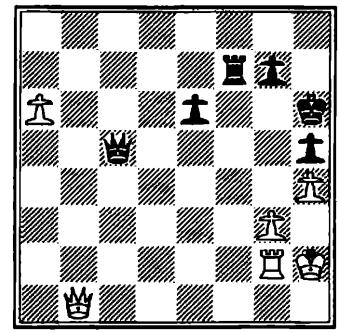
47	**c6**	**♕d6**
48	**c7**	

This disorganises Black's forces and gains an important tempo to advance the a-pawn.

48	**...**	**♖xc7**
49	**♕b8+**	**♔h7**
50	**a5**	**h5**
51	**h4**	**♕c5**
52	**a6**	**♖f7**

This looks like a waste of time. The immediate 52 ... e5 would prove more useful for Black.

53	**♕b1+**	**♔h6**



54 ♕a2!

A fine move supporting his a-pawn and pressing annoyingly against Black's weakness on e6. It is interesting, indeed, ironic, that Fischer should have thrown away the win by blundering his passed a-pawn in game 19. Here he enjoys a similar, yet much smaller advantage, but presses home his superiority with adroit technique.

54	**...**	**♖e7**
55	**♕d2+**	**♔g6**
56	**♖e2**	**♔h7**
57	**♕c2+**	

Choosing the moment to trade queens when Black's king has moved further away from the centre.

57	**...**	**♕xc2**
58	**♖xc2**	**♔g6**
59	**♖a2**	**♖a7**
60	**♖a5**	

Slicing at Black's position along the fifth rank.

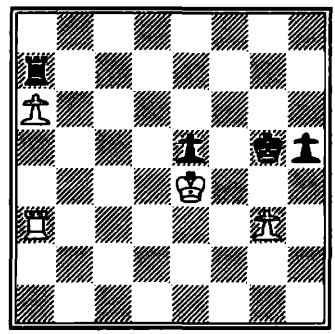
60	**...**	**e5**
61	**♔g2**	**♔f6**
62	**♔f2**	**♔e6**
63	**♔e3**	**♔f5**

64 ♔f3 g6
65 ♖a3

The important thing now is to keep the g3-pawn defended before the white king makes its dash to support the pawn on a6.

65 ... g5
66 hxg5 ♔xg5
67 ♔e4 1-0

The main line which justifies capitulation is 67 ... ♔f6 68 ♖a5 ♔g5 69 ♔xe5! ♔g4 70 ♖a3 when Black is helpless against the transferral of White's king to b6.



Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	**12½**	Fischer's rating	**2748.6**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	**8½**	Spassky's rating	**2591.4**

22 Spassky - Fischer 18th October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer Consolidates His Lead

After the excitement of wins for both sides in games 20 and 21 Bobby Fischer consolidated his lead in the 22nd game.

Fischer, defending with the black pieces in what has now become the customary Sicilian Defence, thwarted all of Spassky's efforts to achieve an advantage and liquidated to an utterly drawn position after 26 moves, where all the pieces were restricted to one side of the board.

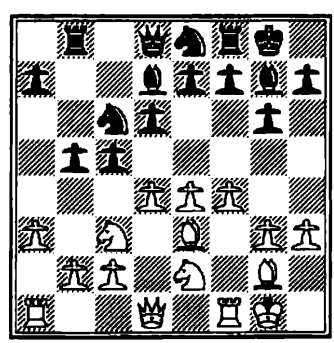
Spassky repeated the opening of game 20 which had resulted in such a brilliant and overwhelming victory for him. However, Fischer considerably refined his defensive options and when Spassky broke in the centre on move 12 Fischer was ready with a planned counter-attack on the queen's flank. Although after 18 moves Fischer's position appeared somewhat restricted, a knight move at that stage eliminated White's advantage and a neat queen tactic on the 21st finally set the seal on a levelling out process which brought a draw five moves later.

1	e4	c5
2	♘e2	♘f6
3	♘bc3	d6
4	g3	♘c6
5	♗g2	g6
6	0-0	♗g7
7	d3	0-0
8	h3	♖b8

This is Black's most pointed ploy to seek counterplay against the Closed Sicilian.

9	f4	♗d7
10	♗e3	b5
11	a3	♘e8

12 d4



Switching from standard Closed Sicilian strategy of a

slow advance against Black's king to a central operation.

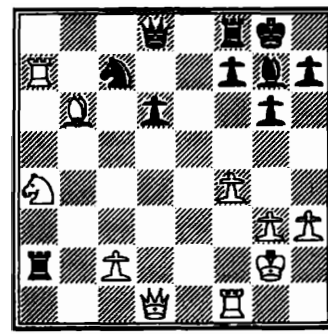
12	**...**	**cxd4**
13	**♘xd4**	**b4**
14	**♘xc6**	**♗xc6**
15	**axb4**	**♖xb4**
16	**♖xa7**	**♖xb2**
17	**e5**	**♗xg2**
18	**♔xg2**	**♘c7**
19	**exd6**	**exd6**
20	**♘a4**	**♖a2**
21	**♗b6**	

(see following diagram)

21	**...**	**♕e8**

This next tactic solves all of Black's problems.

22	**♖xc7**	**♕xa4**



23	**♕xd6**	**♖xc2+**
24	**♖xc2**	**♕xc2+**
25	**♗f2**	**♕e4+**
26	**♔g1**	**½–½**

The board has been cleared and the draw is evident.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	**13**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	**9**

Fischer's rating	**2746.5**
Spassky's rating	**2593.5**

23 Fischer - Spassky 21st October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer's Victory Postponed

The 23rd game continued the series of Sicilian Defences, and initially developed in Fischer's favour. By the 21st move he had established his pieces in the heart of Spassky's position and this pressure resulted on the 36th move in the win of a pawn. Nevertheless, Spassky fought like a lion and when Fischer erroneously decided to return the pawn Spassky must have believed, with justification, that he had fought his great opponent to a standstill and earned a well-contested draw.

It was at this point that Fischer revealed what a determined mental warrior he really is. Rather than acquiescing in the draw, which would have been the logical outcome of the game, Fischer inaugurated a risky, some might say foolhardy, march with his king, penetrating the furthest reaches of the black position. The point of this manoeuvre was to mop up Spassky's pawns, but Spassky got there first and the game resolved itself into an ending where Spassky, in his turn, was pressing for a win. Doubtless suffering from the effects of exhaustion after this eight-hour marathon, with no pause for adjournment, Spassky committed a mistake on his 64th move which allowed Fischer to remove his last pawn, and with its disappearance went Spassky's final chances of winning.

After this game an exhausted Spassky took a third time-out.

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘c3**	**e6**
3	**♘ge2**	**♘c6**
4	**g3**	**d5**
5	**exd5**	**exd5**

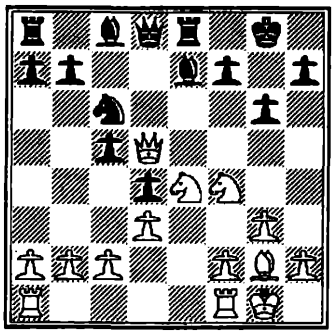
It is extraordinary that the Closed Sicilian has become such a major topic of debate, for both sides, in this match.

6	**d3**	**♘f6**
7	**♗g2**	**♗e7**
8	**♗g5**	

Designed to further White's grip on the central light squares.

8	**...**	**d4**

9	♘xf6	♗xf6
10	♘e4	♗e7
11	♘f4	0–0
12	0–0	♖e8
13	♕h5	g6
14	♕d5	



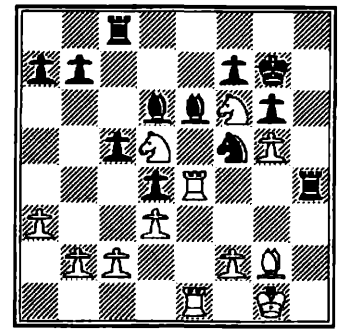
White's queen is dominantly positioned, but there are very few real targets in the black camp.

14	...	♗f5
15	♖fe1	♔g7
16	a3	♖c8
17	h3	♕xd5
18	♘xd5	♗f8
19	g4	♗e6
20	♘ef6	♖ed8
21	g5	♗d6
22	♖e4	♘e7
23	♖h4	

An amusing excursion, but one which achieves few tangible gains.

23	...	♖h8
24	♖e1	♘f5
25	♖he4	h6
26	h4	hxg5
27	hxg5	♖h4

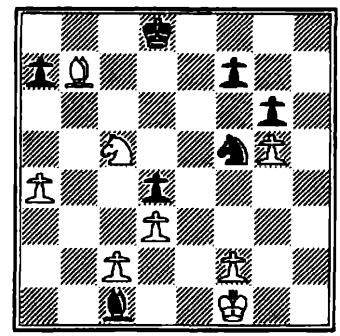
Spassky commences a sensible policy of exchanges, which reduces White's grip.



28	♖xh4	♘xh4
29	♖e4	♘f5
30	♘f4	♗a2
31	♘4d5	♗xd5
32	♘xd5	♔f8
33	♔f1	♖e8
34	♖xe8+	♔xe8
35	♘f6+	♔d8
36	♗xb7	♗f4

White at last wins a pawn, but the opposite bishops make a draw most likely.

37	♘e4	♗c1
38	a4	♗xb2
39	♘xc5	♗c1



40 ♗e4

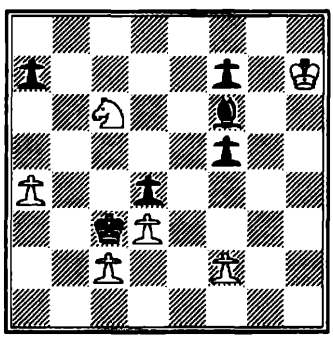
This move, giving back the pawn, is a curious decision, but Fischer doubtless believed he could not make progress after

the more miserly 40 ♘e4.

40	...	♗xg5
41	♗xf5	gxf5
42	♘b3	♗f6
43	♔g2	♔d7
44	♔g3	♔e6
45	♘a5	♗e5+
46	♔h4	

Fischer's fighting spirit is admirable, but this winning try is just too optimistic.

46	...	♗f6+
47	♔h5	♔d5
48	♔h6	♔c5
49	♔h7	♔b4
50	♘c6+	♔c3!

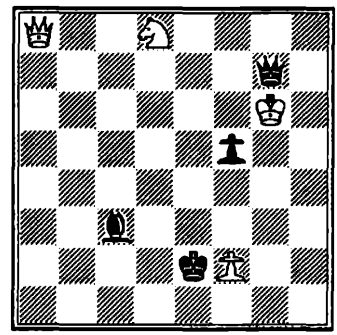


Whoops! Fischer had probably only expected 50 ... ♔xa4. Spassky's choice wins time and means that he will queen first.

51	♔g8	♔xc2
52	♔xf7	♗h8
53	a5	♔xd3
54	a6	♔e2
55	♘xa7	d3
56	♘c6	d2
57	a7	d1♕
58	a8♕	♕d5+
59	♔g6	♕e6+
60	♔h7	♗c3
61	♘d8	

Now it is Fischer who is fighting for the draw.

61	...	♕e7+
62	♔g6	♕f6+
63	♔h5	♕h8+
64	♔g6	♕g7+?



A horrible miscalculation, probably caused by exhaustion, whereby Black loses the f-pawn, and his winning chances are eradicated. Spassky may have overlooked, after so many hours of play, that after 65 ♔xf5 ♕f6+ 66 ♔g4 would be possible - once the f5-pawn has gone, g4 is no longer defended. This is a common type of psychological error known as "retained image".

65	♔xf5	♕f6+
66	♔g4	♕g6+
67	♔f4	♗d2+
68	♔e5	♗c3+
69	♔f4	♕d6+
70	♔f5	♕d7+
71	♔g5	♕e7+
72	♔f5	♕f6+
73	♔g4	♕g7+
74	♔f5	♕f6+
75	♔g4	♕g6+
76	♔f4	♗d2+

77	♔e5	♕g5+	79	♔f7	♕d7+
78	♔e6	♕g4+	80	♔g6	½–½

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	**13½**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	**9½**

Fischer's rating	**2744.5**
Spassky's rating	**2595.5**

24 Spassky - Fischer 24th October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer Still Thwarted

All of Fischer's efforts to complicate the 24th game came to naught against a Spassky who seemed determined to exchange as many pieces as possible and eliminate all the tension in the position. There is speculation amongst grandmasters that Spassky's tactics now are to stonewall, preventing Fischer from scoring the last two wins he needs to capture the jackpot for as long as possible, and thus causing a frustrated Fischer to over-extend and perhaps, in his turn, suffer defeats.

The 24th game continued the series of Sicilian Defences which have become so popular in this match. After move 15 Spassky enjoyed an advantage in space but over the next six moves he ruthlessly traded off a whole series of pieces and by move 32 an endgame had been reached which offered no serious perspectives to either player.

Spassky took another time-out after this game, the last available to him under the match rules.

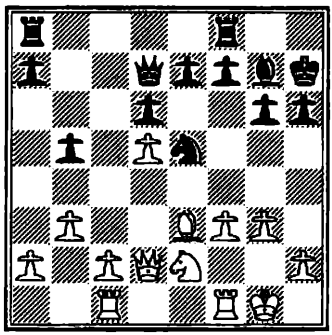
1	e4	c5
2	♘e2	♘f6
3	♘bc3	d6
4	g3	g6
5	♗g2	♘c6
6	0-0	♗g7
7	d4	

Spassky opts, for the first time in the match, to play the white side of an Open Sicilian. However, the variation of the Dragon that arises is considered harmless for Black and this game does not challenge that traditional assessment.

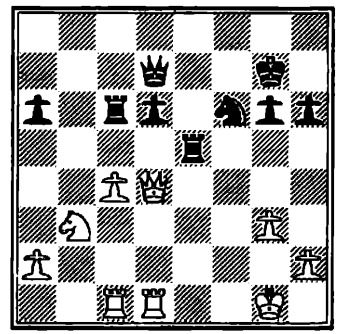
7	...	cxd4
8	♘xd4	♗g4
9	♘de2	♕c8
10	f3	♗h3
11	♗xh3	♕xh3
12	♗g5	0-0
13	♕d2	h6
14	♗e3	♔h7
15	♖ac1	♕d7
16	♘d5	♘xd5
17	exd5	♘e5
18	b3	b5

Black has a slight initiative,

but it does not lead anywhere.



19	♗d4	♖ac8
20	f4	♘g4
21	♗xg7	♔xg7
22	♘d4	♘f6
23	c4	bxc4
24	bxc4	e6
25	dxe6	fxe6
26	♖fe1	♖fe8
27	♘b3	a6
28	♕d4	♖c6
29	♖ed1	e5
30	fxe5	♖xe5



31 ♕xe5

Bringing about a mass clearance of pieces which results in a dead drawn endgame.

31	...	dxe5
32	♖xd7+	♘xd7
33	♖d1	♘f6
34	c5	♔f7
35	♖c1	♘d7
36	♔f2	♔e6
37	♔e3	♔d5
38	♖d1+	♔e6
39	♖c1	♔d5

½–½

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	**14**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	**10**

Fischer's rating	**2742.5**
Spassky's rating	**2597.5**

25 Fischer - Spassky 28th October 1992 Sicilian Defence

Fischer on Verge of Victory

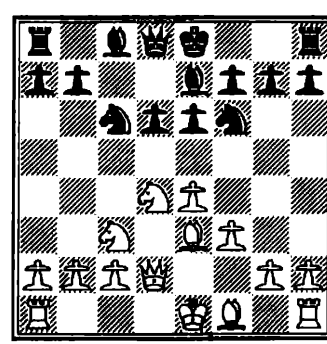
After a series of delays in the match caused by Spassky's postponing three of the most recent games, Fischer came to the board for game 25 clearly thirsting for blood. He selected one of the sharpest variations with the white pieces against Spassky's by now habitual Sicilian Defence. On the ninth move the players castled on opposite sides of the board, thus indicating that there would be a violent race for each side to try to crash through and destroy the enemy king.

Fischer's 15th move, hurling a knight onto a heavily defended enemy square, was a huge surprise, but it turned out to be a stroke of genius. Thereafter, Fischer's attack gained momentum with every move and by the 29th turn it was quite clear that his massive concentration of force directly in front of Spassky's king would be imminently decisive. Spassky resigned on the 35th move, leaving Fischer one win away from becoming the first non-Russian chess Grandmaster ever to aspire to multi-millionnaire status.

1	**e4**	**c5**
2	**♘c3**	**♘c6**
3	**♘ge2**	**d6**
4	**d4!**	

Thankfully, Fischer decides to contest an Open Sicilian again, by far the most aggressive line against Black's defence.

4	**...**	**cxd4**
5	**♘xd4**	**e6**
6	**♗e3**	**♘f6**
7	**♕d2**	**♗e7**
8	**f3**	



This procedure, whereby White firms up his central bastions and prepares to castle

queenside and then storm Black's kingside fortress with an infantry attack, is most commonly seen in the Najdorf Variation, into which Spassky now transposes. One might also draw parallels with White's play in games eight and 12 in the Sämisch Variation against the King's Indian.

8 ... a6
9 0-0-0 0-0
10 g4

All according to the previously outlined plan.

10 ... ♘xd4

I think that this move is insufficiently flexible. Black gains superior counter-chances by means of Kasparov's choice, 10 ... ♘d7, as in Short - Kasparov, Belfort 1988. That game continued 11 h4 ♘de5 12 ♘xc6 bxc6 13 ♗e2 ♖b8 14 g5 d5 when Black enjoyed counterplay in the centre and along the b-file.

11 ♗xd4 b5
12 g5 ♘d7
13 h4 b4

In view of Fischer's powerful reply, which allows White to advantageously block the queenside, this seems dubious. So, perhaps 13 ... ♖b8 maintaining flexibility is preferable, e.g. 14 ♔b1 ♘c5 15 ♕g2 b4 16 ♘e2 ♕c7 and Black went on to win in Hennigan - Howell, British Ch. 1991.

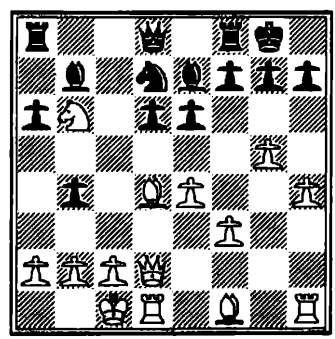
14 ♘a4!

Highly unusual. White's prospects appear to lie on the king's flank, therefore 14 ♘e2 has proved more popular in grandmaster games.

14 ... ♗b7

A new move, but not a good one. Previous theory continued instead 14 ... ♕a5 15 b3 ♘c5 16 ♗xc5 dxc5 17 ♕f4 with advantage to White, as in the game Inkiov - Vera, Varna 1986. Evidently dissatisfied with this course, Spassky offers an interesting and enterprising pawn sacrifice, the point of which lies in such variations as 15 ♕xb4 ♗c6 16 ♘c3 d5 17 ♕b3 ♖b8 when White's queen is trapped. White can do better than this, but the principle behind Black's pawn offer is clear. Instead of falling for this trap, Fischer comes up with a stunning refutation, reminiscent of the brilliant tactical strokes of his greatest days.

15 ♘b6!!



A wonderful move and one very easy to overlook. Many grandmasters did a double-take when they first saw this dramatic coup. If now 15 ... ♘xb6 16

♕xb4 d5 17 ♕xb6 ♕xb6 18 ♘xb6 dxe4 19 ♖d7 and White wins. The whole point of 15 ♘b6!! is the vulnerability of Black's undefended column of pieces on the b-file which White can pick off at his leisure.

15	**...**	**♖b8**
16	**♘xd7**	**♕xd7**
17	**♔b1**	

Fischer said after the game that the idea behind his brilliant knight manoeuvre was to eliminate Black's own defensive knight, which could have been an important guardian of his king's flank. Now that it has disappeared, White's attack runs on oiled wheels. Of course, White does not fall for 17 ♕xb4? which is refuted by 17 ... ♘xe4.

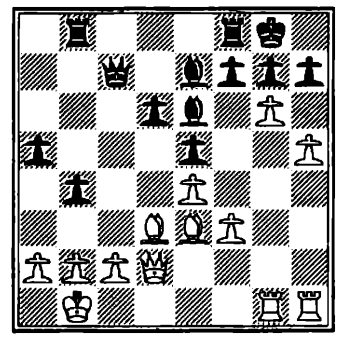
17	**...**	**♕c7**
18	**♘d3**	**♘c8**

Spassky has been so shell-shocked by 15 ♘b6!! that he has been rendered witless and cannot gather his thoughts. In the face of Fischer's massive attack, this regrouping is much too time-consuming. Black must strike back quickly with either ... e5 or ... d5.

19	**h5**	**e5**
20	**♘e3**	**♘e6**
21	**♖dg1**	**a5**
22	**g6**	

White's attack plays itself. He masses his pieces behind the infantry and they charge over the top towards the black king.

Black could now try the spectacular counter-invasion 22 ... ♕c3 hoping for 23 bxc3 bxc3+ when Black is okay. However, 22 ... ♕c3 would be brutally refuted by 23 gxh7+ ♔xh7 24 ♕g2 threatening both checkmate and Black's queen.



22	**...**	**♘f6**
23	**gxh7+**	**♔h8**

Trying to hide behind White's pawn on h7. If 23 ... ♔xh7 24 f4 is an unpleasant way to open more lines.

24	**♘g5**	

Knocking out a key defender, after which the g7-pawn will ineluctably fall.

24	**...**	**♕e7**
25	**♖g3**	**♘xg5**
26	**♖xg5**	**♕f6**
27	**♖hg1**	**♕xf3**

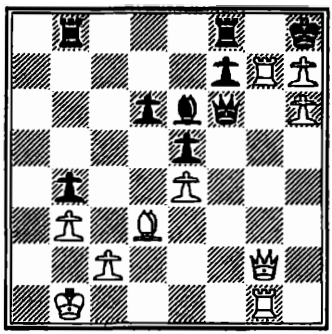
He may as well snatch the pawn since the coming ♕g2 will, in any case, render g7 defenceless.

28	**♖xg7**	**♕f6**
29	**h6**	**a4**
30	**b3**	

A useful safety precaution against desperate throws based

on ... ♘xa2+ and ... b3+.

30 ... axb3
31 axb3 ♖fd8
32 ♔g2 ♖f8



Black can only sit and wait for his execution. White's task is to sacrifice his two h-pawns and thus remove the hostile shield which is providing inadvertent cover to the black king. If instead 32 ... ♕xh6 33 ♖g8+ ♔xh7 34 ♖g7+ ♔h8 35 ♖g3 when Black can resign.

33 ♖g8+ ♔xh7
34 ♖g7+ ♔h8
35 h7 1-0

After 35 ... ♕h6 White wins as before with 36 ♖g8+ ♔xh7 37 ♖g3 when Black is helpless.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	**15**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	**10**

Fischer's rating **2745.6**
Spassky's rating **2594.4**

26 Spassky - Fischer
29th October 1992
King's Indian Defence

Fischer's Laurels Postponed

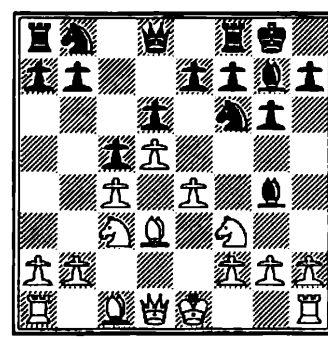
The organisers brought the victor's laurel wreath to today's game, but had to take it away again. Instead of winning and clinching the match, Fischer chose an uncharacteristically passive defence and was ground down in 58 moves to suffer his fifth defeat.

Fischer stormed out of the playing hall without analysing the game. Theoretically, according to the rules in force in Belgrade, Spassky still has a chance of reaching nine wins, before Fischer scores his tenth, thus tying the match and splitting the prize.

1	d4	♘f6
2	c4	c5
3	d5	d6
4	♘c3	g6
5	e4	♗g7
6	♗d3	0-0
7	♘f3	

Considerably more reliable than the 6 ♗g5 line which he tried in game 16. One continuation now is 7 ... e6 8 h3 exd5 9 exd5 ♖e8+ 10 ♗e3 ♗h6 11 0-0 ♗xe3 12 fxe3 ♖xe3 13 ♕d2 when White has attacking chances for his sacrificed pawn. Another possibility for Black in this line is 9 ... ♘a6 10 0-0 ♘c7 11 a4 ♘h5 12 ♖e1 f5 13 ♗g5 ♗f6 14 ♕d2 with a nagging advantage for White, as in my game against Tarjan from Wijk aan Zee 1974.

7 ... ♗g4?



Black's best move is probably 7 ... e5. The text has never enjoyed a good reputation, since it tends to cede White the bishop pair for no tangible compensation. I was fascinated that Fischer should have chosen the bishop sortie, since I assumed that Fischer would have some new treatment in mind

that would vindicate Black's play. Sadly, though, this turned out not to be the case and Fischer is soon saddled with a sterile position.

8	h3	♗xf3
9	♕xf3	♘bd7
10	♕d1	e6
11	0-0	exd5
12	exd5!	♘e8
13	♗d2	♘e5
14	♗e2	f5
15	f4	

White aggressively advances his king's flank infantry, with the ultimate objective of throwing an iron hoop around Black's entire king's wing.

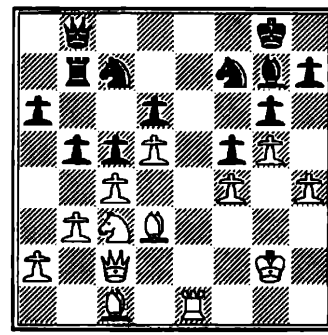
15	...	♘f7
16	g4	♘h6
17	♔g2	♘c7
18	g5	

White's advance continues according to plan. It is interesting to observe how the avalanche of White's pawns restricts and ultimately immobilises the black knights.

18	...	♘f7
19	♖b1	♖e8
20	♗d3	♖b8
21	h4	a6
22	♕c2	b5

At last, some activity from Black though, due to the immense solidity of White's fortifications on the queenside, this gesture is of a largely symbolic nature.

23	b3	♖b7
24	♖be1	♖xe1
25	♖xe1	♕b8
26	♗c1	



A fine move which defends the b2-square from invasion should Black ever play ... bxc4.

26	...	♕d8
27	♘e2	

White's knight, as will soon be apparent, belongs on g3. Once that switch of post has been achieved, there will be a perpetual threat of an unpleasant sacrifice on f5.

27	...	bxc4
28	bxc4	♘e8
29	h5	♖e7

Fischer's conduct of this game is inexcusably passive. He could have generated a few threats by means of 29 ... ♕a5.

30	h6	♗h8

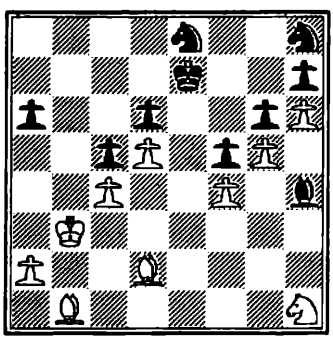
Black is now under lock and key and the position is lost.

31	♗d2	♖b7
32	♖b1	♕b8
33	♘g3	♖xb1

The mass exchange of major pieces fails to solve Black's difficulties. There still remains the problem, a perpetual one, of a winning sacrifice by means of ♘xf5. Furthermore, Black is

so congested that it is virtually impossible for him to save his a6-pawn against a concerted attack by White's forces.

34	**♕xb1**	**♕xb1**
35	**♗xb1**	**♗b2**
36	**♔f3**	**♔f8**
37	**♔e2**	**♘h8**
38	**♔d1**	**♔e7**
39	**♔c2**	**♗d4**
40	**♔b3**	**♗f2**
41	**♘h1**	**♗h4?**



He should play 41 ... ♗d4 since White could now play his king back to h3 when Black's bishop would silently expire. Spassky's method also wins.

42	**♔a4**	**♘c7**
43	**♔a5**	**♔d7**
44	**♔b6**	**♔c8**

It is surprising that Fischer has not already resigned.

45	**♗c2**	**♘f7**
46	**♗a4**	**♔b8**
47	**♗d7**	**♘d8**
48	**♗c3**	**♘a8+**

It no longer matters what Black does.

49	**♔xa6**	**♘c7+**
50	**♔b6**	**♘a8+**
51	**♔a5**	**♔b7**
52	**♔b5**	**♘c7+**
53	**♔a4**	**♘a8**
54	**♔b3**	**♔c7**
55	**♗e8**	**♔c8**
56	**♗f6**	**♘c7**
57	**♗xg6**	

This terminates the game.

57	**...**	**hxg6**
58	**♗xd8**	**1-0**

After 58 ... ♔xd8 59 h7 White triumphs. An excellent text book demonstration by Spassky, but a correspondingly disappointing performance by Fischer. It should have been apparent to him that his choice of seventh move would lead to a barren middlegame, devoid of opportunities for any kind of brilliant stroke. One cannot imagine Fischer going like a lamb to the slaughter in this meek fashion twenty years ago.

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	0	**15**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	1	**11**

Fischer's rating	**2738.6**
Spassky's rating	**2601.4**

27 Fischer - Spassky
31st October 1992
Ruy Lopez

Fischer Thwarted Again

Bobby Fischer's efforts to clinch the match were thwarted yet again when Spassky, playing Black, easily held a draw in game 27. Fischer resorted once again to the same variation of the Ruy Lopez opening which he had used to such effect in game nine of this contest. However, an unusual idea by Fischer on the eighth move turned out to be ineffective, and Spassky rapidly cleared the board of most of the pieces. In the resulting endgame duel between Fischer's pair of knights and Spassky's pair of bishops neither side could make any progress and the draw was agreed on move 46.

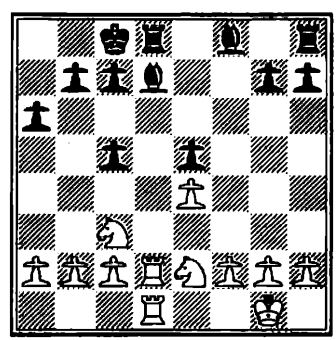
1	e4	e5
2	♘f3	♘c6
3	♗b5	a6
4	♗xc6	dxc6
5	0-0	f6
6	d4	exd4
7	♘xd4	c5
8	♘e2	

A harmless deviation from the standard 8 ♘b3, as seen in game 9.

8	...	♕xd1
9	♖xd1	♗d7
10	♘bc3	♘e7
11	♗f4	0-0-0
12	♖d2	♘g6
13	♗g3	♘e5
14	♗xe5	fxe5
15	♖ad1	

(see following diagram)

15	...	c4

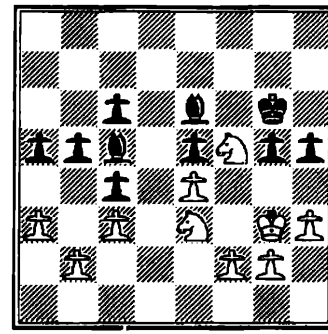


Black could play 15 ... ♗e7 hoping for 16 ♘d5 ♗g5 17 ♖d3 ♗b5 when Black wins. However, 15 ... ♗e7 16 ♖d5 ♗c6 17 ♖xe5 ♖xd1+ 18 ♘xd1 ♗f6 19 ♖xc5 ♗xe4, although giving Black good compensation for a pawn, would still leave him struggling slightly for a draw. Spassky's move is more ambitious.

16	♔f1	♗c5
17	♘g1	♗g4
18	♖xd8+	♖xd8
19	♖xd8+	♔xd8
20	♘ce2	♔e7
21	♔e1	b5
22	c3	♔f6
23	h3	♗h5
24	♘g3	♗f7
25	♘f3	g6

More aggressive would be 25 ... b4, hoping for 26 cxb4 ♗xb4+ 27 ♔d1 c3 when Black has all the chances. Nevertheless, 25 ... b4 26 ♘d2 b3 27 a3 would leave Black's pawn on c4 prone to attack in the future. Spassky's course is safer.

26	♘f1	g5
27	♔e2	♗g6
28	♘3d2	h5
29	♘e3	c6
30	♔f3	♗f7
31	♘df1	a5
32	♔e2	♗e6
33	♘g3	♔g6
34	a3	♗f7
35	♘gf5	♗e6
36	♔f3	♗d7
37	♔g3	♗e6



38 h4

It has been somewhat unclear who, if anyone, has been playing for the win. This move disturbs the balance briefly, but the position is so level that there can be no question of any alteration in the verdict that the game must end as a draw.

38	...	♗d7
39	hxg5	♔xg5
40	♘h4	♗g4
41	♘xg4	hxg4
42	♘f5	a4
43	f3	gxf3
44	♔xf3	♗f8
45	♘e3	♔h5
46	♘f5	♗c5
	½–½	

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	0	½	**15½**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	1	½	**11½**

Fischer's rating	**2736.8**
Spassky's rating	**2603.2**

28 Spassky - Fischer 1st November 1992 King's Indian Defence

Fischer Stalls

In game 28, despite choosing the complicated King's Indian Defence, normally an opening rich in possibilities for both sides, Fischer could not avoid a further draw, this time coming on the 35th move, thus further frustrating him in his attempt to gain the tenth and decisive win.

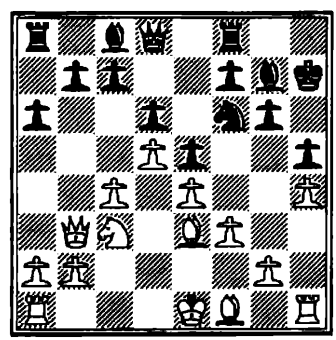
Game 28 followed game 12, one of Fischer's worst disasters in this match, until the tenth move. At this point, Fischer, playing Black, introduced an improvement on his play from that earlier game. This device succeeded to the extent that Fischer readily equalised his chances but at no point did the American enjoy even a shred of advantage.

1	d4	♘f6
2	c4	g6
3	♘c3	♗g7
4	e4	d6
5	f3	0-0
6	♗e3	♘c6
7	♘ge2	a6
8	h4	h5
9	♘c1	e5
10	d5	♘d4

A vast improvement on the 10 ... ♘e7 of game 12.

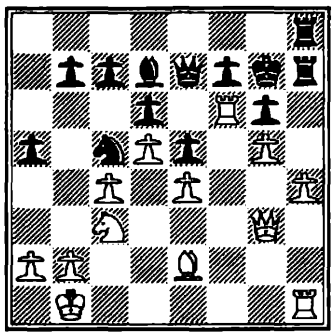
11	♘b3	♘xb3
12	♕xb3	♔h7

A fascinating idea which theorists have never really considered. The point is to facilitate the exchange of Black's dark-squared bishop, which would otherwise be hemmed in by Black's central pawn constellation.



13	♗e2	♗h6
14	♗xh6	♔xh6
15	0-0-0	♔g7
16	♔b1	♕e7
17	♖dg1	♖h8

18	g4	hxg4
19	fxg4	♘d7
20	g5	♘c5
21	♕d1	a5
22	♖f1	♘d7
23	♕e1	♖h7
24	♕g3	♖f8
25	♖f6	♖fh8



White enjoys an optical advantage but Black's position is blast-proof and a speedy draw was generally being predicted

26	b3	♘e8
27	♘g4	♘d7
28	♘d1	♘e8
29	♘g4	♘d7
30	♘d1	♘e8
31	♖f2	c6
32	a4	

Cutting out any ideas of ... b5 that Fischer may have been entertaining.

32	...	♕d8
33	♔a2	♕e7
34	♘g4	♘d7
35	♘d1	♘e8
	½–½	

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	0	½	½	**16**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	**12**

Fischer's rating	**2735.0**
Spassky's rating	**2605.0**

29 Fischer - Spassky
4th November 1992
Ruy Lopez

Elusive Win Evades Fischer

Game 29 saw Bobby Fischer once again fail to score the elusive tenth win which would secure him overall match victory. Indeed, game 29 was almost a disaster for Fischer in that, playing with the normally advantageous white pieces, he handled the opening passively, forfeited the initiative, and came close to losing himself.

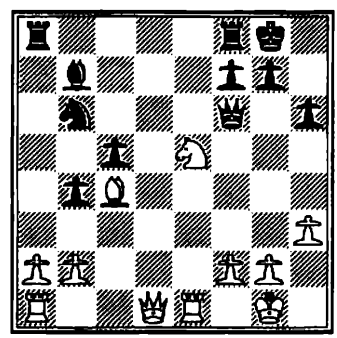
1	e4	e5
2	♘f3	♘c6
3	♗b5	a6
4	♗a4	♘f6
5	0-0	♗e7
6	♖e1	b5
7	♗b3	d6
8	c3	0-0
9	h3	♘b8
10	d4	♘bd7
11	c4	

Fischer tries a different approach against Spassky's favourite Breyer Defence.

11	...	c6
12	cxb5	axb5
13	♘c3	♗b7
14	♗g5	b4
15	♘b1	h6
16	♗h4	c5
17	dxe5	♘xe4

This appears to be a new move, and a good one.

18	♗xe7	♕xe7
19	exd6	♕f6
20	♘bd2	♘xd6
21	♘c4	♘xc4
22	♗xc4	♘b6
23	♘e5	



23	...	♖ae8

Black could play 23 ... ♘xc4 24 ♘xc4 ♖ad8 with an obvious pull. The way Spassky plays is more ambitious.

24	♗xf7+	

This is not what White wants to do, but his pieces are in a tangle and he has to give up two pieces for a rook to

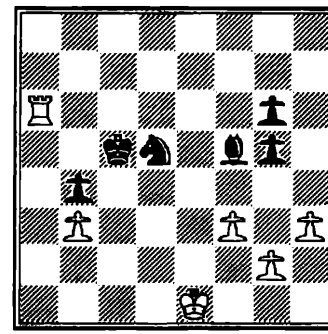
stay in the game.

24	**...**	**♖xf7**
25	**♘xf7**	**♖xe1+**
26	**♕xe1**	**♔xf7**
27	**♕e3**	**♕g5**
28	**♕xg5**	**hxg5**
29	**b3**	**♔e6**
30	**a3**	**♔d6**
31	**axb4**	**cxb4**
32	**♖a5**	**♘d5**
33	**f3**	**♗c8**
34	**♔f2**	**♗f5**
35	**♖a7**	**g6**
36	**♖a6+**	**♔c5**
37	**♔e1**	

(see following diagram)

37	**...**	**♘f4**

Here Spassky could have played 37 ... ♗c2 to win White's b-pawn, but after 38 ♔d2 ♗xb3 39 ♖xg6 White will follow up with ♖xg5 and then ♖xd5, reaching a drawn position. The



white king controls Black's pawn and if the black king attempts to come over, the white pawns will run through.

38	**g3**	**♘xh3**
39	**♔d2**	**♔b5**
40	**♖d6**	**♔c5**
41	**♖a6**	**♘f2**
42	**g4**	**♗d3**
43	**♖e6**	**♔d5**
44	**♖b6**	**♔c5**
	½–½	

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½	
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½	

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	**16½**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	**12½**

Fischer's rating **2733.3**
Spassky's rating **2606.7**

30 Spassky - Fischer 5th November 1992 King's Indian Defence

Triumphant Fischer Crushes Spassky

Bobby Fischer scored a crushing victory in game 30 to break the gridlock which had stymied his recent efforts to win the match. He rose from the table to acknowledge thunderous applause and accepted a giant victor's laurel, wiping away tears of joy before embracing Spassky.

Raising his hands for silence, he said: "I thank the wonderful Yugoslav people. You have been a great audience. I will see you all in Belgrade again soon." His remarks will fuel speculation that the Yugoslav multi-millionaire banker Jezdimit Vasiljevic, who funded Fischer's comeback against Spassky, has already lined up another opponent. Candidates could include Nigel Short from Britain, the Hungarian girl prodigy Judit Polgar or the Yugoslav Grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojevic.

For game 30, Spassky launched a fierce attack, sacrificing a knight boldly on move 18 to strip bare Fischer's king. Fischer, however, has always revelled in defensive situations where he can seize material and then counter-attack. Here, he rose magnificently to the occasion, refuted Spassky's attack and emerged a whole rook to the good. When Spassky resigned, his position was beyond repair and his attacking prospects had utterly vanished.

1	d4	♘f6
2	c4	g6
3	♘c3	♗g7
4	e4	d6
5	f3	0-0
6	♗e3	♘c6
7	♘ge2	a6
8	h4	h5
9	♘c1	♘d7

This is much more in keeping with the hypermodern theory of the Sämisch variation than the 9 ... e5 Fischer had tried in previous games.

10	♘b3	a5
11	a4	♘b4
12	♗e2	b6

This is vibrant, dynamic play by Black. Fischer is looking for a real struggle in this game and

is not content to sit back and play for a draw.

13 g4

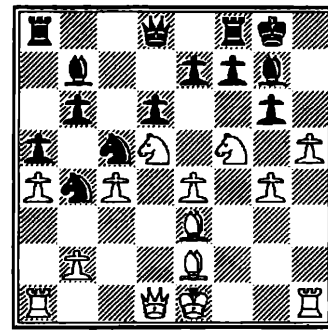
Requiring four more victories to square the match, Spassky gets a rush of blood to the head. This is clearly an over-optimistic attacking thrust which serves only to loosen White's position.

13	**...**	**hxg4**
14	**fxg4**	**c5**
15	**h5**	

Now the centre is opened. Maybe 15 d5 was better, but after 15 ... ♘e5 Black stands well.

15	**...**	**cxd4**
16	**♘xd4**	**♘c5**
17	**♘d5**	**♗b7**
18	**♘f5**	

This is not so much a brilliant, but misguided sacrifice as a desperate last-ditch throw. Spassky realises his position is crumbling and acts out of despair.



18	**...**	**gxf5**
19	**gxf5**	**♗xd5**
20	**exd5**	**♗xb2**

Fischer revels in situations where he can accept material and beat off his opponent's attack. Here he achieves this with consummate ease.

21	**♔f1**	**♕d7**
22	**♕b1**	**♗xa1**
23	**♖g1+**	**♔h8**
24	**♕xa1+**	**f6**
25	**♕b1**	**♖g8**
26	**♖g6**	**♖xg6**
27	**hxg6**	**♔g7**
	0–1	

Fischer	1	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	1	½	1	0	½	½	½	
Spassky	0	½	½	1	1	½	0	0	0	½	0	1	½	½	½	

Fischer	1	1	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	1	**17½**
Spassky	0	0	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	0	1	½	½	½	0	**12½**

Fischer's rating	**2736.6**
Spassky's rating	**2603.4**

If this match were to be rated as one event of 30 games, Fischer would be expected to score 23.4, Spassky 6.6. The actual scores of 17½ – 12½ would lead to a rating gain of 59 points for Spassky and an equivalent loss for Fischer.

Conclusion

Fischer Triumphs – The Return of a Legend

No-one believed that it could possibly happen. After two decades in the wilderness, the mercurial American chess genius, Bobby Fischer, has made a comeback. For twenty years, after decisively beating Soviet World Champion Boris Spassky in the most celebrated chess match of all time at Reykjavik in 1972, Fischer did not play a single game of match or tournament chess. In 1975 the World Chess Federation stripped away the title of World Champion from the man who was widely regarded as the greatest showman, and perhaps the greatest genius, that the game of chess had ever seen.

Fischer had always been temperamental, but his demands during the match against Spassky in 1972 bordered on the extravagant. In the first place it took an offer of £50,000 from British millionaire Jim Slater to persuade Fischer to play at all. Thereafter, his brilliant victories at the chess board over his hapless Russian opponent were punctuated by ever-shriller complaints from Fischer that the TV cameras be excluded, that the chessboard size be reduced by three millimetres, that the paying audience be pushed back further and further from the stage, and that his hotel should become ever more his own personal fiefdom, the facilities of which (such as the hotel swimming pool) other guests were permanently excluded.

When Fischer was stripped of his title for refusing to defend it against the new Soviet Champion Anatoly Karpov, the eccentricity seemed to descend into lunacy. By withdrawing, Fischer passed up the chance to become a millionaire many times over. He saw Soviet and Zionist conspiracies against him everywhere, and even had the fillings of his teeth removed on the grounds that they might be bugged by hostile agents. To recover from such depths of personal dissolution is a triumph of perseverance and human spirit. Yet Fischer, the most extraordinary chess player ever to

have walked the planet, has achieved it.

The play has been a mixture of brilliance and blunders. By general consent the first game was a masterpiece, which astounded experts and grandmasters alike. It seemed that Fischer's absence for twenty years from the chessboard had in no way blunted the ferocity of his mental cutting edge. Even better was to come. Game 11, the best game of the match, was an imperishable masterpiece, a jewel of the mind, one of Fischer's best-ever games and a candidate for any anthology of the most brilliant games of chess ever produced. This was a game where Spassky defended tenaciously and ingeniously, yet was bowled over by the dazzling force of Fischer's attack.

Punctuating such masterpieces were the horrors of games five and 19, where Fischer drifted planlessly. These were games scarcely to be distinguished from those of amateur level. World Champion Gary Kasparov has dismissed all the games as inferior and not up to championship standard but, to quote Mandy Rice-Davies, "He would, wouldn't he". Fischer is the only Champion in the 100+ years of the official Championship who can seriously challenge Kasparov's position as the strongest and most highly-rated player of all time. These two are the pinnacle of chess. On paper, Kasparov's rating is the higher; yet it is Fischer who has established himself as the greatest personality amongst the public at large.

Now that Fischer has overcome Spassky for the second time, will he go back to sulk in his Pasadena tent for another twenty years? Alternatively, will his sanction-busting activities, playing in Belgrade in defiance of UN sanctions, even permit him to re-enter the United States? It is possible that he might stay in Belgrade, move to Budapest, or even join Boris Spassky in exile in Paris.

There are rumours that Fischer is now set to play another multi-million dollar match against the Hungarian teenage girl prodigy Judit Polgar. There are also rumours that Argentina is willing to put up 19 million dollars for the ultimate clash between Kasparov and Fischer. This is the match we all want to see, the one that will establish who is the supreme mental gladiator on Planet Earth.

FISCHER – SPASSKY II The Return of a Legend

"Chess giants return to do battle" *The Daily Telegraph*

"Bobby Fischer is back, still bad and still brilliant" *Financial Times*

"Fischer conjures emphatic win" *The Independent*

"Spassky fights back" *The Times*

1ST SEPTEMBER 1972 Bobby Fischer becomes World Chess Champion in Reykjavik, defeating Boris Spassky in a titanic struggle at the height of the Cold War. The first post-war western World Champion, he thereby becomes the highest rated player of all time and looks set to dominate world chess for a generation.

2ND SEPTEMBER 1992 After twenty years in the chess wilderness, without having played a single serious game since Reykjavik, Fischer returns to do battle with his old rival Spassky in war-torn Yugoslavia for a five million dollar purse.

Could Fischer still compete at the highest levels of chess? What effect had years of living in obscurity had on his creative chess genius? Would he be able to cope with the stresses of matchplay? Or would Spassky finally get his revenge? The chess world waited with bated breath as this momentous match got underway.

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