

Chess Barbs

by Jude Acers
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PROTRACTED DEFENSE TAKES
ITS TOLL IN MARATHON CHESS
BATTLE

White: Boris Spassky. Black:
Robert Fischer. World Champion-
ship, Match Game No. 13. Reykjavik
Iceland, August 10-11, 1972. Alek-
hine's Defense.

1 e4 Nf6(A) 2 e5 Nd5 3 d4 d6
4 Nf3 g6(B) 5 Bc4(C) Nb6 6 Bb3
Bg7 7 Nbd2(D) 0-0 8 h3(E) a5
9 a4(F) de 10 de Na6 11 0-0 Nc5
12 Qe2 Qe8 13 Ne4 Nba4 14 Ba4
Na4 15 Re1(G) Nb6 16 Bd2 a4(H)
17 Bg5(I) h6 18 Bh4 Bf5 19 g4 Be6
20 Nd4 Bc4(J) 21 Qd2 Qd7(K)
22 Rad1 Rfe8 23 f4(L) Bd5 24 Nc5

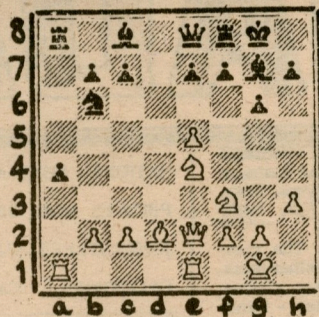


Diagram No. 1: Position
after 16...a4.

Qc8 25 Qc3(M) e6 26 Kh2 Nd7(N)
27 Nd3(O) c5 28 Nb5(P) Qc6
29 Nd6 Qd6l 30 ed Bc3 31 bc f6
32 g5(Q) hg 33 fg f5 34 Bg3 Kf7

35 Ne5ch Ne5 36 Be5 b5 37 Rf1
Rh8l(R) 38 Bf6 a3 39 Rf4 a2
40 c4(S) Bc4 41 d7 Bd5 42 Kg3l(T)
Ra3ch 43 c3(U) Rha8l 44 Rh4l
e5l 45 Rh7ch Ke6 46 Re7ch Kd6
47 Re5 Rc3ch 48 Kf2 Rc2ch
49 Kel Kd7 50 Red5ch Kc6 51 Rd6ch
Kb7 52 Rd7ch Ka6 53 R7d2 Rd2
54 Kd2 b4 55 h4l(V) Kb5 56 h5 c4!
57 Ral(W) gh 58 g6 h4l 59 g7(X)
h3 60 Be7 Rg8 61 Bf8(Y) h2(Z)
62 Kc2 Kc6 63 Rdl(AA) b3ch
64 Kc3 hl/Ql(BB) 65 Rhl Kd5
66 Kb2 f4 67 Rdlch(CC) Ke4
68 Rel Kd3 69 Rdlch??(DD) Ke2l
70 Rcl f3 71 Bc5(EE) Rg7 72 Rc4
Rd7l(FF) 73 Re4ch Kfl 74 Bd4 f2
75 White resigns.

Condensed notes through move 41
are by international grandmaster
Ratmir Kholmov (USSR), trans-
lated from "Sovetsky sport" (Aug.
12, 1972, pg. 3). Comments on the
rest of the game have been adapted

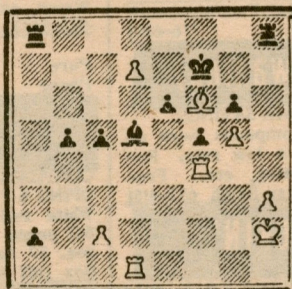


Diagram No. 2: (adjourned)
position after 41...Bd5.

from the Russian version of
"Skak" (No. 13, 1972, pp. 227 and
231) by IGM Svetozar Gligorich.

(A) Something new! After his
crushing defeat in the eleventh
game the challenger has been
forced to change his opening system.

(B) More common is 4...Bg4.

(C) This continuation does not
enjoy a good reputation. White
usually plays 5 Ng5 or 5 c4.

(D) And here 7 Qe2, 7 0-0 and
7 Ng5 are more frequently seen.

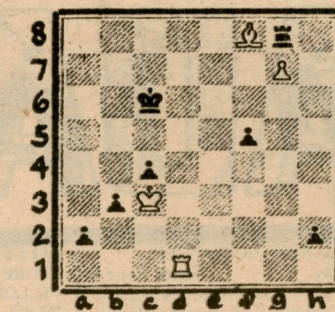


Diagram No. 3: Position
after 64 Kc3.

(E) Simply unavoidable in such
positions if White wants to hold
the center, since he must not allow
the annoying pin, Bg4.

(F) White can try 9 a3 to keep
his bishop on the same diagonal,
but after 9...a4 10 Ba2 de 11 de
Nc6 12 Qe2 Bf5! he has problems.
However, 9 c3 de 10 de Nc6
11 Qe2 Bf5 also gives Black an
excellent game. Inasmuch as the
text move brings the "a" pawn
under fire by enemy forces, the
opening struggle cannot be eva-
luated in White's favor.

(G) On 15 Qc4 Bd7 16 Qc7 Qc8!
17 Qc8 Rfc8 Black has good pros-
pects.

(H) For his sacrificed (or lost?)
pawn White has a freer game, but
no more.

(I) Another plan begins 17 Nc5,
and Black does not find it so easy
to escape White's bind, e.g.,
17...Nd7 18 Qc4! or 17...Qc6 18 Bb4
Nd5 19 Nd4! Qb6 20 Ba3, with
mounting pressure.

(J) Of course, 20...Be5 21 Ne6 fe
22 c3 leaves Black with a shattered
position.

(K) Once again, 21...Be5 is tabu
because of 22 Qh6, and if 22...Bd4,
then 23 Ng5 will mate.

(L) At last White gets his pawns
moving!

(M) Here 25 f5 looks very strong,
but Black's counter 25...Nc4
appears to be no less potent, but
25 e6 deserves consideration.

(N) Starting to push back the
White pieces. From this moment
on the initiative shift to Black.

(O) Or 27 Nd7 Qd7 28 Qd3 c5!
and White has no suitable con-
tinuation.

(P) Nor would 28 Ne2 be better,
as 28...b5 sets the Black queen-
side pawns in motion.

(Q) The only practical chance,
provoking black-square weak-
nesses in the enemy camp.

(R) Black offers to sacrifice the
exchange on the assumption that a
win follows the elimination of
White's far-advanced pawn.
Black's move also defends against

the dangerous threat of 38 Rf4
and 39 Rh4.

(S) Parting with a pawn is the
price for taking Black's control
of the queening square a1 away
from him.

(T) The sealed move, found after
25 minutes of thought, proves to
be the very best in the position.

(U) But not 43 Kf2 Rah3! 44 d8/Q
Rd8 45 Bd8 e5!, recovering the
rook.

(V) The only possibility for sur-
vival. Hopeless is 55 Kc2 Kb5
56 Kb2 c4 57 Kal c3.

(W) Forced in view of the threat,
of 57...c3ch and al/Q, e.g., 57 h6
c3ch 58 Kd3 al/Q 59 Ral Ral
60 h7 Rdlch! 61 Kc2 Rhl 62 h8/Q
Rh8 63 Bh8 Kc4, and Black wins
with three passed pawns on both
flanks.

(X) Playing 59 Bh4 Rg8 favors
Black.

(Y) Perhaps 61 Bf6 should be
tried, since 61...h2 62 Kc2 Kc6
63 Kb2 Kd6 64 Ka2 Ra8ch 65 Kb2
Ral 66 g8/Q hl/Q 67 Qd8ch
might draw by perpetual check.

(Z) After 61...c3ch comes 62 Kd3!
(AA) A key move to keep Black's
king from crossing the "d" file.
White has a draw in hand.

(BB) Clearing a path for the
king.

(CC) If 67 Rh8, then 67...c3ch!
68 Kal c2.

(DD) White draws after 69 Rc3ch!
Kd4 70 Rf3 c3chl 71 Kal (71 Kc3
al/Qchl) c2 72 Rf4ch Kc3 73 Bb4ch
Kd3 74 Ba3 Rg7 75 Rf3ch Kc4
76 Rf4ch Kd5 77 Rfl Ke4 78 Bcl!
Rd7 79 Kb2 Rdl 80 Rf4ch Kd3
81 Ra4 Rcl 82 Kcl Kc3 83 Ra2!

(EE) Desperation. Black's rook
breaks free and wins the game.

(FF) The threat of Rdl (or first
Rd2ch) is fatal.

* * *

JOHN GREFE LECTURE AND
EXHIBITION. Capablanca was
right when he wrote that a chess
player can learn more from one
defeat, soundly administered, than
from many casual wins. Learn a
lesson from USCF master John
Grege as he lectures on the great
Fischer--Spassky world title
match and conducts an instructive
simultaneous exhibition. Meet him
this Friday, Sept. 22, at 8 p.m.
at the Hayward Chess Club (Palma
Ceia Park, located at the corner
of Miami Ave. and Decatur Way;
on Hwy 17 south, take West Ten-
nyson exit and turn left onto Cal-
aroga Ave.) or find him at the San
Leandro Chess Club (250 Dutton
Ave., in the Washington School
cafeteria, between East 14th St.
and Bancroft Ave.) the following
Monday, Sept. 25, from 7-11 p.m.
Board fee to play in the exhibition
ranged from \$1.50 to \$2, the lec-
ture is free and spectators are
welcome. Master Grege confirmed
his 2367 rating last weekend by
scoring 4-0 to take top honors
(with Ziad Baroudi) at the CCCA's
Pacific Open Chess Tournament
in San Francisco.