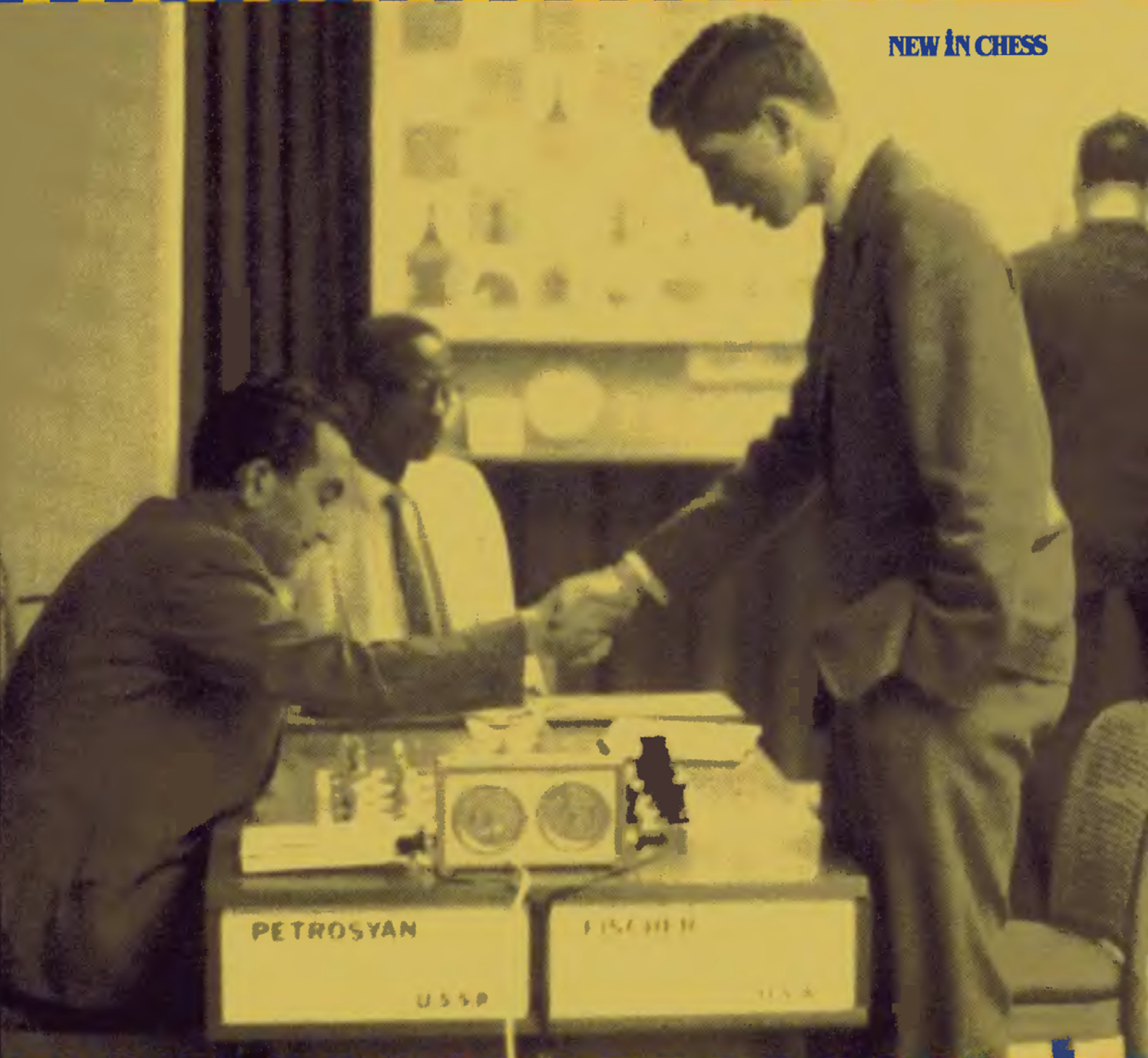


CURAÇAO 1962

The Battle of Minds that Shook the Chess World

NEW IN CHESS



A fresh look at the games of the legendary Candidates Tournament

Jan Timman

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CURAÇAO 1962

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that Shook the Chess World**

2005 New In Chess - the Netherlands

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PREFACE



It was in the spring of 2002, during preparations for the 40th anniversary Commemoration Tournament organized by the Curaçao 1962-2002 Chess Foundation, that Ger Jan Meijer first came up with the idea for a book about the 1962 Candidates' Tournament. To be sure there was a well documented tournament bulletin and a relatively unknown book in Spanish *Curacao 1962*, subtitled 'Ocho aspirantes al Campeonato Mundial de Ajedrez', but the impact that the 1962 Tournament had and still has on chess history deserved more.

Thus, during the Commemoration Tournament some forty years later in November 2002, the first steps were taken to forge this missing link in the chronicles of chess history. Jan Timman, a 2002 competitor, immediately offered his enthusiastic support in the form of technical advice and writing skills; equally important, the Prince Bernhard Cultural Fund's response was also positive.

I began searching for information and photographs, and help arrived from all quarters. Sloima Zonenschain, a local top chess player and organization volunteer in 1962, had a number of valuable pictures. The family of Curaçao's respected chess legend, Nacho Moron, lent me the organization's archives; newspapers from 1961 and 1962 were studied; from Jan Tiepen, erstwhile Committee member, and from the family of Committee President Gé Schöttelndreier came superb photo albums. While reviewing this mound of material, my insight into the organization grew as did my enormous respect for the organizers of the day.

Although Curaçao's chess community was small in 1956 - there were around 150 active club chess players - there arose within this group a desire to organize a major tournament. Who was actually responsible for the idea is not known. They enthusiastically set to work to haul in the Candidates' Tournament for 1959. The attempt was unsuccessful; time was too short, in particular to arrange for the required bank guarantee. However, in February 1959, the Netherlands Antilles Chess Federation, a branch of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Schaakbond (Royal Netherlands Chess Federation), wrote a letter to their Dutch colleagues requesting them to inform FIDE that the NASB, under

the auspices of the KNSB, wished to organize the 1962 Candidates' Tournament. The bid was accepted in principle in the autumn of 1959 at the FIDE Congress in Luxembourg, and confirmed one year later during the FIDE Congress in Leipzig. Thus, the first Candidates' Tournament outside Europe would be held in Curaçao!

After several preparatory meetings in some of which Dutch consultant and IM Lodewijk Prins played an important role, the US\$20,000 bank guarantee was handed to FIDE in late 1960. Under the presidency of Henk Soeterboek, the Netherlands Antilles Chess Federation decided to establish a separate foundation for the organization of the Candidates' Tournament. Gé Schöttelndreier was approached to be Committee President. It was an inspired choice, as he made an excellent organizer. Supported by his committee members, Jaap de Vries, Jan Tiepen and Henk Dennert, he and dozens of enthusiastic volunteers successfully put together a perfect organizational team. In 1961 Dennert was transferred to The Hague, and his place on the Committee filled by Stanley de Castro. This turned out well as communication via Dennert with the Royal Netherlands Chess Federation was now a lot easier. The organizers worked tirelessly for some two years towards the tournament, without modern communication systems like the fax and internet, and hampered by letters occasionally mistakenly sent sea-mail only to arrive at their destination many weeks later.

During a working visit in April 1961, President of the Royal Netherlands Chess Federation and tournament supervisor, Ir. Henk van Steenis, noted that preparations were going well. The Committee arranged the necessary financing unaided. The huge sum (for those days) of US\$50,000, US\$3,400 of which was earmarked for prize money - first prize US\$750 - was raised by lotteries and the now very valuable "first day covers".

That the organizers aspired to perfection, and achieved it, was evident from the way everything was meticulously prepared. In the hotel where the players would stay and play, a special tournament hall and press room were created. The tournament hall in particular was a masterpiece. Noiseless air-conditioning provided cool breezes, while outside sounds were prevented from entering. Visas for iron-curtain players were all arranged more than a year in advance; a very important detail, as it later emerged, because the Interzonal Tournament planned for the beginning of 1962 in Amsterdam was cancelled at short notice and moved to Stockholm due to the East German Uhlmann not possessing the required travel documents. On the technical side mountains were moved, such as constructing chess tables on the Leipzig 1960 model. A world first was the development of the electronic clock synchronized with the clock in the public area outside the tournament hall. The public would now be able to see that a move had been made when one clock stopped and the other started, although the move itself was not yet visible. The execution of the move on the demonstration board would follow a short while later.

The Tournament itself went smoothly and earned high praise worldwide. It was not without incident however. Unexpectedly Bobby Fischer did not arrive with the American team. He had missed his flight, and eventually showed up during the morning of the first round. This obviously played a role in his loss against Benko that evening. A stubborn rumour (later confirmed) had it that there was a shouting match between Benko and Fischer, followed by Benko actually striking Fischer over who had the right to the services of second Arthur Bisguier. The U.S. Chess Federation had decided that Bisguier could only act as Fischer's second, and Benko had no right to a second. The next day Fischer lodged an official protest to the tournament committee, suggesting that "Benko be fined and/or expelled from the tournament".

The arrival of the Russian team was less eventful. They appeared a couple of days before the first round in order to acclimatize, while their wives followed half way through the tournament just before the six day intermezzo in St. Martin. In addition to five players and the two seconds, Yury Averbach and Isaak Boleslavsky, there was also a sort of delegation leader named Sergey Gorshkov. Shortly before the tournament, he replaced second GM Kotov, who was an original team member. Gorshkov was little more than a relatively good amateur chess player; thus his true function was clearly different: KGB officer sent to keep an eye on things. The local organizers must have suspected something of the like, considering how quickly he was nicknamed "the spy". Another noteworthy incident was when Boleslavsky received his honorarium for a simultaneous match against players from Curaçao. Gorshkov sprung to his feet demanding the envelope be handed over to him.

There were many volunteers helping out during the evening matches. For example, each match had a board assistant who was expected to sit there the whole time. As soon as a move was made, the assistant would make a note of it in duplicate. Another volunteer collected the notes and the move was executed on the demonstration board in the tournament hall. The assistant also ensured that the demonstration board outside next to the swimming pool was given the move as it was played. A telephonist who was in constant contact with the press room received the move on paper too; thus the press was always kept up to the minute.

Public interest was fitful. On election day, the few observers present were more interested in radio reports on the elections but, during the crucial penultimate round, a record 400 spectators were counted! The press service was led by international chess journalist Berry Withuis, with assistance from John Bink and a number of Curaçao volunteers. Berry Withuis had been approached more than a year before and an extensive exchange of correspondence had taken place with the local organizers. All FIDE member associations, 115 newspapers, five press bureaus and 85 chess journals were kept informed of the Tournament's progress on a daily basis. A bi-lingual bulletin was published regularly with analyses from players and seconds. Although communication was

limited to telephone, telex and radiotelephone, all interested parties were kept up-to-date during matches via these means.

Possibly because the bulletin was of such a high standard, a tournament book was not felt necessary. However, the tournament committee had in fact given the idea some thought in 1961. They contacted chess publishers Ten Have, and author IM Hans Bouwmeester, but the book never got off the ground. In 1963 there was another attempt to find an author and publisher, but in view of the cost and expected limited circulation, and on Berry Withuis' forceful advice, the plan was abandoned. Perhaps in retrospect this was fortunate because now, nearly 43 years after the event, facts that only became known later can be written about.

After the tournament, Fischer complained in *Sports Illustrated* in August 1962 and in *Life* a month later not only that most of his Russian opponents agreed in advance to a draw in their matches against each other, but also that they cheated by audibly coaching their compatriots during their matches against him. The official archives contain no protest from Fischer regarding these allegations. The tournament leaders, chief arbiter (and FIDE Vice-President) Manuel Acosta Silva and arbiter Harry de Graaf had a relatively trouble-free tournament. However, there was some consternation when Tal unfortunately had to retire due to illness during the fourth cycle. After a short stay in hospital, when the only player to pay him a visit was Fischer, he was a welcome guest in the press room and his expertise was gratefully received. The six day excursion to St. Martin received mixed reviews. It is not known whether this short break was FIDE's idea, or whether it originated in Curaçao. The motivation behind the choice of St. Martin was three-fold: cooler, different surroundings, and more privacy. Privacy would certainly have been in issue, because the players were fairly well known after four weeks in Curaçao. The heat may also have been a factor. According to an interview published in a local newspaper, the Russian ladies thought Curaçao was very hot. Much too hot, concluded the interviewer. The next day a shocked Averbakh and Rona Petrosian were reported saying they had been very moved by the heart-warming hospitality they had received during their stay.

I hope that this book will reconfirm the importance of the 1962 Candidates' Tournament in world chess history.

On behalf of the Curaçao 1962-2002 Chess Foundation
Curaçao, May 2005
Alex Roose

PRELUDE

Alexander Alekhine's lonely death in 1946 was followed by a period that would be entirely dominated by chess players from the Soviet Union, whose strength was as legendary as the country's reservoir of top players.

Lenin had been the founding father of the chess culture of the mighty Soviet empire. The balding Communist leader was a fanatical chess player who realised the game's potential to become 'the opium of the people': intelligent individuals who might otherwise engage in politics were condemned to occupy themselves with a different game – a game of grace that boasted a rich past even then. They would be spared the sordidness of the political game, and if they managed to work your way up to the top, no one would cross them in any way.

It goes without saying that Lenin can hardly be regarded as a 'visionary' in this respect, since the old Russia already had a thriving chess culture. Chigorin was considered to be an absolute top player, while Troitzky was a genius in the field of endgame studies, the purest and most abstract area of chess.

Steps were taken that were typical of the way things were done in the Soviet Union: Alekhine was hailed as the originator of Soviet chess, Pioneer palaces were built, and in the 1930s a new hero was brought to the fore: Mikhail Botvinnik.

This is an indication of the acute intuition of the chess authorities under Stalin, for Botvinnik was not only a doctrinal Communist but also an incredibly strong player with an iron discipline and a universal style. Before World War II, the Estonian grandmaster Paul Keres had been regarded as the main candidate for the world title, but the war had hardly started when people began to realise that Botvinnik was potentially even stronger.

This was borne out in 1941, when the 'Absolute Championship' of the Soviet Union was staged in Leningrad and Moscow, with six players meeting each other four times. Botvinnik swept the board of this monster tournament with a score of 13½ out of 20, followed at a respectful distance by Keres with 11 and Vasily Smyslov with 10 points. These were the three names that would largely dominate top chess during the decades following this event.

In 1948 the World Championship was held in The Hague and Moscow. For the first – and last – time in chess history the championship was cast in the form of a tourna-

ment, a direct consequence of Alekhine's death, which had left the world title vacant. The format was reminiscent of that of the USSR championship of six years earlier: five players were to meet each other five times. The original plan had been for a field of six participants, but the American grandmaster Reuben Fine had withdrawn. This time Botvinnik's victory was even more emphatic: he scored 14 out of 20, three points ahead of Smyslov, who himself finished narrowly ahead of Keres and Samuel Reshevsky – by half a point.

In a way, this monster tournament may be said to have been the birth of modern chess. A new era had begun. The opening preparation began to expand exponentially, and Botvinnik had already adopted his highly methodical way of working. But he was not alone; in 1973, when I was in David Bronstein's home, David showed me a booklet with his findings in the area of, for instance, the King's Indian. It dated from 1947 and he had cherished it all those years.

Isaak Boleslavsky, later to become a great authority on the technique of the opening, also worked very systematically in those years.

But it was not only in a technical sense that the chess world improved; organisationally it also developed in leaps and bounds. A structure was devised to lead players to the highest honour: first there would be Zonal Tournaments in which the top finishers would qualify for an Interzonal Tournament. The winners there would automatically qualify to contest the Candidates' Tournament and the winner of this super-tournament would secure the right to challenge the World Champion.

The first Candidates' Tournament took place in Budapest in 1950 and was won by Bronstein and Boleslavsky with 12 out of 18, two points ahead of Smyslov, who himself beat Keres by half a point. The 14-game 'challengers' match' finished with a narrow win for Bronstein.

In 1991, when the model for the world championship was still largely identical to the 1950 one, the American grandmaster Larry Christiansen observed in an interview with *New In Chess*: 'Maybe Kasparov [the then World Champion (J.T.)] should put his title on the line and play against the highest bidder, just like in the old days (...) It's a bit absurd (...) You have to climb Mount Everest, hike to the South Pole and swim the Amazon just to get the right to play Kasparov'.

This is the kind of journey Bronstein had had to make in order to be allowed to cross swords with Botvinnik. Yet it was by no means clear that the challenger's ordeal had so exhausted him that he was automatically the underdog. The World Champion had not played a single competitive game since winning the title. He had prepared, of course, but he had also spent a considerable amount of time on his alternative field of study – he was an electronics engineer. The 1951 match eventually tied at 12-12, allowing Botvinnik to retain the title. It was a dramatic result for Bronstein who, in the penultimate round, had lost an endgame that had initially seemed to guarantee him an easy draw.

But Botvinnik had shown his teeth, as he would do in later matches: his interim analysis of the penultimate game in particular was a clear indication of what he was capable of at his best.

The next Candidates' match took place in Zurich two years later, this time with 15 participants facing one another over two rounds. For Bronstein the tournament proved a disappointment: he finished in shared second place with Keres and Reshevsky, behind Smyslov, who scored 18 out of 28. This impressive result inaugurated the Smyslov era. In certain respects this player was a maverick amongst the Soviet-Russian top players; contrary to his colleagues and contemporaries, he did not seem to study very hard.

Decades later he would observe in an interview that 'harmony' was the key word in his life. He used to walk around a lot during his games, trusting in his superior technique and his sharp instinct for initiative and attack.

Bronstein wrote a brilliant account of the 1953 Zurich tournament, doubtless in an attempt to deal with his disappointment. The tournament saw Reshevsky make a last serious bid for the World Championship, whereas Keres used it to make a new beginning.

Botvinnik and Smyslov already knew each other inside out, and mutual trust must also have been an important part of their relationship, for at the start of the 1950s they secretly played a few training games. Botvinnik was only too aware, of course, of the serious threat to his hegemony that his opponent, who was 10 years his junior, represented, so he had prepared more thoroughly for this World Championship match than he had done three years before. Again, the tournament took place in Moscow, and again the final score was 12-12, with the interesting detail that Smyslov had been trailing by $3\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ before hitting top form. To my mind, the players were on a par with each other, and it was only in later years that Smyslov would prove himself the stronger of the two.

Two years later the Candidates' Tournament was staged in Amsterdam. Ten players lined up and again Smyslov swept the board, scoring $11\frac{1}{2}$ out of 18 and losing only one game – against Boris Spassky, who would become World Champion 13 years later.

Keres finished in second place, one and a half points adrift of Smyslov and half a point ahead of a group of five players: Geller, Bronstein, Petrosian, Spassky and Szabo. Along with Bronstein and Spassky, it was the young players Efim Geller and Tigran Petrosian who made a particular impression. Geller had already beaten Botvinnik in 1952 and would remain one of the few players to keep a positive score against him. He lost both his games against Smyslov, but stood his ground against the rest. Petrosian drew attention to himself by blundering his queen in a superior position against Bronstein. Although this was by no means the only game he threw away after a brilliant beginning, it was clear that his play had enormous strategic potential.

In 1957 Botvinnik was dethroned for the first time: Smyslov beat him $12\frac{1}{2}-9\frac{1}{2}$. In a theoretical article about the opening strategy of the match, Bronstein observed that at some point Botvinnik should have fallen back on $1.e2-e4$ as his opening move, but it is by no means clear that this would have saved him.

In 1983, fourteen years after his accession to the chess throne, Spassky told me how he felt at the time. 'I was so strong that no one could stop me,' the former World Champion said. Smyslov could have said the same thing about the period after his victory in

Amsterdam, yet his second match against Botvinnik was anything but one-sided – after five games the World Champion had even built up a lead. Then Smyslov got into his stride, winning five games in sovereign style, with Botvinnik managing to claim only one more point.

Smyslov undoubtedly deserved to enjoy his world title for a few years, but FIDE regulations decided differently: he was to play a return match one year later. Such return matches tend to be especially hard on the new World Champion, as witness the case of Max Euwe, who was obliged to play one in 1937, two years after a convincing victory over Alekhine. Euwe was probably hampered by lack of motivation in this return match, whereas Alekhine, eager to win, had prepared much better than two years previously.

The third clash between the Russian giants took place in 1958, once again Moscow. In the early stages of the match Smyslov's thoughts seemed to be entirely elsewhere. He lost the first three games without showing a trace of his usual outstanding play. He managed to pull himself together, but Botvinnik eventually beat him 12½-10½. His hold on the chess crown was slightly more precarious than 10 years earlier, but his reign continued.

However, a new danger was looming on the horizon: Mischa Tal. No other player from the Soviet empire has ever played his way to the top in such convincing and indeed breathtaking fashion, and no other Soviet player has ever appealed so much to people's imaginations. Being blessed with an incredible talent for initiative and attack, unbelievable daring and sound strategic methods, he cleared the first hurdles to the World Championship in his early twenties. Like Alekhine he had a penchant for alcohol, but unlike Alekhine, he did not let it hinder him; on the contrary, he derived inspiration from it.

The Candidates' Tournament that took place in Yugoslavia a year after the World Championship match was played in three towns – Bled, Zagreb and Belgrade. For the first time, eight players squared up to each other over four games. Tal scored 20 out of 28, one and a half points ahead of Keres, who in turn beat Petrosian by three(!) points. Smyslov finished half a point behind Petrosian – he had obviously lost the energy and motivation of a few years before. Keres managed to keep up with Tal until the last round.

In the penultimate round Tal got into difficulties against the 16-year-old Robert James Fischer. The young American had lost his first three games against Tal, but now his extensive preparation and energetic play had resulted in a winning position. However, Tal managed not only to extricate himself from his awkward position, but even to win, which gave him a one-point lead over Keres. Keres took his disappointment stoically; in an article by his own hand that appeared in the Yugoslav newspaper *Vsjesnik* afterwards, he says, amongst other things: 'Again I have finished only second in a Candidates' Tournament. There are undoubtedly people who think that I am unhappy and dissatisfied now, but this is not the case. Why should I lament? I have not suffered a shipwreck! It was my wish to finish first, as it is an old desire of mine to win a Candi-

dates' Tournament and play against Botvinnik, but there is no need for me to be disappointed at not being lucky.' At this point, Keres couldn't possibly have suspected that his wish would come so tantalisingly close to being granted three years later.

And Tal? He beat Botvinnik in 1960 with a slightly better score than Smyslov three years earlier, but it was by no means a walkover. In Game 17, Botvinnik had put up a stubborn defence against a reckless attacking set-up by his young opponent, but on move 39 he erred in time-trouble, allowing his challenger to build up a three-point lead. Had he kept a cool head, he would probably have succeeded in steering the game in his favour and keeping his deficit down to just a single point. At the same time it has to be said that Tal scored a suitably convincing victory, proving that his dynamic play was dangerous enough to pose a threat to any opponent, and that strategically Botvinnik had met his match.

The revenge match unavoidably followed a year later, and like Smyslov, Tal was overwhelmed by a born-again Botvinnik. It has often been said that the conditions under which Smyslov and Tal had to play these matches worked against them; Botvinnik, after all, wielded great power and had been favoured by the Soviet authorities for many years. This should not, however, diminish our admiration for this man of steel, who turned 50 in the year of the match. He had earned his victory through a combination of thorough preparation and an iron will. Who would be strong enough to beat him?

Tal and Fischer were regarded as the main candidates in those days. Tal had won a big tournament in Bled 1961 after the revenge match, finishing a full point ahead of Fischer. Keres and Petrosian shared third place, trailing Fischer by another point.

As always, Botvinnik had remained aloof from these tussles. The Candidates' Tournament was to take place in 1962 on Curaçao, one of the so-called ABC islands under Dutch rule in the Caribbean. Shortly before this, the Interzonal Tournament had taken place in Stockholm, where Fischer became the big winner, outstripping a contingent of Soviet players. As the loser of the revenge match, Tal had not been required to participate.

Fischer and Tal – these were the names of the young lions who had been proclaimed the favourites; but were there no other potential winners of this long and exhausting Curaçao tournament? A few introductory words on each of the eight candidates should serve to illustrate the answer to this question.

THE PLAYERS

Pal Charles Benko

born in Amiens, France

July 15th 1928

Benko became Hungarian champion for the first time at the age of twenty, but his subsequent development as a chess player was quite slow, and it took him ten years to qualify for the 1959 Candidates' Tournament. He certainly gave a good account of himself in this extremely tiring tournament, but recurring bouts of serious



time-trouble caused him eventually to finish last. This time-trouble problem would continue to dog him throughout his career.

In 1962 he qualified for the Candidates' Tournament again. In *Canadian Chess Chat* (May 1962) Euwe has this to say about it: 'By qualifying twice in succession for the Candidates', Benko surpassed all expectations. One good result may be accidental, but two successes are significant. Here they show that Benko's style contains facets which are not evident at first

glance, but which, after profound study of his games, become clearer and appear to be of eminent importance in productive play'.

Laudatory words indeed. But they could not disguise the fact that Benko was regarded as one of the underdogs going into the Curaçao Candidates' Tournament. One of the main reasons for this, however, was that the other players – with the exception of one – were regarded as even stronger. In 1959 Benko was still playing under the international flag due to the political trouble he had found himself in af-

ter the Soviet invasion of Hungary. Eventually he had taken refuge in the United States, and in Curaçao it was the American flag that stood by his board.

Benko also gained fame with his phenomenal endgame studies and his use of an important opening variation, called the Benko gambit in his honour.

Miroslav Filip

born in Prague, Czechoslovakia

October 27th 1928

Filip was regarded as even more of an underdog than Benko, although it must be said that the Czech grandmaster also had an excellent record of service. He had played in the Candidates' Tournament as early as 1956, scoring 45 per cent. In the Argentinian Book on the tournament published by *Revista Ajedrez* his play is characterised as 'serious, solid and deep', adjectives that could certainly be said to apply. Filip's problem was that players like Petrosian possessed the same qualities but in greater measure than him. Unlike Benko, Filip had had no problem with the Soviet invasion that devastated his native country in 1968. He remained loyal to the authorities and managed to do very well under Communist rule. Further-



more, he shared nothing of Benko's fanatical enthusiasm for the game. In 2002 he was invited to attend the festivities surrounding the 40th anniversary of the tournament, but he declined the invitation saying that he had largely lost interest in chess.

Robert James Fischer

born in Chicago, USA

March 9th 1943

I already referred to this American genius in my introduction. Ever since his solid win in the Stockholm Interzonal in 1962 he, together with Tal, had been considered the main favourite for Curaçao.

In 1957 he had won the American championship for the first time. With unprecedented fanaticism he had thrown himself into the game at a very early age; he adored chess and had an enterprising style reminiscent of Morphy, but he lived in a different era with a whole arsenal of Soviet players that would obstruct his way to the highest honour. It is interesting to quote Euwe's highly objective comment on the Curaçao tournament: 'One may well ask: Will this be a quiet tournament governed by the motto "Safety First", a tournament with 60 to 70 per cent draws and with a winner who will score 60 to 65 per cent of his points? In that case, Petrosian will have very good chances, but so will Fischer, who in the recent Interzonal showed wonderful inventiveness, endurance and an outstanding command of end-game technique.'

Euwe's admiration for Fischer's technique is remarkable. In *My 60 Memorable Games*, Fischer relates how he survived a rook ending against Gligoric in the 1959 Candidates' Tournament: both players have a pawn, but the Yugoslav grandmaster is calling the shots, as Fischer is bound to lose his last pawn. He continues to play fast, confident that he will be able to secure the draw. Afterwards Fridrik Olafsson, the Icelandic grandmaster, admonishes him to study the position more deeply. Had Gligoric played a certain move, Fischer would have been lost, maintained Olafsson. As a result, Fischer undertakes an exhausting study of rook endings. He also improves his game by playing a lot of chess, deepening not only his technique, but also his understanding of the opening through the years. But Curaçao was not to be his tournament; it would take him another 10 years to break through to the highest



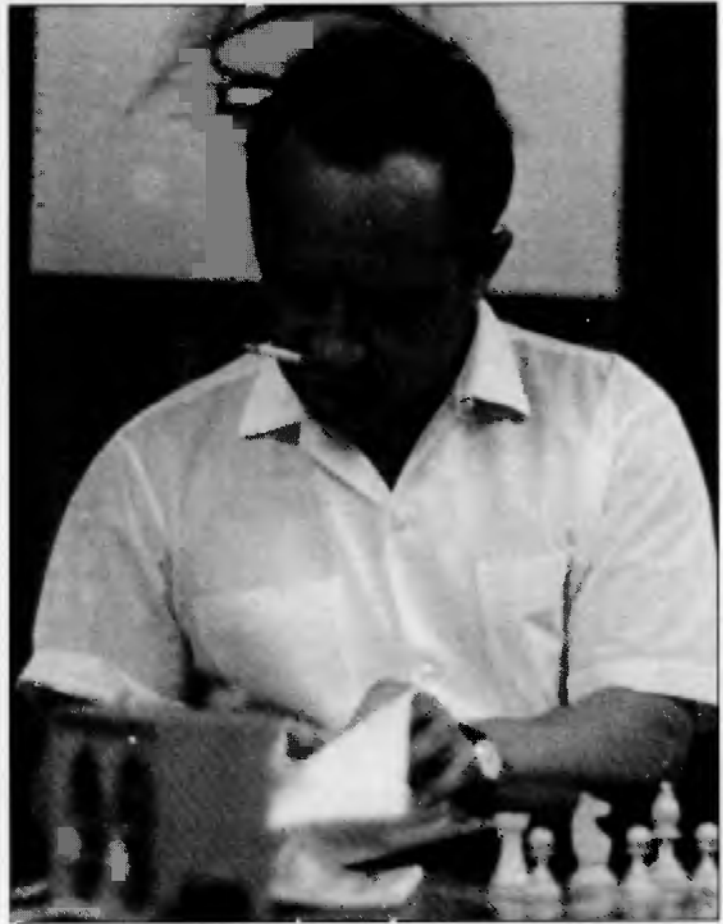
level. His own expectations for the Candidates' Tournament were probably also exaggerated. His victory in the Interzonal Tournament was still fresh in his mind, but the fact that there had been only five weeks between the two qualification tournaments worked against him, giving him too little time for thorough preparation against the Soviet players. In Stockholm he had been merciless in finishing off slightly weaker opponents; in Curaçao he would be playing only heavyweights, which made consistent winning streaks much less likely. It wasn't until 1971 that he was able to sustain such winning streaks against even the strongest players.

Efim Petrovich Geller

born in Odessa, Ukraine

March 8th 1925

Geller was 18 years and one day older than Fischer. He had already played in the 1953 Candidates' Tournament and beaten Botvinnik in the Soviet Championship the year before. Yet Geller was a late developer. A stocky, broad-shouldered man, he might have been termed 'the chunk of the Soviet chess school'. He possessed an incredible instinct for initiative and had an excellent technique. In the 1980s, Karpov once told me how much he had learned from his co-operation with Geller. Geller was prepared to work hard and crystallize his ideas through thorough preparation. He had one weakness, however: he was bad at manoeuvring. The same thing



could be said about Kasparov. However, if you manage to organise your opening repertoire in such a way that the resulting middle game positions contain enough dynamism, this shortcoming can usually be largely compensated for in practice.

Geller was one of the 'dark horses' in Curaçao, and his friendship with Petrosian was an important factor. They were buddies who struck up a co-operation that would turn out to be extremely effective. I will return to this later. 'Geller will have his word as well,' Euwe writes, and this was putting it mildly. Looking back on the chess career of the 'chunk of concrete' one can't but notice that he was the only player in the world with a clearly positive score against both Botvinnik and Fischer. He definitely had the potential to become World Champion, but he was facing a lot of competition and in Curaçao he eventually finished trailing Petrosian by half a point. Three years later he was beaten by Spassky, whose style was similar to Geller's own but who, in some respects, was just that little bit stronger.

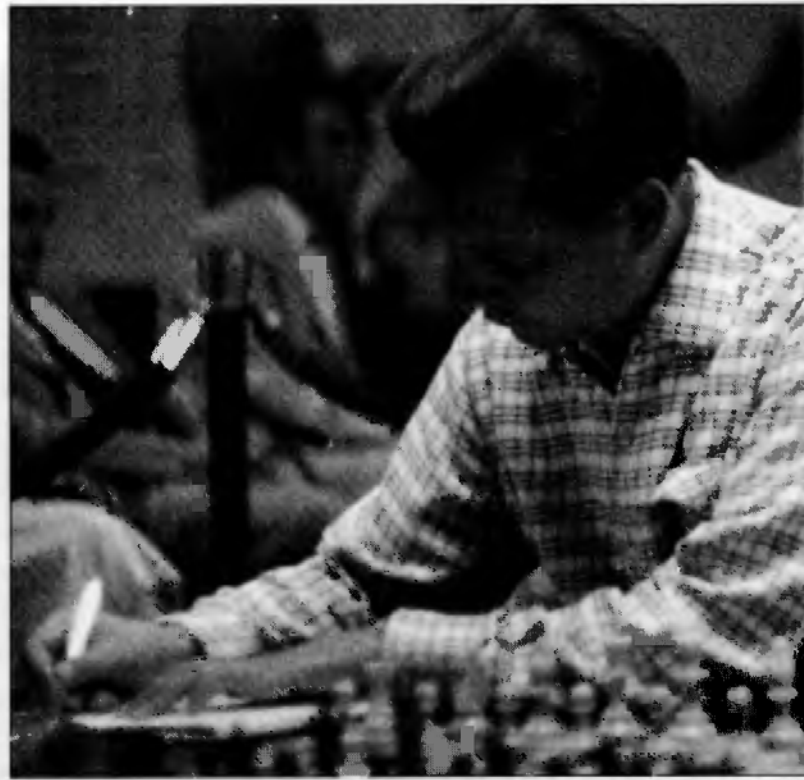
Paul Keres

born in Tallin, Estonia

January 7th 1916

Keres was by far the oldest player in Curaçao, with the greatest record of service. Each time he steadily fought his way to the top in the battle for the World Champi-

onship, only to fall just short each time. Keres had been a serious candidate for the world title ever since 1938, when he won the AVRO Tournament along with Fine without dropping a single game. During the war he found himself in an awkward predicament as Estonia was caught between two fires: the Nazis on one side, the Soviets on the other. Keres played tournaments in Nazi-occupied territories, which made for a hard life under the postwar Communist



regime. He was not allowed, for example, to play in the great tournament of Groningen 1946, and there is no doubt that these years of forced inactivity badly affected his career. During the World Championship tournament of The Hague and Moscow 1948 he lost his first four games against Botvinnik. For years after, a stubborn rumour had it that he had been commanded to lose these games. Keres nevertheless continued to play at the highest level. He had a crystal-clear style and in his game analyses he always found the most striking phrases to explain what strategic motifs had featured in the game.

As a young man he had played correspondence chess, which made him extremely proficient in analysing adjourned positions. Keres also wrote authoritative standard works on both opening theory and endgame technique. He enriched the opening theory of chess with important new ideas, such as the 'Keres variation' in the Sicilian. Curaçao was his last chance to become World Champion; he came very close to victory, having to give up his aspirations only in the very last round.

Viktor Lvovich Kortchnoi

born in Leningrad, Russia

March 23rd 1931

It is rare to see a top player managing to display such unstinting fanaticism and ambition for so many decades. This makes Kortchnoi unique. In 1953 he finished second in the Soviet Championship – an impressive result that did not, however, herald a breakthrough; it was another seven years before he won the Championship. In those days a winner of this title was usually regarded as a World Championship candidate. Kortchnoi's further development was anything

but smooth, however. He belonged to the Soviet elite and did very well in tournaments abroad, but the pinnacles of chess power remained firmly out of reach. He started Curaçao full of ambition, taking the lead after the first part of the tournament, but he did not have the energy to keep up the pace. Later it would become clear that it had not just been a matter of energy: in 1968 Spassky outstripped him in a Candidates' Tournament and three years later he came off worst against Petrosian. One could say that they had a better understanding of the game.

But Kortchnoi did manage to get his revenge – against Petrosian in 1974 and against Spassky three years later. Through tireless hard work and iron discipline he found success and began to play a leading role in the World Championship after the reaching the age of 40. In 1974 he was marginally beaten in his challenger's match against Karpov who, after Fischer's withdrawal, subsequently became World Champion.

Imprudent comments in the press got Kortchnoi embroiled in a conflict with the Soviet authorities, and in 1976 he decided to defect to the West, requesting political asylum in the Netherlands. Although this made life difficult for him, it only seemed to lend him strength. In 1978 he was once again narrowly beaten by Karpov.

He would never come this close to the world title again, but he continued to score great successes. Of the players of the Curaçao tournament still alive, he is the only one still active to this day.



Tigran Vartanovich Petrosian

born in Yerevan, Armenia

June 17th 1929

'I sometimes have the feeling that Petrosian will win the tournament,' Euwe wrote in his preview, and the former World Champion knew what he was talking about: he was one of the authors of the Tournament Book of Amsterdam 1956,



which had been Petrosian's first Candidates' Tournament. How many superior positions had he let slip through his fingers there?

From a very early age, Petrosian clearly showed the potential of a World Champion. In 1946 he became champion of Armenia, and five years later he finished second in the Soviet Championship. Even then his style was based on strategic principles. He was a past master at out-foxing his opponents with positional play.

As he grew older, his play became more and more refined. In the early 1960s he really only had one problem – his lack of ambition; too often he was satisfied with short, colourless draws. It goes without saying that he dreaded losing, but it sometimes seemed that, strangely enough, he was just as afraid of winning. A typical example is what happened in the first

match game against Spassky in 1966. Spassky had blundered in a drawish position and Petrosian could have won a pawn fairly easily. For some reason, such situations make him extremely nervous – his heart speeds up and he spurns playing the winning move, with the result that the game peters out in a bloodless draw.

This mental shortcoming continued to haunt him. It was mainly thanks to his wife Rona that he eventually won Curaçao and beat Botvinnik; she always managed to give him courage. She was also a born schemer – an important quality in the heyday of Communism.

Petrosian remained World Champion for six years. In 1969 he was beaten by Spassky, who was at the pinnacle of his chess career at the time. He continued to harbour ambitions for a return to the top until 1971, when he was convincingly beaten by Fischer. Yet it was not a one-sided match, despite the fact that the American was at the height of his power after crushing Taimanov and Larsen 6-0. Fischer had won the first game as White after a complicated battle in which Black had long been superior. In the second game Petrosian had resolutely turned the tables on his opponent, and this win was followed by three draws. It seemed as if Fischer had hit a barrier that he was not able to negotiate. But then Petrosian suddenly collapsed, losing the last four games. His old problem, his nervous tension, had apparently got the better of him.

After this match Petrosian no longer played a significant role in the fight for the World Championship. A striking detail is that both in 1977 and three years later he lost a Candidates' match against Kortchnoi, who thus managed to revenge himself for his 1971 defeat no fewer than three times. We have seen little of the latter days of Petrosian's career. He died in 1984, just before the start of the second match between the Soviet Union and the rest of the world, laid low by a wasting disease.

Mikhail Tal

born in Riga, Latvia

November 9th 1936

Just as Euwe thought Petrosian was in with a chance to win Curaçao, so another former World Champion designated Tal as his favourite. When asked, Botvinnik observed that Tal had won every single tournament that he had needed to win. He had beaten Tal in a revenge match only a year earlier and it seemed that he was seriously considering the possibility of a third match in the near future.

And Botvinnik was by no means the only person who regarded Tal as the prime favourite – it was expected that the phenomenon from Riga would prove himself again. Tal's career had been lightning fast: at 17 years of age he first became champion of Latvia and three years later he finished third in the Soviet Championship. In 1957 he won the championship and another year later he ran away with the Interzonal Tournament in Portoroz. But his fame was based on more than his results; it was his perpetual willingness to work with each and every complication thrown at him, to make sacrifices without having been able to calculate the consequences, to play openings he had not prepared but which pleased him, that won him such acclaim.

Tal was indeed a phenomenon. When he played, he seemed to be in



a continuous trance. At the same time he could be very business-like in his play, building on tiny advantages step by minute step. He was irrepressibly optimistic about his own abilities. In 1960 he became World Champion, the first chess player to reach the summit at such an early age. One would have thought that he would hang on to his title for many years, just as Karpov and Kasparov managed to do later, but Tal was plagued by serious health problems. This became painfully clear in Curaçao, where his health was so bad that he was forced to cancel his participation in the last part of the tournament. Larsen once said that the reason Tal played such risky chess was that he assumed he was not going to reach 50, a rather spiteful remark which turned out to have no basis in truth, since like Petrosian – who had lived much more sparingly – Tal lived to be 56.

At the age of 42 he played scintillating chess in the great tournament of Montreal 1979, which he won together with Karpov; six months later he won the Interzonal Tournament in Latvia in superior fashion. It looked as if he was striving for new heights, but six months later he was beaten in a Candidates' match against Lev Polugaevsky, who had prepared better.

In the wake of this defeat he no longer played a significant part in the fight for the world title. He did assist Karpov as a second, however, and in this capacity he continued to be able to go abroad to play in foreign tournaments; this meant all the world to him, right up to his last days – playing games, preferably against strong players but equally against amateurs in coffee shops if no strong players could be found. Tal was also a gifted piano player, but his true passion was chess, not so much the analysis as the game itself.

COMBINE

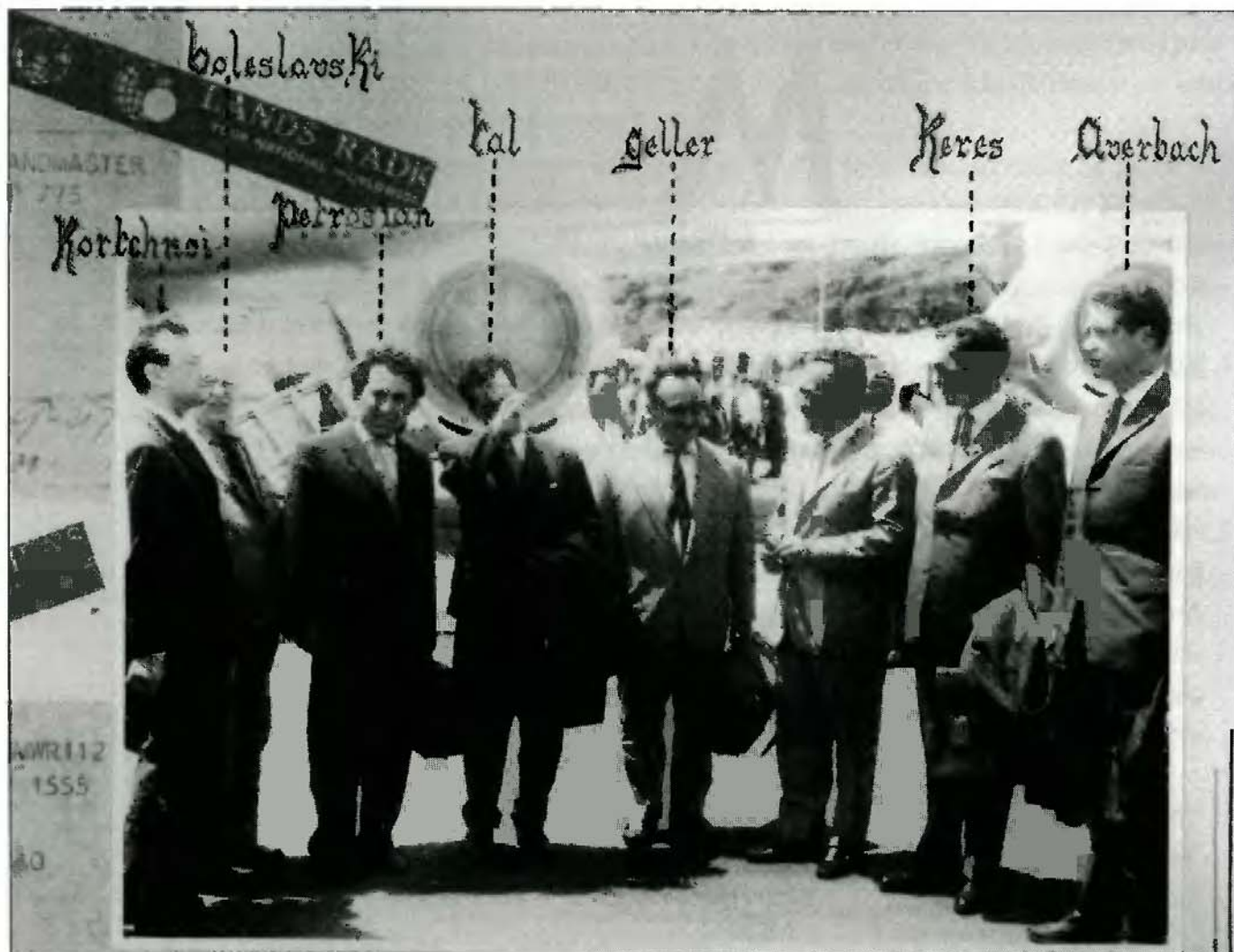
Midway through the tournament the first reports appear: by agreeing respectable draws between themselves, Keres, Geller and Petrosian can save their strength in this lengthy and extremely difficult tournament. Their draws are written about at length in the American magazine *Sports Illustrated*, and are briefly referred to in the June issue of *Deutsche Schachzeitung* a propos of a letter to the editor from M. Lankes from Augsburg. The tournament is only a dozen rounds old by now. Lankes also mentions Kortchnoi. In his opinion these four Soviet players are saving energy by means of ‘cheap, not very tiring draws’. It soon becomes clear, however, that Kortchnoi can’t possibly be involved in a drawing conspiracy, because after a very strong start he begins to lose games. But the suspicions surrounding the other three players refuse to die down. After the tournament *Sports Illustrated* publishes an article by Fischer under the telling heading ‘How the Russians Fixed World Chess’. More than a month later it also appeared in *Life International*. At this time the Cold War was at its height, so the article certainly helped to stir people’s imaginations.

Fischer explains in no uncertain terms how the ‘Russians’ had fixed things on Curaçao. (In those days it was less common to use the more accurate designation ‘Soviets’, which makes his terminology rather confusing, since neither three – Petrosian, Keres and Geller – was of course Russian.)

Fischer mentions the number of moves that Keres, Geller and Petrosian made in their games against each other: the draws between Geller and Petrosian took 21, 18, 16 and 18 moves, those between Keres and Petrosian 17, 21, 22 and 14, and those between Geller and Keres 27, 17, 22 and 15. Fischer states clearly that Tal had nothing to do with the combine and continues: ‘The other four Russians went swimming in the afternoon, got dressed, appeared at the start in the playing hall in the Intercontinental Hotel, sat at their boards for half an hour, made a few quick moves, swapped as many pieces as possible and then offered a draw. “Nicha?” one asked. “Nicha” his opponent replied.’ Interestingly, the article also suggests that Kortchnoi was part of the conspiracy as well. Elsewhere in the article, Fischer observes that Kortchnoi’s part is more complicated: ‘In the first half of the tournament he also drew against the other Russians. Halfway through the

tournament there was a rest period of six days, when all participants went to the island of St. Martin. The four Russians had roughly the same number of points and there was talk that one of them would be bound to lose against one of the others. Whatever happened during the Russians' discussions in St. Martin, Kortchnoi's game suddenly collapsed after them.'

The rumours that Kortchnoi was in some way involved in the combine are still going around. A Russian former World Champion once told me that



The Russian delegation including two seconds.

Kortchnoi had been told to lose his game as Black against Petrosian in Round 23. Petrosian's wife Rona supposedly put great pressure on Kortchnoi's wife Bella, and it is a telling detail that both women were Armenian. In *New In Chess* 2003, Issue 1, Kortchnoi observes in an interview with Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam: 'I would say that the part played by my wife in this situation should not be underestimated. She was Armenian and in some ways she behaved like Petrosian's youngest sister... When Petrosian was around, she always acted like a pupil, like a younger sister.'

These remarkable statements are made in reply to the question of whether the events in Curaçao could be seen as occurring in a novel. Is one justified to conclude on the basis of these remarks that this former World Champion was right? During the second Open Tournament in Curaçao in 2002, which Kortchnoi won, he maintained, when asked, that he had not lost this game on purpose. He had simply not understood that line of the English Opening well enough, replied the Kortchnoi of four decades later.

It is, of course, attractive to see the players' stay in St. Martin from the perspective of a broader intrigue, but the verifiable facts are too scant to offer much to go on. It is entirely conceivable in such a difficult tournament that a player should start losing. It is an experience shared by many grandmasters, including myself: at some point things begin to go wrong and you begin to lose control, sometimes to such an extent that you're no longer even capable of playing it safe. Besides, Kortchnoi could hardly be said to have played only short draws against his compatriots during the first half of the tournament. In Vasiliev's 1974 biography on Petrosian – *Tigran Petrosian, his life and his games* – the game Kortchnoi-Petrosian from Round 2 is described as follows: 'This game was extraordinarily complicated and difficult for both players. Petrosian executed a deep plan aiming to make sure that White would not end up controlling the centre; at some point, however, he made a mistake and was forced into an unfavourable position. Then Kortchnoi went wrong as well, and after these reciprocal errors a position arose in which Petrosian was a pawn up. But Petrosian had very little time left, and when Kortchnoi offered him a draw, he accepted it without much ado.'

The game lasted 36 moves, and there is clearly no question of a set-up. Remarkably enough, however, Vasiliev doesn't say a word about the combine, although it had long come to light by the time his book was published. In the days of Communism it wasn't always wise to publish what was common knowledge. Another rumour has it that Kortchnoi went to Petrosian at the start of the tournament and asked him whether he could be part of the combine. The eventual tournament winner is rumoured to have replied: 'No, you are here to be beaten.' This is probably an apocryphal story, although it is true that Petrosian and his wife enjoyed excellent relations with the Soviet authorities and were able to 'arrange' certain things. Kortchnoi himself, in the above-mentioned interview, gives an altogether more believable account, that is undoubtedly true: after Geller and Keres have agreed a lightning-fast draw in Round 12, he turns to Geller, who had played the white pieces, and asks him, 'You make draws without playing. Who do you think to beat in this way?' Whereupon Geller replies, 'You!' This reaction was characteristic of Geller, who was known for his blunt manner.

Even in cosy arrangements like a combine mistakes can be made, however. In Round 25, the game Keres-Petrosian ended in a draw after just 14 moves. It was the shortest of the series of arranged draws, and with good reason: although the Estonian grandmaster was White, he had managed to get himself into quite a jam

already. In both the article in *Sports Illustrated* and that in *Life International*, Fischer gives the final position, complete with a diagram. His assessment is unambiguous: Black is winning. And it is true that no additional convincing evidence for the existence of the combine during that tournament is required. Keres must have felt extremely awkward in his role, for how else is one to explain the fact that he, as White, ended up in a losing position so soon?

Kortchnoi suggests that the idea of the combine was the brainchild of Geller and Petrosian – who were good friends – and that they then approached Keres with it. This is quite conceivable: Keres was by far the oldest participant, yet incredibly strong. He was also the only person ever to make a comment – however oblique – about the combine: ‘Elementary mathematics shows that a draw can only benefit the score of someone in the lower half of the table.’

This is true enough in itself, yet it remains a specious argument. In closed tournaments, tail-enders often try to make their score look better by aiming for a draw as often as possible. But Curaçao was a very special tournament.

It is also quite possible that Petrosian, Keres and Geller would have dominated the event anyway, with or without the combine, but that’s neither here nor there. In such a long tournament in a tropical climate, eight free days are a gift from heaven, giving you energy and confidence. An added advantage was that it discouraged the competition.

As I have mentioned, Geller and Petrosian were friends. This led them to band together against the third man in their alliance towards the end of the tournament. In Round 27 the game Benko-Keres was adjourned in a position that seemed promising for White. If Keres managed to hold, he would remain level with Petrosian and lead Geller by half a point. Now the combine was reduced to two men: the night after the game had been adjourned – in Curaçao, adjourned games were played on separate days – Petrosian and Geller went to Benko’s hotel room. The reason for this unexpected visit was that they wanted to offer the American grandmaster their assistance in analysing his adjourned game. Benko was surprised; he had fled Hungary to escape from its Communist regime, and Soviet citizens were obliged to avoid all contact with him. It was obviously a case of ‘necessity knowing no law’. There was no moral justification for the behaviour of the two Soviet representatives. I remember the enormous respect I, as a 10-year-old boy, had for players like Petrosian and Geller at the time; I would have been deeply shocked if I had heard this story.

Geller and Petrosian’s mission, incidentally, was unsuccessful. Benko, a very serious analyst even then, showed the two Soviets his analyses, which he had written down: if Keres played his cards right, he would be able to hold the game. Petrosian and Geller took their time to check the analyses and returned them to Benko: they had nothing to add – everything as far as they could see seemed correct. When the game was resumed Keres – uncharacteristically – hardly put up a fight and lost without offering significant resistance; he must have been utterly

exhausted. And so Petrosian and Geller got what they wanted after all. One would wonder what is less sportsmanlike: arranging draws or helping a competitor's opponent. I remember Kasparov offering his services to Hübner in Belfort 1988, when the latter was nursing an adjourned game against Karpov – Kasparov's rival. And a year later, Kasparov and Kortchnoi were analysing together with Andersson in the tournament hall in Skelleftea. When Portisch passed their table, he admonished these ad hoc seconds for their reprehensible behaviour, to which Kortchnoi replied in the following memorable words: 'You don't have a clue about these things.'

I think it is morally objectionable to act as someone's ad hoc second, but there was nothing in the regulations to stop them. (Nowadays this is no longer necessary, as the whole concept of adjournments has been abolished). But there was certainly something FIDE could do about the combine of the three Soviets. Fischer's article had an enormous impact; according to his biographer, Brady, it was translated into German, Dutch, Spanish, Swedish, Icelandic and (with some changes) Russian. As a direct consequence of this fierce indictment, FIDE took two stringent measures:

- 1) Arbiters were ordered to make sure that players did not agree draws within 30 moves;
- 2) The Candidates' Tournament was abolished; Curaçao had been the last tournament of its kind.

The first measure was soon rescinded, as it turned out to be wholly impractical – you cannot force players to continue their game if they want to draw or if the position is genuinely drawn.

The second measure, on the other hand, is still in force. Even after Kasparov and Short broke with FIDE in 1993, two more match cycles took place, one of them organised by the alternative organisation the PCA (Professional Chess Association). It was only in 1997 that the existing cycle for the World Championship was permanently abolished by the new FIDE President Ilyumzhinov.



Arrival of the US team: second from the left GM Arthur Bisguier with his wife Carol, second from the right Pal Benko. Also, the Curaçao organizers Sloima Zonenschain (far left), Jan Tiepen (behind Bisguier) and on the far right Tournament Director and President of the Organizing Committee Gé Schöttelndreier. Fischer is absent on this picture because he had missed his plane; eventually, he arrived only just before the start of the first round.

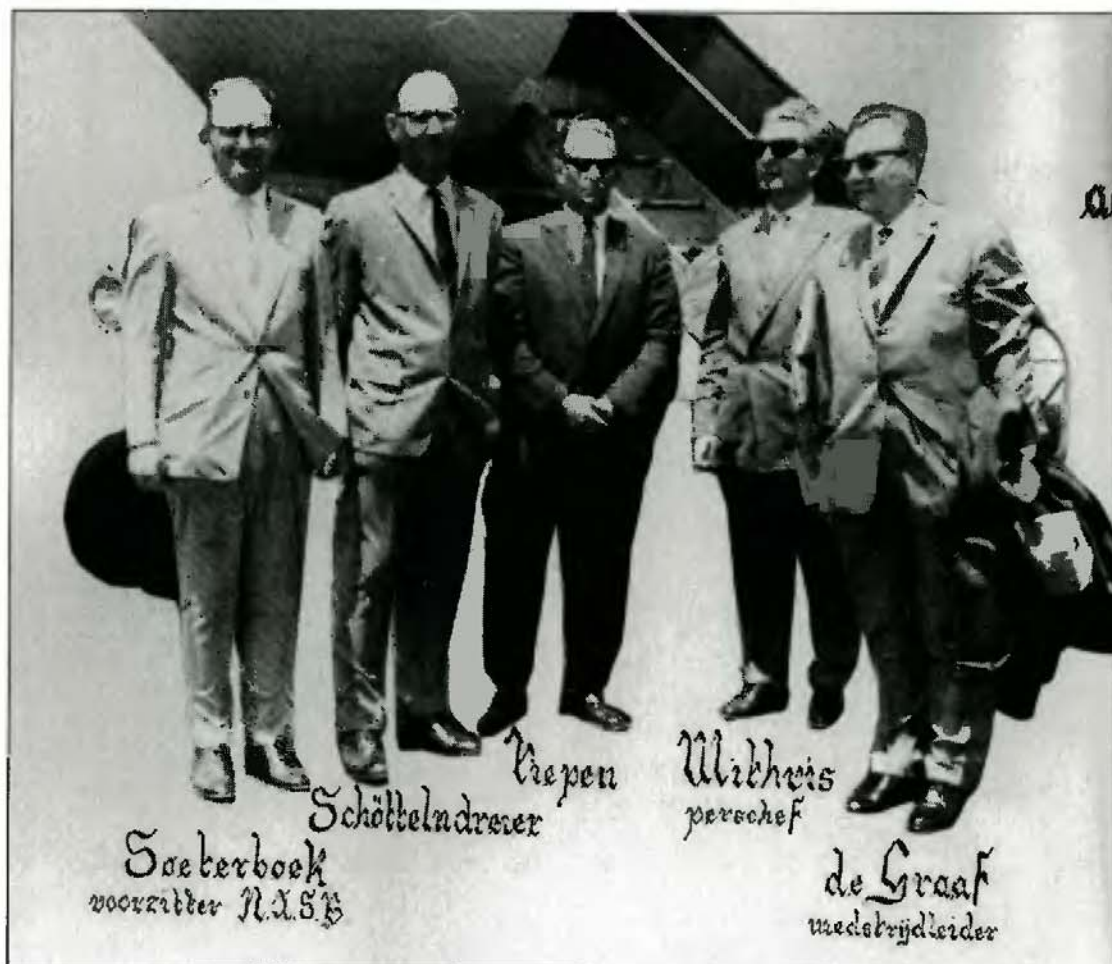
Paul Keres and wife.

Tiepen (left) welcomes Mr Van Steenis (president of the Dutch Chess Federation KNSB) and his wife. Schöttelndreier is standing next to Tiepen, second from the right Soeterboek, far right Assistant Press Officer John Bink.



Mr and Mrs Jarmila Filip are welcomed by the board members of the Organizing Committee and Federation President Henk Soeterboek (left).

Arbiter De Graaf (far right) and, next to him, Press Officer Withuis arrive on the airport.



A view of the playing hall.





Organizers and participants together. From left to right: Stanley de Castro, Tal, Averbakh, Petrošian, Benko, Jan Tiepen, Jaap de Vries, Fischer, Kortchnoi, Filip, Keres, Geller. Front row, from the left: Chief Arbiter Manuel Acosta Silva, Arbiter Harry de Graaf and Tournament Director Gé Schöttelndreier.



The press room. On the left, in line, the typewriters. The phone booths are in the background.

THE COURSE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Part I

May 2-12



In May 1st, the tournament was opened by the Prime Minister of the Netherlands Antilles, E.Jonckheer. The opening ceremony took place at the 'Hotel Curaçao Intercontinental' – the present 'Curaçao Plaza', which would also serve as the playing venue. Local newspapers had this to say about the players: 'They all seemed friendly and likeable. The most appealing participant must have been Petrosian, with his ready smile and his wild crop of black hair.' It seems that he already had reasons to smile even then.

The following day the marathon tournament started. The first two rounds yielded some surprises: Fischer and Tal, the principal favourites in many people's minds, lost four games in all. The other Russian players took things easy, although this is certainly not to say that there were no fights. Kortchnoi's draws in the first four rounds tended to be the result of hard and dogged battles. After that he caught fire and won three games in a row, a hat trick that yielded him a clear lead. This must have cost him an enormous amount of energy – his win against Filip took no fewer than 101 moves. •

The combine trio did not overly exert itself. Petrosian and Geller won just one game each. Keres struck twice, but was himself defeated by Fischer in a beautiful game. It is worth mentioning that it was in this phase that Petrosian was in danger of losing for the first – and virtually last – time in the tournament. In his game against Benko, Petrosian – as Black – got an active position but lost the thread when Benko got into time-trouble. As a result, his position was probably losing at some stage in the game. Benko generally played well, while Fischer just about managed to recover from his bad start. Tal, on the other hand, continued to prop up the table and even finished the first part half a point shy of Filip. Although it was impossible to tell by looking at him, he was still suffering from the effects of the kidney operation he had undergone shortly before the tournament.

There is a sharp contrast between the standings after the first part of the tournament and the results of a poll amongst the readers of the Soviet-Russian newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. The question they were asked was who would win the tournament in Curaçao?

Kortchnoi, the leader, got more than 500 votes, which put him in sixth place (above Benko and Filip, who didn't get a single vote). Tal, who was bringing up the rear in Curaçao, got more than 1200 votes, slightly more than twice Fischer's number (over 500). Petrosian got in excess of 900 votes, closely followed by Geller and Keres.

ROUND 1

May 2

Kortchnoi - Geller	1/2-1/2
Petrosian - Tal	1-0
Keres - Filip	1/2-1/2
Benko - Fischer	1-0

King's Indian Defence

Viktor Kortchnoi
Efim Geller

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.d5

With this advance, White prevents the symmetrical Grünfeld that would arise after 4...♗g2 d5. In the mid 1960s Petrosian introduced a similar advance: after 1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 he played 3.d5 in order to avoid the Grünfeld Indian.

4...♗g7 5.♗g2 d6 6.♘c3 0-0
7.♘f3 e5

This is how Black creates a proper counterbalance in the centre.

8.0-0

Via transposition a variation of the King's Indian has arisen. Black has no opening problems to speak of, as White would be well advised not to advance the d-pawn prematurely in this line.

8...cxd5 9.cxd5 ♘bd7 10.♘d2

A standard move in the Ben-Oni. White takes his knight to c4 in order to put pressure on d6.

10...a5

Black wants to take his knight to c5 without having to worry about the advancing b-pawn. The course of the game will show that this is a rather dubious plan, but this was very hard to foresee here. 10...♘e8 seems to be a good move to

cover the d-pawn and make f7-f5 possible.

11.♘c4 ♘c5 12.♘b5 ♘e8 13.f4!

Very energetically played. Now Black has to go through all kinds of hoops to prevent himself coming to an inglorious end.

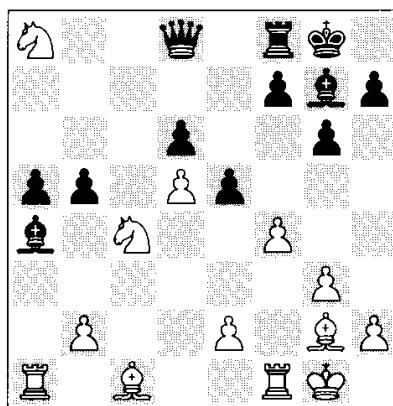
13...♗d7 14.a4 ♘xa4!

This is what Geller must have relied on when he decided to go for 10...a5. Now the play becomes very sharp.

15.♚xa4 ♘c7 16.♘xc7

White is forced to give up his queen, but he gets plenty of material in return.

16...♗xa4 17.♘xa8 b5



With this advance Black covers his queen's bishop and attacks the second knight. White is forced to put his knights in rather curious positions.

18.♘cb6

Forced, as after 18.♘ab6 ♗b3 one of the knights would be lost.

18...exf4 19.♖xf4 ♕e8 20.e3 ♖e7

Some people maintain that knights that cover each other are automatically badly placed, but in the present circumstances Black will find it extremely difficult to eliminate the bizarrely positioned knight duo. After the text-move Black is threatening both 21...♖b7 and 21...♖a7.

21.♖a3

White introduces a counter-threat, viz. 22.b3.

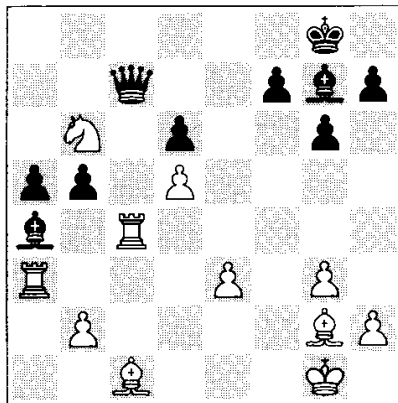
21...♖c7

The battle remains razor-sharp. There was no other way to parry White's threat.

22.♗xc7 ♕xc7

The tournament bulletin reports that the experts in the press room assessed the position at this point as favouring Black. But now Kortchnoi uncorks a magnificent resource.

23.♖c4!!



An unexpected problem move that yields White a clear advantage. Black is forced to take the rook, as 23...♕xb6 24.♖c8+ ♔f8 25.b3 would leave him with a hopeless position.

23...bxc4 24.♗xa4

Now White is still ahead in material and he has also consolidated his position. His only problem is looming time-trouble.

24...h5

The only way to create complications.

25.♗c3 h4 26.gxh4

The correct reply. White could not afford to allow Black to take on g3, as this would seriously weaken his kingside.

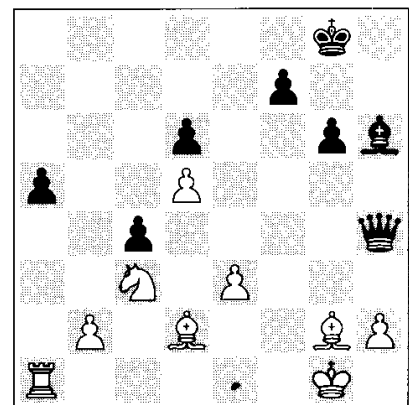
26...♕d8 27.♖a4

This rook move costs White a crucial tempo, allowing Black to restore the balance. Correct was 27.♔d2 ♕xh4 28.♖a1, and White retains good winning chances.

27...♕xh4 28.♔d2 ♔h6

Threatening to take on e3.

29.♖a1



29...f5!

Intending to push the f-pawn further.

30.♗e2

30.♖f1 would also have been met by 30...♕e7.

30...♕e7 31.♔f2 ♕h4+ 32.♔f1

White avoids the draw, but very soon he will have no other choice but to accept it.

32...♕xh2 33.♖xa5 ♕e5

With a double attack on the b- and e-pawns. Now White has nothing better than perpetual check.

34.♖a8+ ♔f7 35.♖a7+ ♔e8

36.♖a8+ ♔f7 37.♖a7+ ♔e8

38.♖a8+

Draw.

Réti Opening

Tigran Petrosian Mikhail Tal

1.c4 ♖f6 2.g3 c6 3.♗f3 d5 4.b3
♙f5

The prelude to the New Yorker variation.

5.♙a3

An unusual bishop sortie with a clear purpose: White wants to prevent his opponent from developing along the usual lines.

5...g6

A good solution to the positional problem. Black is going to fianchetto his king's bishop, after which the white bishop sortie loses its effectiveness. In Benko-Addison, U.S. Championship 1966/67, Black went for another plan. Play continued 5...a5 6.♙g2 ♖a6 7.0-0 ♗b4 8.d3 h6 9.♙b2 e6 10.a3 ♖a6 11.♗bd2, and although Black has managed to develop in the usual way, White has gained a tempo compared to other examples.

6.d3 ♙g7 7.♗bd2 ♖b6

The start of a time-consuming plan that will fail to yield Black sufficient counterplay. After the normal 7...0-0 White would have found it difficult to get an opening advantage.

8.♙g2 ♗g4

The aim of the previous move. Tal wants to create complications from the word go. For white players such adventures usually turn out fairly well, but Black has less leeway.

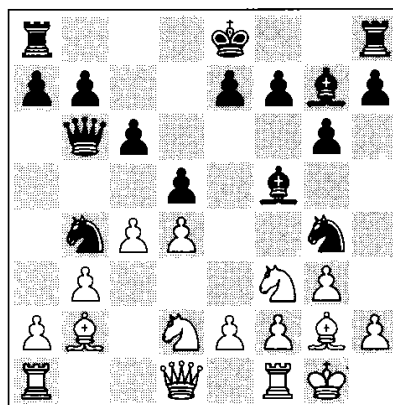
9.d4

A forced but strong pawn sacrifice. After 9...♙xd4 10.♗xd4 ♖xd4 11.0-0 Black would be in serious jeopardy.

9...♗a6 10.0-0 ♗b4

The second knight is deployed in a threatening position as well, but the only result is that both knights will have to retreat quite soon. But now at least Black is ready to castle.

11.♙b2



11...0-0

Averbakh has indicated 11...a5, to prevent White's expansion on the queenside, as better. In the tournament bulletin he indicates that White will then play 12.a3 ♖a6 13.♗h4, with advantage (remarkably enough, this variation has not been included in Averbakh's comments for *The Games of Petrosian*, Volume 1). After the knight sortie Black has the following possibilities:

A) 13...♙xd4? 14.c5! ♖xc5 15.♗e4!, and wins; an instructive turn of events.

B) 13...♖d8 14.♗xf5 gxf5 15.e3, and White is better.

C) 13...♙e6!. After this laconic bishop move I fail to see any advantage for White. Black maintains an iron grip on the centre.

Instead of 13.♗h4 I think 13.♙c3 0-0 14.e3 is the best way to approach the position. White can boast a solid advantage.

12.a3 ♗a6

The first knight is withdrawn. The only result of Black's action of five moves ago

is that the character of the position has changed. Instead of an early middle game arising from the 'Réti system', the present position is one from the symmetrical Grünfeld, with the one difference that White has gained a lot of time. Tal must be feeling very uncomfortable, as he would know from his own experience how White can fight his way to an advantage in the symmetrical Grünfeld. A good example is Tal-Botvinnik, 11th match game, Moscow 1960, which continued 1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.g3 g6 3.♙g2 ♙g7 4.0-0 0-0 5.c4 c6 6.b3 ♘e4 7.d4 d5 8.♙b2 ♙e6 9.♘bd2 ♘xd2 10.♚xd2! (with the point that 10...dxc4 is met by 11.♘g5) 10...♘a6 11.♖ac1 ♚d6 12.♘e5 ♗fd8 13.♗fd1 ♗ac8 14.♚a5!, and White was better.

13.♖c1 ♗ad8 14.b4 ♘b8

An awkward retreat. Yet this is Black's best defence. White has a space advantage, but the black position remains solid.

15.♚b3 ♘f6 16.a4

Further expansion on the queenside.

16...♘e4 17.♗fd1 ♘d7 18.cxd5

True to style, Petrosian goes for clarity. Vasiliev indicates that, objectively speaking, the alternative 18.a5 was stronger, as this forces Black to swap on c4 before going on. After 18.a5 dxc4 19.♚xc4 ♚c7 White has the breaking move 20.b5, with the point 20...♚xa5 21.bxc6 ♗c8 22.♘xe4 ♙xe4 23.♙c3, followed by 24.d5, and White maintains the pawn on c6, according to Vasiliev. And it is true that this looks bad for Black, as the passed pawn on c6 becomes very strong. This is why 21...♘b6 seems to me to be a better defence. After 22.♚b3 ♙e6 23.♚c2 ♘xd2, followed by 24...bxc6, Black can limit the damage.

18...cxd5 19.a5 ♚d6

The swap on d5 has made this square available to the queen.

20.b5 ♘xd2 21.♗xd2 ♗c8

Black is trying to ease the pressure on his position by exchanging pieces.

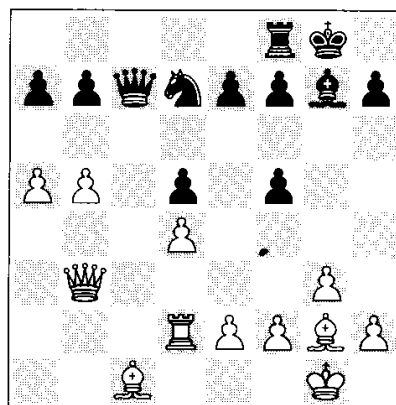
22.♘h4

This yields White the bishop pair, as the black queen's bishop has nowhere to go. After 22...♙e6 23.♗xc8 ♗xc8 24.♙a3 ♚c7 25.♙xd5 ♙xd5 26.♚xd5 e6 27.♚d6 Black will never see his pawn back again.

22...♗xc1+ 23.♙xc1 ♚c7

24.♘xf5 gxf5

Black has to recapture, since 24...♚xc1+ would fail to 25.♗d1.



25.♙a3

Several commentators have indicated the alternative 25.♗c2 ♚xa5 26.♚xd5 here, and it's true that this looks fantastic for White, especially because the queen check on e1 won't yield Black anything. Petrosian probably wasn't entirely sure of 26...♚a4, which Black can play to confuse things. But even then White's advantage looks considerable after 27.♗c7. With the text, White also maintains his advantage, but Black's chances of a successful defence have increased.

25...♚xa5 26.♚b4

The point of the previous move. If Black goes for the queen swap, White wins back his pawn in very favourable circumstances.

**26...♖b6 27.♙xd5 e6 28.♙f3
♜c8 29.♖a4 ♜c7 30.♚g2**

With the last few moves both players have reinforced their position. White has two modest strategic pluses: the bishop pair and a majority in the centre that outweighs the black queenside majority.

30...a6

Tal is aiming for further simplification in the hope that this will make defending easier. Averbakh indicates the alternative 30...♙f8 as more tenacious, but in that case it seems to me that Black will be hard pressed after 31.♙xf8, followed by 32.♜a2. The endgame of rook + bishop v rook + knight with an extra white central pawn seems to offer White good winning chances.

31.bxa6 ♖xa6

Black has to go for the queen swap, since 31...bxa6 32.♜b2 would land him in very hot water indeed.

32.♖xa6 bxa6 33.e3

Covering the d-pawn and giving the rook free play.

33...a5

Not a very useful move, as the a-pawn will eventually be lost anyway. But there are no active alternatives available.

**34.♜a2 ♜a7 35.♙b4 a4 36.♙c6
♙f8**

In order to win the a-pawn White must now give up his bishop pair.

37.♙xf8 ♚xf8 38.♜xa4 ♜c7

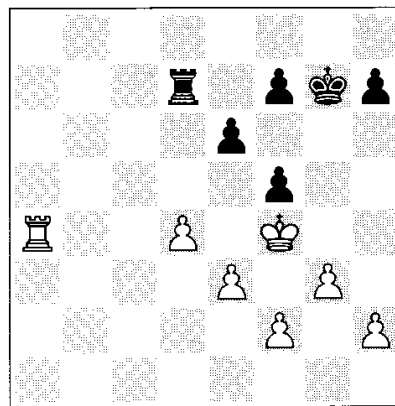
A difficult choice for Tal. It is hard to say how good White's winning chances would have been if Black had swapped rooks. Even Averbakh, endgame specialist

par excellence, is not sure whether the text is better than swapping the rooks.

39.♙xd7

This swap is at any rate justified. If White had withdrawn the bishop, the second rank would have become available to the black rook.

39...♜xd7 40.♚f3 ♚g7 41.♚f4



41...♚f6

Just before the adjournment Tal plays this king move, and it is quite possible that it is the decisive error.

The white king was not yet threatening to penetrate via the fifth rank, which gave Black time to give his rook a more active position. Correct was 41...♜b7!, when the black rook threatens to penetrate on b2, with the result that the game plan (viz. 42.h3) would fail to yield a clear result after 42...♜b2 43.f3 h5 44.♚g5 ♜f2. This means that White has to withdraw his rook with 42.♜a2, but this is countered, as in the game, by 42...♚f6, intending to meet 43.h3 with 43...h5.

This leaves White some practical chances, but frankly speaking I have the feeling that, objectively, the position is a draw.

42.h3

The sealed move.

42...h5

All commentators rejected this advance. This is correct in itself, as the rest of the game will show that the h-pawn is lost by force. But it has to be said that Black would also have lost if he had taken a more passive approach.

Tal must have realised this while analysing the adjourned position. The white plan is simple: he will play 43.g4, forcing Black to swap pawns. Then he takes his rook to d7 and aims for e3-e4, followed by d4-d5. If Black puts his rook on the fourth rank in order to prevent the second advance, White first takes his king to h3 and possibly to h4.

There seems to be no antidote to this plan.

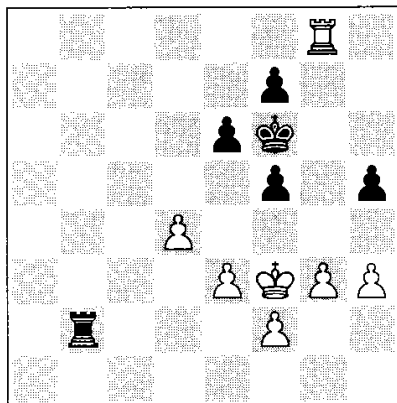
43.♖a8 ♜b7

Too little too late.

44.♗g8

Cutting off the black king from the g-file.

44...♞b2 45.♔f3



The king has done its job on f4 and goes back.

45...♞d2 46.h4 ♔e7 47.♗g5

The rest is simple.

47...♔f8 48.♞xh5 ♔g7 49.♞g5+ ♔h7
50.h5 ♞a2 51.g4 ♔h6 52.♞g8 ♔h7
53.♞e8 fxc4+ 54.♔g3 ♔h6 55.♞e7
♔g7 56.♞c7 ♞b2 57.♞c5 ♔f6 58.d5

♔g5 59.h6 exd5 60.♞xd5+ ♔g6
61.♞d6+ ♔g5 62.h7 ♞b8 63.♞d1 ♞h8
64.♞h1

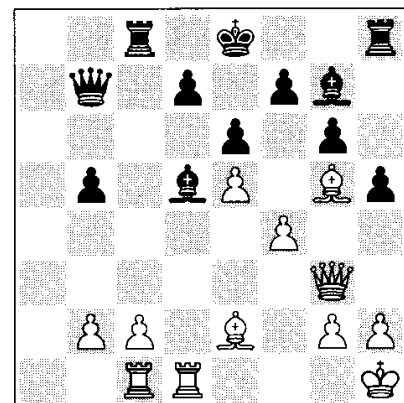
And Black exceeded his time.

Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres Miroslav Filip

A Taimanov with an early swap on d4 by Black. White has put pressure on the enemy position, but failed to capitalise on it. The people in the press room were of the opinion that 22.c3 (rather than 22.h3) would have been stronger. The eventual result was a major piece ending.

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
e6 5.♗c3 ♞c7 6.♔e3 a6 7.♔e2 ♗xd4
8.♞xd4 b5 9.0-0 ♔b7 10.♞ad1 ♗f6
11.e5 ♗d5 12.♗xd5 ♔xd5 13.♞c1 ♞c8
14.a4 ♞b7 15.axb5 axb5 16.♞g4 g6
17.♔g5 h5 18.♞g3 ♔g7 19.♞fd1 ♞b8
20.f4 ♞b6+ 21.♔h1 ♞b7



22.h3 ♔e4 23.c3 0-0 24.♞d6 ♞c7
25.♔f6 ♔xf6 26.exf6 ♞c5 27.♞cd1 ♞d8
28.♔h2 ♔h7 29.♞1d4 ♞f5 30.♔d3
♔xd3 31.♞xd3 ♞xf6 32.♞xd7 ♞xd7
33.♞xd7 ♞b8 34.g3 h4 35.♞d4 ♔g7
36.♞d6 ♞a8 37.♞e3

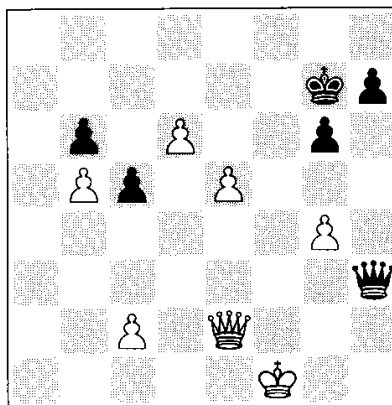
1/2-1/2

Pirc Defence

Pal Benko
Robert Fischer

Benko opens the game with a move rarely played at top level, either then or now. He would do this every time until Round 23 in this lengthy tournament. Botvinnik, incidentally, successfully used 1.g3 a few times as well. Fischer appears to find it hard to handle and ends up in a Pirc defence. White creates a space advantage and manages, despite raging time-trouble, to convert it to a winning advantage. After 40 moves the game is initially adjourned, but Fischer eventually resigns without resuming play. This result surprised many people, who took it as a sign that Benko was going to do more than play the role of outsider in this event. Forty years later I met Benko in Curaçao. He gave me his card, and to my surprise the full details of this victory were printed on it, showing the pride he justifiably took in it.

1.g3 ♖f6 2.♙g2 g6 3.e4 d6 4.d4 ♙g7
5.♗e2 0-0 6.0-0 e5 7.♗bc3 c6 8.a4
♘bd7 9.a5 exd4 10.♗xd4 ♗c5 11.h3
♞e8 12.♞e1 ♗fd7 13.♙e3 ♚c7 14.f4
♞b8 15.♚d2 b5 16.axb6 axb6 17.b4
♘e6 18.b5 ♘xd4 19.♙xd4 ♙xd4+
20.♚xd4 c5 21.♚d2 ♙b7 22.♞ad1 ♞e6
23.e5 ♙xg2 24.♙xg2 ♚b7+ 25.♙f2
♞d8 26.exd6 ♗f6 27.♞xe6 fxe6
28.♚e3 ♙f7 29.♚f3 ♚b8 30.♗e4
♗xe4+ 31.♚xe4 ♞d7 32.♚c6 ♚d8
33.♙f3 ♙g7 34.g4 e5 35.fxe5 ♞f7+
36.♙g2 ♚h4 37.♞f1 ♞xf1 38.♙xf1
♚xh3+ 39.♚g2 ♚e3 40.♚e2 ♚h3+



1-0

ROUND 2

May 3

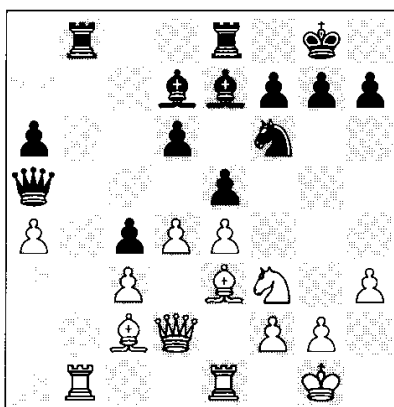
Kortchnoi - Petrosian	1/2-1/2
Tal - Keres	0-1
Filip - Benko	1-0
Geller - Fischer	1-0

Ruy Lopez

Viktor Kortchnoi
Tigran Petrosian

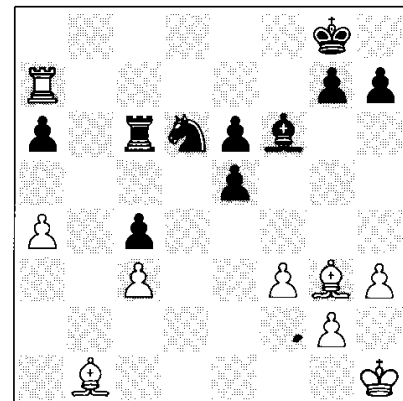
I have already referred to this game in the section 'Combine'. After going for the Chigorin variation of the Ruy Lopez the players find themselves locked in a strategic trench war with opportunities on both sides. Towards the end of the game both combatants got into time-trouble – 'White most of all,' to quote the bulletin. After his 36th move Kortchnoi offers a draw, which Black accepts.

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 ♘a5 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♚c7
12.♘bd2 ♙d7 13.♘f1 ♘c4 14.b3 ♘b6
15.♘e3 c4 16.bxc4 ♘xc4 17.♘xc4
bxc4 18.a4 ♖fe8 19.♙e3 ♚a5 20.♚d2
♖ab8 21.♖ab1



21...exd4 22.♚xd4 ♙e6 23.♘g5 ♚c7

24.♙f4 ♘d7 25.♖ed1 ♘e5 26.♘xe6
fxe6 27.♙g3 ♘f7 28.♙h1 ♙f6 29.e5
dxe5 30.♚d7 ♚xd7 31.♖xd7 ♖xb1+
32.♙xb1 ♖b8 33.♙a2 ♖c8 34.♖a7 ♘d6
35.f3 ♖c6 36.♙b1



Black has an extra pawn, but White seems to have adequate compensation: his rook is actively positioned, he has the bishop pair and he can meet 36...♖b6 with 37.♖a8+. Yet Black would have had very good winning chances after 36...e4!. After the game Geller whispered this little move, which is also indicated in the bulletin, into Petrosian's ear. The point is that after 37.fxe4 ♙xc3 38.e5 Black has the strong reply 38...♘f5!. After 39.♖a8+ ♙f7 40.♖a7+ Black does not continue 40...♙g6? (in view of 41.♙e4) but 40...♙e8, after which White remains in difficulties. Vasiliev observes that Petrosian wasn't overly upset about this

missed chance. ‘Why get upset?’ the Armenian is reported to have asked himself. His interior monologue then continues as follows: ‘I saw that move, but did not realize its real strength. That means that I wouldn’t have been able to win anyway’. Such sentiments are not uncommon for top players. There is, of course, a certain amount of self-deception involved if Petrosian had actually thought this, because the black position would have been very easy to play, especially for an end-game virtuoso like Petrosian. He must have been very nervous, and when you’re nervous a draw offer from your opponent suddenly sounds very attractive. He had probably been content with the prospect of a draw before starting play, so just one weak moment in which to accept the offer was enough to ensure that the game did indeed end in a draw.

Ruy Lopez

Mikhail Tal
Paul Keres

‘One of the most complicated games ever played between these grandmasters,’ the bulletin observes.

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 ♘a5
10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♘c6 12.♘bd2

The alternative is 12.d5, in order to close the centre with tempo.

12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘d7

Via transposition – normally 11...♘d7 is played first, and only then 13...♘c6 – a variation has arisen that Keres has considerable experience with.

14.♘b3

Again, 14.d5 was the alternative, while 14.a3 and 14.♘f1 have also been played.

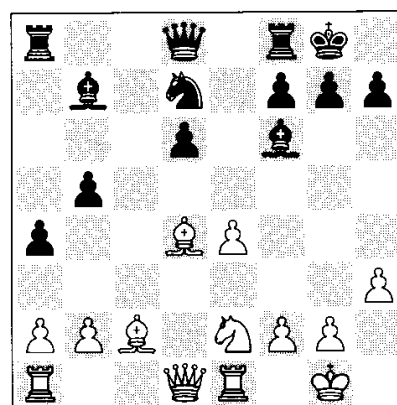
14...a5

The standard reply. Black wants to create space on the queenside before clearing up the situation in the centre. An interesting alternative is 14...♘b6, as in a game Geller-Dorfman, 45th USSR championship 1977. After 15.d5 ♘a7 16.♘a5 ♙d7 17.♙d2 ♖b8 18.♙b4 ♙d8!, followed by 19...♘c4, Black has managed to create counterplay despite White’s space advantage.

15.♙e3 a4 16.♘c1

The alternative is 16.♘bd2. With the text, White aims to deploy his knight again via e2.

16...exd4 17.♘xd4 ♘xd4
18.♙xd4 ♙f6 19.♘e2 ♙b7



Black has taken an active position and seems to have solved his opening problems satisfactorily. Yet White is better, mainly because of his better pawn structure.

20.♖d3

A very direct move. White attacks the b-pawn, at the same time threatening 21.e5. Yet the text is not White’s strongest option, as it gives Black good counterplay. If Tal had been in form, he would undoubtedly have played differently. In

Matanovic-Gligoric, Titovo Uzice 1966, White was better after 20.♘c3 ♕c6 21.b3 a3 22.b4 ♘e5 23.♕b3 ♖c8 24.♖c1. Another interesting manoeuvre is one that Tal later indicated himself: 20.♕xf6 ♘xf6 21.♘d4 ♚b6 22.♘f5, and now Black won't have it easy either. Remarkably enough, Thomas gives the text an exclamation mark in *Complete Games of Mikhail Tal 1960-1966*.

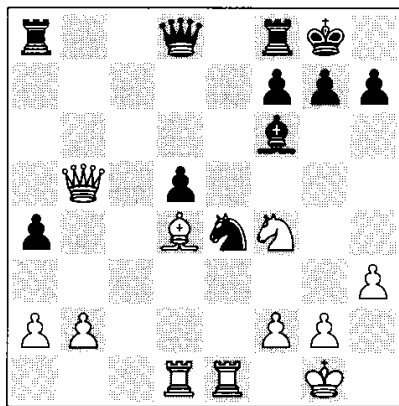
20...♘c5 21.♚xb5 ♕xe4

21...♕a6 was insufficient in view of 22.♚b4.

22.♕xe4 ♘xe4 23.♖ad1 d5

Giving the decentralised knight some extra support. Keres must already have planned to sacrifice his d-pawn in exchange for active play if the circumstances were right.

24.♘f4



In the Argentinian book on the tournament – a separate publication by the journal *Revista Ajedrez* – this knight move is given a question mark, with the observation that it is incredible that Tal did not anticipate the looming complications. I am convinced that Tal was well aware of what was awaiting him. He probably thought that the alternative 24.f3 would not yield White much. The author of *Revista Ajedrez* states that White is

positionally better after this, but I doubt if this is still the case after 24...♘g5. White can capture the d-pawn, but this leaves his king position weakened, whereas Black is enjoying pleasantly active play.

24...♕xd4 25.♖xd4 ♚f6

This leads, by force, to an endgame with interesting material relations.

26.♚xd5 ♖ad8

Certainly not 26...♘xf2 in view of 27.♚e5!, and the knight on f2 remains locked in.

27.♖exe4

The point of White's play.

27...♖xd5 28.♘xd5 ♚g5

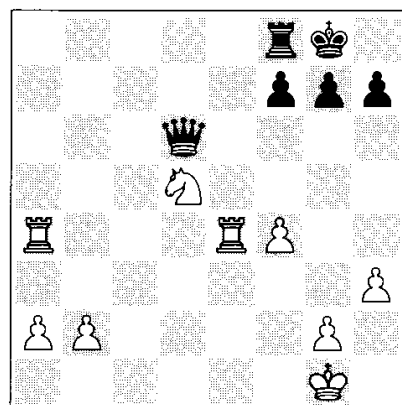
Providing indirect cover for the a-pawn.

29.f4

White has to weaken his position in order to capture the a-pawn.

29...♚h6 30.♖xa4 ♚d6

Black plays his queen again, intending to make an escape hatch for his king with h7-h6. It is remarkable how few squares he has available; the white knight has taken up a commanding central position.



31.♖a5

Decentralisation. Tal must have assessed the position too optimistically here. Correct was 31.♖ad4, after which the co-ordination of the white pieces is preserved. The drawback of this centralising move is

that it will now be more difficult to get the white queenside pawns moving. The advantages outweigh the disadvantage, though: with the white rooks controlling the central files, his king is not in danger. How should this position be assessed? Thomas is of the opinion that White is clearly better (which also explains why he gave White's 20th move an exclamation mark). Personally I think the chances are approximately equal. One possible continuation is 31...♖a6 32.a4 h6, followed by 33...♖b8 or 33...♖h7. Neither player will be able to undertake much in the way of an attack.

31...h6 32.b4

Still quite optimistic. It would have been safer to go 32.♖h2 and possibly withdraw the knight to c3.

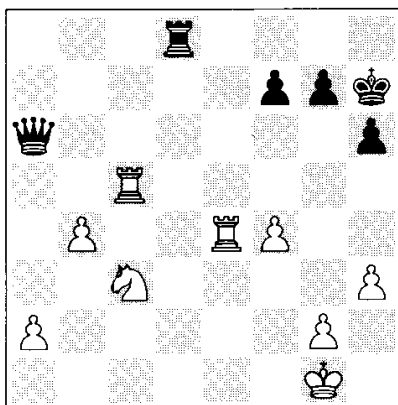
32...♖h7

Preparing 33...♖c8.

33.♖c5

The c-file is under control, but now Black can penetrate via a different route.

33...♖a6 34.♖c3 ♖d8



At this point, White had probably already run out of adequate defensive resources.

35.f5

A desperate attempt at a counter-attack that just hastens White's end.

35...♖d2 36.♖e8

Threatening 37.♖cc8. But the black attack strikes home first.

36...♖d3

Now 37.♖cc8 fails to 37...♖d4+ 38.♖h2 ♖f4+ mating.

37.♖e4 ♖c2 38.a4 ♖c1+ 39.♖h2 ♖d6+ 40.♖ee5 ♖xc3

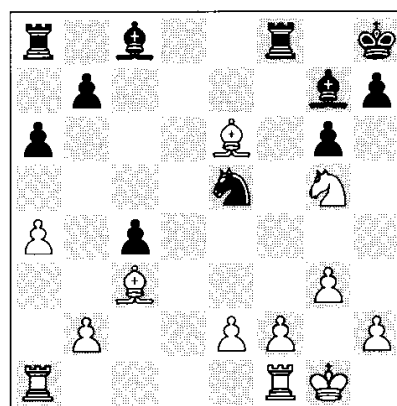
White resigns. An interesting game that makes abundantly clear how vulnerable Tal was in the fifth playing hour.

King's Indian Defence

Miroslav Filip Pal Benko

A good strategic game by Filip, who outplays Benko right from the opening. It also made for a good start for the Czech grandmaster. No one could foresee at this point that the 26 games that were to follow would yield him no more than 5½ points.

1.c4 g6 2.d4 ♖f6 3.g3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.♖g2 ♖g7 6.♖f3 a6 7.a4 e5 8.dxe6 fxe6 9.♖c3 ♖c6 10.0-0 0-0 11.♖g5 ♖e5 12.♖b3 ♖a5 13.♖ce4 ♖e8 14.♖h3 d5 15.♖d2 dxc4 16.♖a3 ♖b6 17.♖xc5 ♖xc5 18.♖xc5 ♖c7 19.♖cxe6 ♖xe6 20.♖xe6+ ♖h8 21.♖c3



21...h6 22.♖xc8 ♖fxc8 23.♖e6 ♖f6 24.♖f4 ♖h7 25.♖d5 ♖g7 26.♖b6 ♖e8 27.♖xa8 ♖xa8 28.♖fd1 1-0

Sicilian Defence

Efim Geller
Robert Fischer

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6

Throughout Fischer's career, the Najdorf variation of the Sicilian has been his favourite weapon. He has contributed extensively to its theory and development.

6.♙e2

At the start of the 1960s, this was Geller's favourite set-up in the Najdorf. It was only later that he would forge 6.♙g5 into a dangerous weapon.

6...e5 7.♘b3 ♙e7 8.0-0 0-0
9.♙e3

Decades later, 9.♚h1 became fashionable here. An example is Short-J.Polgar, Budapest 2003: 9.♚h1 ♘c6 10.♙e3 ♙e6 11.♚d2 d5 12.exd5 ♘xd5 13.♘xd5 ♙xd5 14.♚fd1, and White was better.

9...♚c7

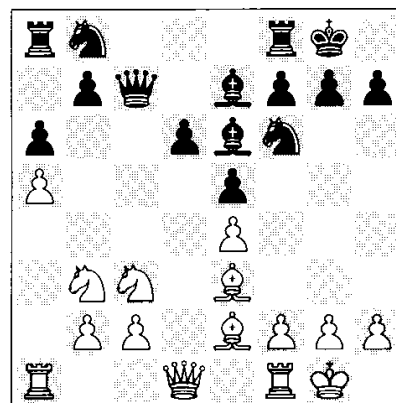
In *My Great Predecessors*, Part II, Kasparov rejects this queen move, arguing that it is only correct if White has already played f2-f4. Such subtleties were unheard of at the start of the 1960s, and it was years before Geller was confronted with a better approach to Black's positional problems. Geller-Ivkov, Palma de Mallorca 1970, continued as follows: 9...♙e6 10.a4 ♘bd7 11.a5 ♚c8 12.f3 ♚c7 (only now!) 13.♚d2 ♚fd8 14.♚fd1 d5, with equal play.

10.a4 ♙e6

Shortly before, during the Interzonal Tournament in Stockholm, Geller had been confronted with three different continuations here. It is worth mentioning his earlier game against Fischer here. This saw 10...b6 11.♚d2 ♙b7 12.f3 ♙c6

13.♚fd1 ♘bd7 14.♚e1 h6 15.♚f1, with pressure on the black position.

11.a5



Smyslov's move. White further expands his territory on the queenside. In Yanofsky-Fischer, Stockholm izt 1962, White played 11.f4. After 11...exf4 12.♚xf4 ♘bd7 13.♘d5 ♙xd5 14.exd5 ♘e5 Black had sufficient counterplay.

11...♘bd7

In Smyslov-Tal, Candidates' Tournament 1959, Black played 11...♚c6 in order to prevent the knight jumping to d5. However, after 12.♙f3 ♘bd7 White played 13.♘d5 anyway, and after 13...♙xd5 14.exd5 ♚b5 15.♚d3! White was better. With the text, Fischer is following a more recent practical example.

12.♘d5

Naturally.

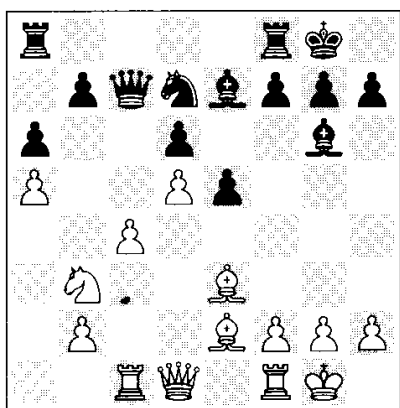
12...♘xd5 13.exd5 ♙f5 14.c4
♙g6

This move, too, has been played before; Black wants to have the option of pushing his f-pawn. But this idea is not effective, as we will see later in the game. Correct was Mednis's recommendation 14...♚ac8, intending to then withdraw the queen to d8, after which the white advance c4-c5, as in the game, has been taken out of the equation. Kasparov also

suggests 14...♖fc8. As so often, it is hard to determine which rook should be played. If Black plays his king's rook, his queenside will be better protected, but this might encourage White to try his luck on the kingside, for example by preparing f2-f4.

15.♖c1!

This is far stronger than 15.♕h1, as in Smyslov-Gligoric, Havana 1962. Black continued 15...♖ac8 16.♕d2 ♕d8 17.♖ac1 h6, and he had solved his opening problems.



15...♗c5

This fails to solve the positional problem. In his comments, Geller indicates 15...f5 as better. Possible continuations are:

A) 16.c5. This was indicated by Geller. Play could then continue as follows: 16...f4 17.cxd6 ♕xd6 18.♗c5 ♗xc5 19.♗xc5, with attractive prospects, according to Geller. But Kasparov observes that Black will get counterplay after 19...e4 20.♗xb7 ♕e5 21.d6 ♗f6 – and it is true that this looks unclear. Personally, I believe 20.♗g4 (instead of 20.♗xb7), in order to keep better control of the position, to be better, although White's advantage is not very clear even then.

B) 16.f4. The correct approach. Any further advances of the f-pawn are nipped

in the bud, and the black queen's bishop remains sidelined. After the variation given by Kasparov (16...exf4 17.♗xf4 ♗c5 18.♕h1 ♗f6 19.♗xc5 ♕xc5 20.♕d2, followed by 21.b4) White is clearly better.

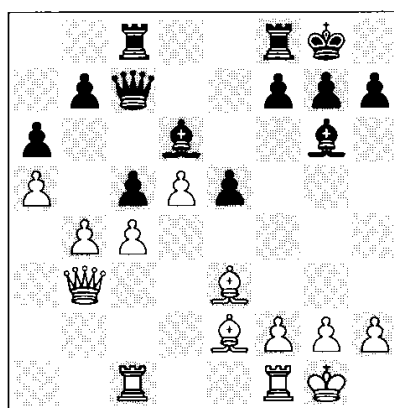
16.♗xc5 dxc5 17.b4!

A temporary pawn sacrifice putting pressure on the enemy queenside.

17...♖ac8

Fischer decides not to take the pawn. After 17...cxb4 18.♗b6 ♕d7 Kasparov's recommendation of 19.♕b3 is White's strongest option, as he is now ready to advance the c-pawn further. The immediate 19.c5 is less convincing in view of Dvoretzky's discovery, 19...♗g5!, which enables Black to meet 20.♖c4 with 20...b3.

18.♕b3 ♗d6



19.♖fd1

Geller hesitates. Kasparov shows that White could have played more resolutely here with 19.bxc5 ♗xc5 20.♗xc5 ♕xc5 21.♕xb7, when Black has the following possibilities:

A) 21...♕xa5 22.♖a1 ♕d2. This is what Geller found unclear in his calculations. But White would remain in firm control after 23.♖fe1 a5 24.♗f1, and in the long run the connected passed pawns will become unstoppable.

B) 21...♖b8 22.♗xa6 ♖b2 23.♙ce1
♙a2 24.♗b6, and liquidates to an end-
game with a sound extra pawn.

After the text-move Black can fight back.

19...♗e7

Indirectly covering the b-pawn.

20.bxc5 ♕xc5 21.♙xc5 ♖xc5

22.♖a1

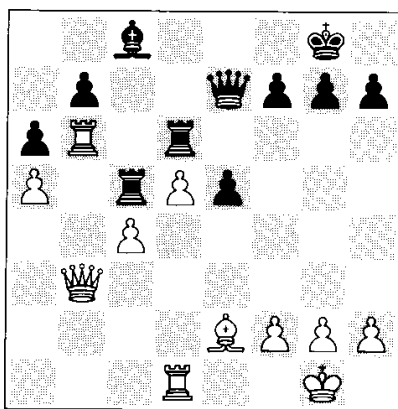
Strong play. The rook is on its way to b6.

22...♖d8 23.♖a4 ♙f5

Black's best defence. The bishop is going
to return to its starting square, providing
the weak b-pawn with natural cover.

24.♖b4 ♙c8 25.♖b6 ♖d6

Black tries to keep the blockade in place,
but his attempts will eventually prove
fruitless. His best practical chance was
25...♖xa5, although after 26.d6 ♗d7
27.♙f3 ♗a4(!) 28.♗d3 ♖c5 29.♙d5
♙f5 30.♗d2 White will continue to
dominate the proceedings.

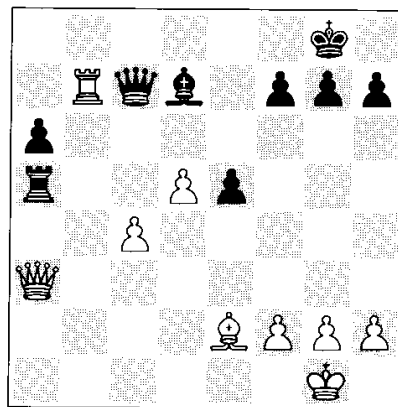


26.♗b4 ♗c7 27.♖xd6 ♗xd6

28.♖b1 ♗c7

A good alternative was 28...g6, after
which 29.♗a3 fails to 29...♖xd5. Correct
is 29.♗a4, intending to withdraw the
queen with 30.♗a1 after 29...♙d7.
Kasparov then gives: 30...♗c7 31.♖b6
♙b5 32.h3 ♙xc4 33.d6 ♗c8 34.♙xc4
♖xc4 35.♗xe5, 'with a difficult defence
for Black'. It seems to me that White
should be winning.

29.♗a4 ♙d7 30.♗a3 ♖xa5
31.♖xb7



The point of the queen manoeuvre.

31...♗xb7

The alternative was 31...♖xa3, intending
to continue with 32...♖a1+ 33.♙f1 ♙f5
after 32.♖xc7.

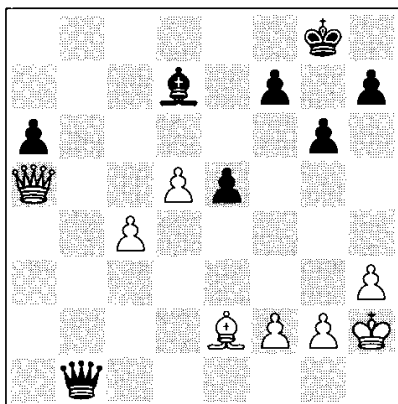
Mednis – as well as Boleslavsky in the bul-
letin – now indicate 34.f3 as winning,
but Kasparov shows that in that case
Black has a beautiful way to make a draw:
34...h5! 35.♙f2 ♖a2+, and in order to
escape the checks, the white king has to
go to c3. This is followed by a rook check
on c2, followed by ♖c2-f2, after which
the white bishop is caught. White will
have to be more resolute if he wants to
win and should go 34.g4! ♙xg4 35.♙g2.
If Black now plays 35...♖a3, with a re-
newed threat against the white king,
White makes a second pawn sacrifice:
36.h3!. After 36...♙xh3+ 37.♙h2 the
double pawn sacrifice has created time
for White to clear the way for his passed
pawns.

32.♗xa5 g6 33.h3 ♗b1+

34.♙h2

Obvious; White has created an escape
hatch for his king, and this is now uti-
lised. Kasparov nevertheless gives the text
a question mark and observes that White

has thrown away the win. This, I believe, is incorrect – after the text-move White is still winning. At the same time, 34.♔f1 was probably simpler, e.g. 34...♔f5 35.d6, and 35...♔d3 fails to 36.d7.



34...♔f5

The critical move was 34...♔c2, which gives rise to a queen ending: 35.♔d8+ ♔g7 36.♔xd7 ♔xe2 37.♔c7 a5, and now Rabar and Mednis indicate 38.f4 as winning, citing 38...a4 39.fxe5 a3 40.e6 as the point of White's move. But Black can draw with 38...♔e3 (or 38...♔e4). White must not go for the pawn ending, because the black king is in the square of the c-pawn and if he takes on e5 with the pawn, Black will have perpetual check. But 38.c5! instead of 38.f4 is a far stronger option. Now White can make a race of it, as witness 38...a4 39.c6 a3 40.♔e7! a2 41.c7, and now:

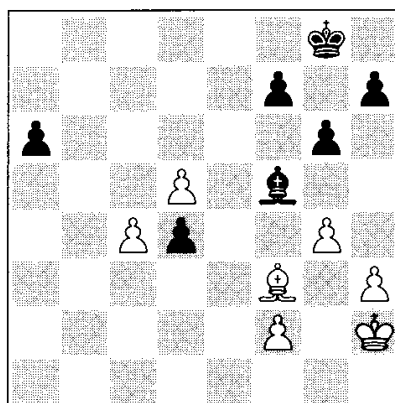
A) 41...a1♔ 42.c8♔, and White is threatening mate in one. The fact that Black was first to queen his pawn has not helped him.

B) 41...♔c4 42.♔xe5+ f6 43.♔e7+ ♔h6, and now 44.♔f8+, followed by 45.c8♔, is White's simplest option.

35.♔c3 ♔e4 36.♔f3 ♔d4

The alternative 36...♔d3 would have demanded more technical expertise on White's part: after 37.♔xd3 ♔xd3 38.c5 ♔f8 39.d6 ♔e8 Dvoretsky gives the forcing line 40.c6 e4 41.♔g4! f5 42.♔d1 ♔b5 43.c7 ♔d7 44.♔b3 ♔c8 45.g4, and White wins after the intervention of his king.

37.♔xd4 exd4 38.g4!



The most convincing road to victory.

38...♔c8 39.c5 a5 40.c6 ♔f8

Here the game was adjourned and later Fischer resigned without resuming play. Geller had sealed 41.d6.

ROUND 3

May 5

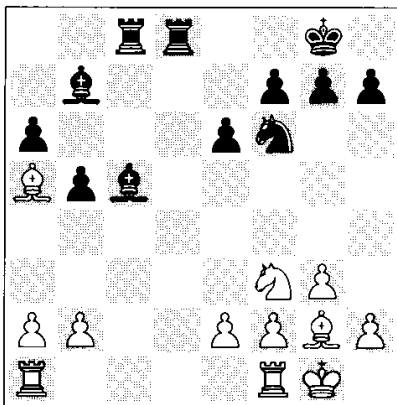
Keres - Kortchnoi	1/2-1/2
Petrosian - Geller	1/2-1/2
Benko - Tal	1-0
Fischer - Filip	1-0

Catalan Opening

Paul Keres
Viktor Kortchnoi

The most remarkable aspect of this game is that Keres opened with the queen's pawn. For the rest, it was a pretty uneventful affair; this variation of the Catalan is known to be quite innocuous. Keres probably wanted to take it easy after his enervating game against Tal, which had gone pretty well for him.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.g3 dxc4
5.♚a4+ ♘bd7 6.♙g2 a6 7.♚xc4 c5
8.dxc5 ♙xc5 9.0-0 b5 10.♚h4 ♙b7
11.♘bd2 ♙e7 12.♘b3 ♖c8 13.♚d4 0-0
14.♙d2 ♘c5 15.♚xd8 ♖fxd8 16.♘xc5
♙xc5 17.♙a5



17...♖e8 18.♖fd1 ♙d5 19.♘e1 ♙xg2
20.♙xg2 ♘d5 21.♘d3 ♙b6 22.♙xb6
♘xb6 23.♖ac1 ♙f8 24.b3 ♖ed8 25.♙f3

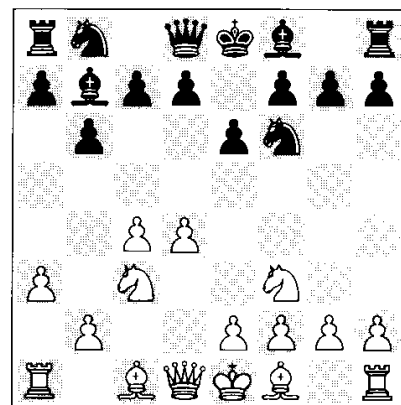
♙e7 26.g4 h6 27.h4 a5 28.♖g1 ♘d5
29.a3 g5 30.hxg5 hxg5 31.♖gd1 ♘b6
32.♖h1 a4 33.bxa4 bxa4 1/2-1/2

Queen's Indian Defence

Tigran Petrosian
Efim Geller

The first personal encounter of the conspirators. The bulletin describes the game as follows: 'Petrosian-Geller had something of the character of an interview, both saying "yes" and "no" to the same things' – which is a pretty cryptic way of describing what happened on the board. Remarkably enough, the opening seemed to promise a furious battle, but it quickly ran out of steam.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 e6 3.c4 b6 4.♘c3 ♙b7
5.a3



5...d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.e3 ♙e7 8.♙b5+

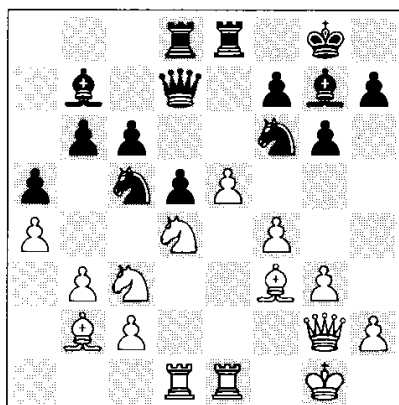
c6 9.♔d3 ♘d7 10.0-0 0-0 11.e4 ♘xc3
 12.bxc3 c5 13.♔e3 cxd4 14.cxd4 ♖c8
 15.♗a4 ♘f6 16.♗xa7 ♔xe4 17.♔xe4
 ♘xe4 18.♖fb1 ♖a8 19.♗xb6 ♗xb6
 20.♖xb6 ♖xa3 21.♖xa3 ♔xa3 1/2-1/2

Pirc Defence

Pal Benko
Mikhail Tal

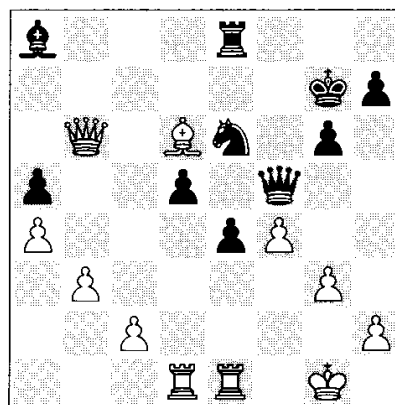
Benko goes for the same starting move as against Fischer in Round 1. Surprisingly enough, Tal opted for the same set-up as the American, which allowed White to exert strong pressure on the black position. Tal himself, in *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal*, observes: 'Then, in the third round against Benko, in a time-scramble in which I had so many times swindled the American grandmaster, I myself was swindled'. But this takes nothing away from the fact that Benko played an excellent game.

1.g3 g6 2.♔g2 ♔g7 3.d4 d6 4.e4 ♘f6
 5.♘e2 0-0 6.0-0 ♘bd7 7.♘bc3 c6 8.a4
 a5 9.b3 ♖e8 10.♔a3 ♗c7 11.♗d2 e5
 12.♖ad1 exd4 13.♘xd4 ♘c5 14.f3 b6
 15.♘de2 ♔f8 16.♔b2 ♗e7 17.♘d4 ♔b7
 18.♖fe1 ♔g7 19.f4 ♖ad8 20.♔f3 ♗d7
 21.♗g2 d5 22.e5



22...♘fe4 23.♘xe4 dxe4 24.♔e2 ♗e7

25.♔a3 f6 26.♔c4+ ♔h8 27.♘e6 ♖d5
 28.♔xd5 cxd5 29.♘xg7 ♔xg7 30.exf6+
 ♗xf6 31.♗f2 ♘e6 32.♗xb6 ♔a8
 33.♔d6 ♗f5



34.♗xa5 ♔h6 35.c4 ♖d8 36.♔e7 e3
 37.♖xe3 ♖e8 38.♔g5+ ♔g7 39.♖de1
 ♘xg5 40.fxg5 ♖f8 41.♗a7+ 1-0

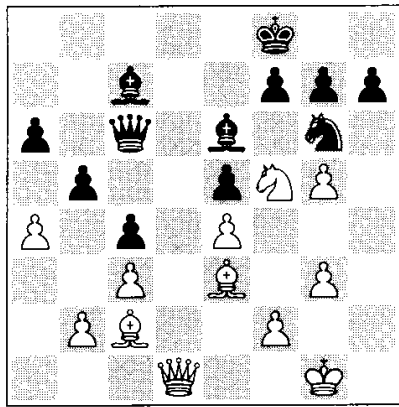
Ruy Lopez

Robert Fischer
Miroslav Filip

Fischer fights his way to an advantage in the Chigorin variation in classical fashion, but when he tries to build on his advantage, he shows that he is not in top form. Black's 27th move was a serious tactical error that White could have punished at once with 28.♗h5, when Black cannot play 28...♔g8 in view of 29.♗xg6, and White wins a piece. This means that White could have taken the h-pawn with impunity. Fischer doesn't see it either and ends up having to fight hard for the full point.

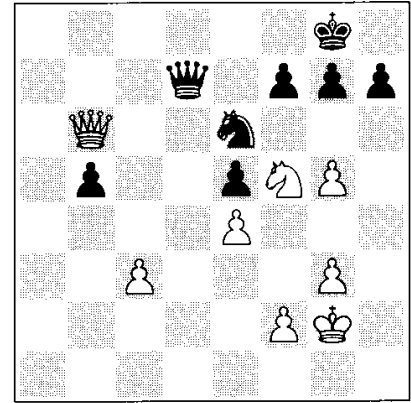
1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♔b5 a6 4.♔a4
 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♔e7 6.♖e1 b5 7.♔b3 d6 8.c3
 0-0 9.h3 ♘a5 10.♔c2 c5 11.d4 ♗c7
 12.♘bd2 ♘c6 13.dxc5 dxc5 14.♘f1
 ♔d6 15.♘h4 ♘e7 16.♗f3 ♖d8 17.♘e3

♙b7 18.♘g4 ♘xg4 19.hxg4 ♘g6
20.♘f5 ♙e6 21.g5 ♙c7 22.♙e3 c4
23.♖ed1 ♖xd1+ 24.♖xd1 ♖d8 25.g3
♖xd1+ 26.♙xd1 ♙c6 27.a4 ♙f8



28.♙a1 ♙c8 29.♙a3+ ♙g8 30.axb5
axb5 31.♙a7 ♙b7 32.♙h2 ♙a6
33.♙c5 ♙c6 34.♙b4 ♙c8 35.♙c5 ♙d8
36.♙e3 ♙c7 37.♙g1 ♙e6 38.♙a3 ♙c8
39.♙h2 ♙e6 40.♙a1 ♙c8 41.♙b1 ♙e6
42.♙g1 ♙c8 43.b3 ♙e6 44.bxc4 ♙xc4

45.♙d3 ♙xd3 46.♙xd3 ♙f8 47.♙b1
♙c4 48.♙d1 ♙c6 49.♙b3 ♙g8
50.♙b4 ♙d7 51.♙h2 ♙e8 52.♙c5
♙d7 53.♙g2 ♙b8 54.♙b6 ♙c7 55.♙c5
♙b8 56.♙b6 ♙c7 57.♙b7 ♘f8 58.♙b6
♙xb6 59.♙xb6 ♘e6



60.♙b8+ ♙d8 61.♙xb5 ♘xg5
62.♙xe5 ♘e6 63.♘d4 ♘f8 64.c4 ♘g6
65.♙d5 ♙c8 66.♘f5 **1-0**

ROUND 4

May 6

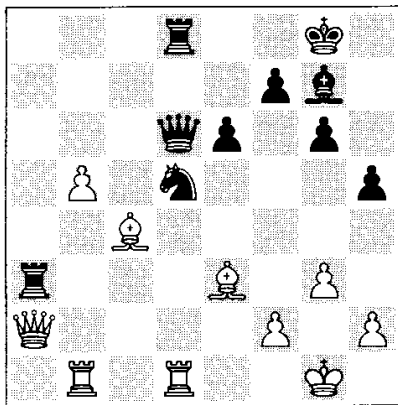
Kortchnoi - Benko	1/2-1/2
Petrosian - Keres	1/2-1/2
Tal - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Geller - Filip	1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

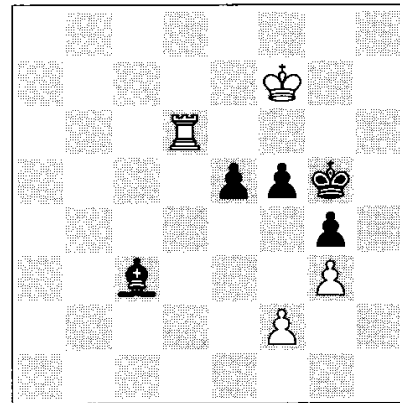
Viktor Kortchnoi Pal Benko

Kortchnoi's fourth draw in a row. He comes out of the opening with a slight advantage that he spends a long time trying to increase – fruitlessly, since Benko defends quite adroitly. On move 26 he sacrifices an exchange in order to build a solid defensive line. After 42 moves the game is adjourned. When play is resumed, Kortchnoi keeps trying for another 17 moves before accepting the inevitable.

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 g6 3.e4 ♘c6 4.d4 cxd4 5.♘xd4 ♘f6 6.♘c3 ♘xd4 7.♙xd4 d6 8.♙e2 ♙g7 9.0-0 0-0 10.♙e3 ♙e6 11.♖b1 a6 12.♙d2 b5 13.cxb5 axb5 14.♙xb5 ♙xa2 15.♘xa2 ♖xa2 16.♙c4 ♖a8 17.b4 d5 18.exd5 ♘xd5 19.♙b3 e6 20.♖fd1 ♙d6 21.♙e3 ♖fd8 22.g3 h5 23.b5 ♖a3 24.♙c2 ♖c3 25.♙a2 ♖a3



26.♙d2 ♘xe3 27.♙xd6 ♖xd6 28.♖xd6 ♘xc4 29.♖d8+ ♙h7 30.b6 ♘xb6 31.♖xb6 ♖a7 32.♖bd6 ♙f6 33.♖d7 ♖xd7 34.♖xd7 ♙g7 35.♙g2 ♙e5 36.h3 ♙c3 37.♙f3 ♙e1 38.♙e3 ♙f6 39.♖b7 ♙c3 40.♙d3 ♙e1 41.♖b1 ♙a5 42.♙d4 ♙d2 43.♙c5 g5 44.♙d6 g4 45.hxg4 hxg4 46.♙d7 ♙c3 47.♖d1 e5 48.♖d6+ ♙g5 49.♙e8 f5 50.♙f7



50...f4 51.♙e6 ♙d4 52.♖d5 ffg3 53.fxg3 ♙f2 54.♖xe5+ ♙g6 55.♖e4 ♙g5 56.♖e5+ ♙g6 57.♖e2 ♙xg3 58.♖g2 ♙g5 59.♖xg3 ♙f4 1/2-1/2

Slav Defence

Tigran Petrosian Paul Keres

The second individual encounter between the conspirators: a quiet draw. 'No

one works very hard on a Sunday,' Keres observed afterwards.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♗f3 c6 3.♗c3 d5 4.d4 dxc4
 5.a4 ♕f5 6.e3 e6 7.♕xc4 ♘bd7 8.0-0
 ♕b4 9.♞e2 ♕g6 10.♖d1 0-0 11.h3 ♜e8
 12.♕d2 ♞a5 13.♘a2 ♕xd2 14.♞xd2
 ♞xd2 15.♖xd2 ♜ad8 16.♗c3 ♘e4
 17.♗xe4 ♕xe4 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Mikhail Tal
Robert Fischer

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 a6 6.♕e2

The alternative 6.♕g5 was already a common choice for Tal. He must have been afraid of Fischer's preparation.

6...e5 7.♗b3 ♕e6 8.0-0 ♘bd7

Fischer deviates from his game against Geller.

9.a4 ♕e7 10.f4

A normal move in these circumstances.

10...♞c7 11.♕e3 0-0 12.a5

An unusual move order. The theoretical standard works give 12.f5 first here, with the idea of only advancing with 13.a5 after 12...♕c4.

12...b5

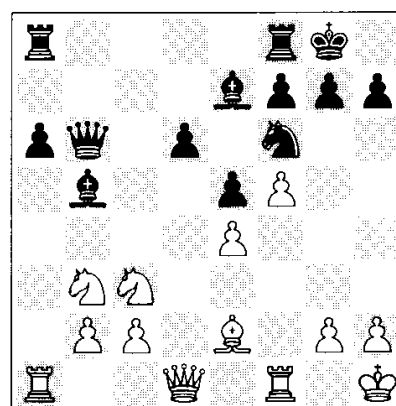
A resolute attempt to solve Black's opening problems. White is forced to take *en passant*.

13.axb6 ♗xb6 14.f5 ♕c4

15.♕xb6

An understandable enough swap in itself. White is aiming for a fight in which he has a knight against a bad bishop. The rest of the game will show, however, that Black will end up better because his pieces achieve optimum co-ordination. Correct was Geller's move 15.♗h1.

15...♞xb6+ 16.♗h1 ♕b5!

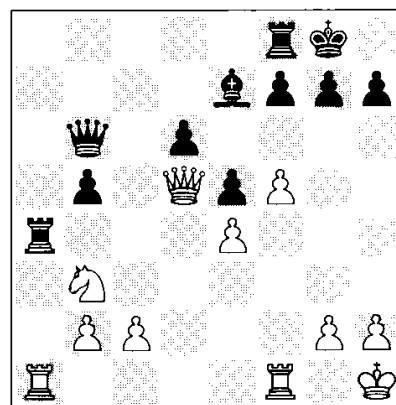


Strong play. Black is threatening to withdraw his bishop to c6, virtually forcing White to swap on b5.

17.♕xb6

In *My 60 Memorable Games*, Fischer indicates 17.♗xb5 axb5 18.♞d3 as better, as the presence of opposite-coloured bishops would mean that White runs little risk. The text-move is consistent but not very good.

17...axb5 18.♗d5 ♗xd5 19.♞xd5 ♜a4!



Grabbing the initiative.

20.c3 ♞a6 21.♖ad1

Later that year, during the Varna Olympiad, Unzicker played 21.h3 here against Fischer. After 21...♖c8 22.♞fe1 h6 23.♗h2 ♕g5 Black was clearly better. The text isn't sufficient to solve White's problems either.

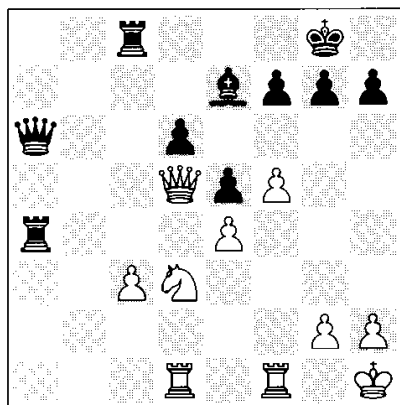
21...♖c8 22.♘c1 b4!

Otherwise White would block the b-pawn with 23.♘d3.

23.♘d3

A pawn sacrifice in hopes of counterplay. 'White certainly stands worse,' comments Fischer. And it is true that after 23.cxb4 ♖xb4 it is hard to find a decent move for White; the knight has no good squares.

23...bxc3 24.bxc3



24...♖a5

'A lemon,' says Fischer. As indicated by Kmoch, Black could safely have taken on c3, the tactical point being that after 24...♖xc3 25.♘xe5 dxe5 26.♙xe5 (26.♙d8+ is met by 26...♗f8) he has the surprising reply 26...♗b4!. White simply remains a full piece down, as 27.♙xc3 is met by 27...♙xf1+!. It would certainly not have been easy to spot this treacherous desperado over the board. I must say, however, that I find it rather exaggerated to say, as Fischer did, that Black is winning after 24...♖xc3. If White goes 25.♘b2, he has decent enough chances to hold the game.

25.♙b3 ♖a3 26.♙b1

The queen has retreated all the way, and now the knight is going to take its place. White has sufficient compensation for the pawn.

**26...♖axc3 27.♘b4 ♙a7 28.♘d5
♖3c6 29.♙b3**

The knight having reached the vital central square, White puts his queen back into position again.

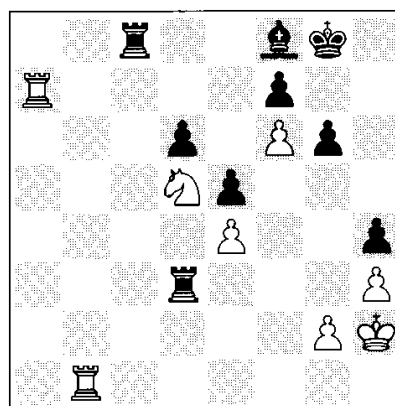
29...♗f8

Now the black queen is no longer tied to the protection of the bishop, so that Black can meet 30.♖a1 with 30...♙d4.

**30.h3 ♖a6 31.♖b1 ♖a3 32.♙b5
♙d4 33.♖fe1 ♖g3 34.♙e2 ♙d3
35.♙h5 ♙c2 36.♙e2 ♙xe2**

Despite the static character of the position, the tension is almost tangible. Fischer aims for clarity by swapping the queens.

**37.♖xe2 h5 38.♖a2 ♖d3 39.♖a7
h4 40.f6 g6 41.♙h2**



Here the game was adjourned. 'I adjourned the game with an advantage, but Black's sealed move came like a thunderclap,' Tal observes.

41...♖xd5!

Quite. By sacrificing an exchange Black manages to build a fortress. It is an indication of Fischer's immense insight into the game that he had the courage to seal such a move.

White was threatening 42.♖bb7, with a dangerous initiative.

42.exd5 ♗h6 43.♖e7

Not 43.♖bb7 in view of 43...♙f4+ 44.♔g1 ♙e3+, and Black is winning.

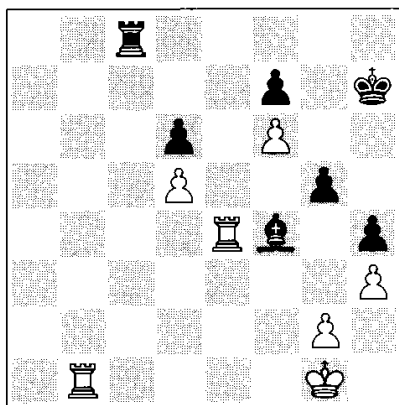
43...♙g5 44.♖f1

There is no better option, e.g. 44.♖bb7 ♖f8 45.♖ed7 e4, with sufficient counterplay.

44...♙f4+ 45.♔g1 g5

Covering the bishop and allowing Black to advance his e-pawn.

46.♖b1 e4 47.♖xe4 ♔h7



Now White is a full exchange up, but Black's pieces are co-ordinating optimally.

48.♖e7 ♔g6 49.♖bb7 ♔xf6

50.♖xf7+ ♔e5 51.♖fc7 ♖a8

52.♖b1 ♔xd5

Now Black is safe.

53.♖d1+ ♔e6 54.♖c2 ♖a3

55.♔f2 ♖b3 56.♖e2+ ♔f5

57.♖d5+ ♔f6 58.♖e4

Draw.

Sicilian Defence

Efim Geller

Miroslav Filip

It seems as if Geller is ambushed in the opening. White's sixth move looks artificial. It is striking that in his later career, too, Geller frequently thought better of the usual 6.♘b3 and instead would play, for example, 6.c3 to support the knight. When Filip forces him to exchange queens on move 10, he gets stuck with doubled pawns as well. But he does have some play on the queenside by way of compensation. Geller must have felt pretty relieved when Black offered a rather premature draw.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4

a6 5.♙d3 ♙c5 6.♙e3 d6 7.♘c3 ♘e7

8.0-0 ♘d7 9.♖e2 b5 10.a4 ♖b6

11.♘b3 ♙xe3 12.♖xe3 ♖xe3 13.fxe3

1/2-1/2

ROUND 5

May 9

Fischer - Kortchnoi	0-1
Benko - Petrosian	1/2-1/2
Keres - Geller	1/2-1/2
Filip - Tal	0-1

Pirc Defence

Robert Fischer
Viktor Kortchnoi

1.e4 d6

A slight surprise. In Stockholm, Kortchnoi had opted for 1...e5 against Fischer.

2.d4 ♘f6 3.♗c3 g6 4.f4 ♕g7
5.♗f3 0-0 6.♕e2

'This is better than 6.♕d3,' the writer in *Revista Ajedrez* observes. Less than a decade later this theoretical assessment was turned on its head.

6...c5 7.dxc5 ♖a5

A standard manoeuvre, once a well-known turn in the King's Indian. White is forced to castle in order to cover his e-pawn.

8.0-0 ♜xc5+ 9.♔h1 ♘c6 10.♗d2

A recommendation from the Russian master Panov. White is preparing to push his g-pawn, but Kortchnoi succeeds in demonstrating the erroneousness of this plan. The correct move is 10.♜e1, intending to take the queen to h4.

10...a5!

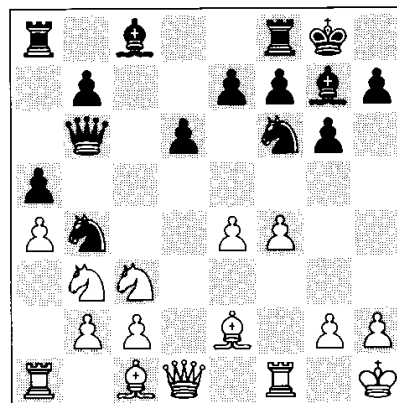
A strong reply, discovered by Vasiukov. Black is anticipating the movements of the white king's knight. In an earlier game, Nikitin-Bondarevsky, Moscow 1958, White was better after 10...♗d4

11.♗b3 ♗xb3 12.axb3 b5 13.e5 dxe5
14.fxe5 ♜xe5 15.♕f4 ♜c5 16.♕f3.

11.♗b3

Vashukov indicates 11.♗c4 as better, but even then Black has an excellent position after 11...♕g4!, the point being 12.♕e3 ♜xc4!, and Black liquidates to a very favourable endgame. With the text-move White only exacerbates the situation.

11...♜b6 12.a4 ♗b4



Now the black queen's knight has taken up an advanced position. Black is threatening 13...♕e6.

13.g4?

Consistent; but this is more than the white position can take. Vasiukov indicates 13.♕f3 as better, when after 13...♕e6 White would have had an unpleasant choice between 14.♗d4 ♕c4 and 14.♗d2 ♜ac8, in both cases with paralysing pressure play by Black.

13...♙xg4

Of course. An unusual situation has arisen: Fischer, as White, is already lost after 13 moves.

**14.♙xg4 ♘xg4 15.♚xg4 ♘xc2
16.♘b5**

Looking for a foothold for the knight. 16.♚d1 would have allowed Black to play 16...♚xb3, intending to meet 17.♖a3 with 17...♚c4.

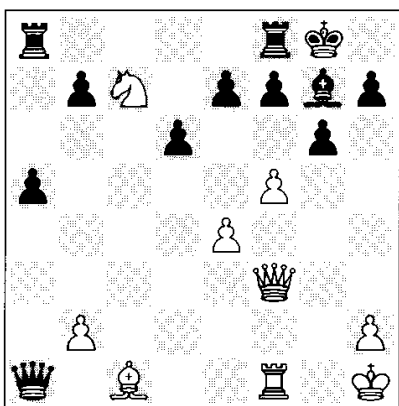
16...♘xa1 17.♘xa1

Black is slightly ahead in material. Moreover, the white position is plagued by several strategic defects. Kortchnoi is not wasting any time.

17...♚c6 18.f5 ♚c4

By capturing the a-pawn Black destroys the last bit of co-ordination in the white camp.

19.♚f3 ♚xa4 20.♘c7 ♚xa1

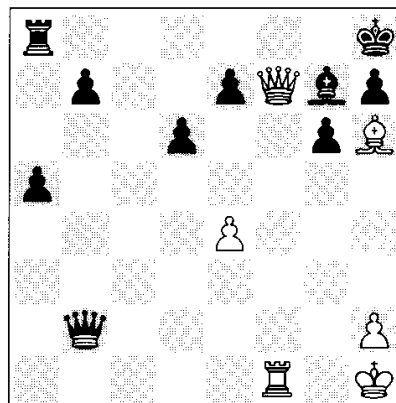


21.♘d5

This is utterly hopeless. Instead of the text-move, Vasiukov gives 21.♘xa8, with the following variation: 21...♖xa8 22.fxg6 (after 22.e5, 22...♚a4! is sufficient) 22...fxg6 23.♚f7+ ♔h8 24.♙h6 ♚xf1+ 25.♚xf1, 'with slightly better play for Black'.

I don't understand this assessment; it seems to me that Black is clearly winning. Nor do I see why Black shouldn't

be able to play 24...♚xb2 (instead of 24...♚xf1+).



analysis diagram

Vasiukov must have written his comments in great haste.

**21...♖ae8 22.♙g5 ♚xb2
23.♙xe7 ♙e5**

The most accurate choice.

**24.♖f2 ♚c1+ 25.♖f1 ♚h6 26.h3
gxh5 27.♙xf8 ♖xf8 28.♘e7+
♔h8 29.♘f5 ♚e6 30.♖g1 a4
31.♖g4 ♚b3 32.♚f1 a3 33.♖g3
♚xg3**

White resigns. This is one of the best-known games from Curaçao, although Kortchnoi himself can't have been too happy about it, as he did not include it in his selection of his best games.

English Opening

**Pal Benko
Tigran Petrosian**

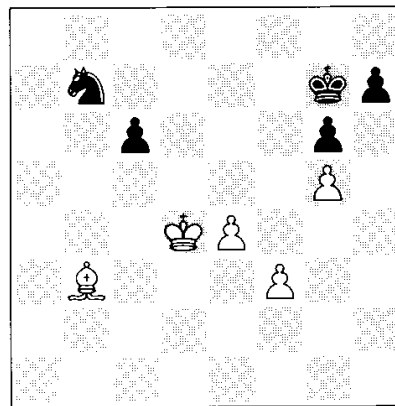
One of the two games in the tournament in which Petrosian got into difficulties. In the beginning it didn't look like he would have any problems, as Black came out of the English opening with active play: he controlled the open a-file and seemed to have the upper hand on the kingside as

well. In addition, Benko, true to form, ends up finding himself in raging time-trouble. But it is then that Petrosian started slipping, perhaps because he grew nervous in his opponent's time-trouble, or maybe because he is generally not at his best when it comes to maintaining an initiative or converting it into a concrete advantage. However this may be, Benko flashed out a few extremely strong moves, refusing a draw offer as he did so and making the time-control in a position that offered him excellent winning chances. The writers of the bulletin were already speculating that White would win, turning Benko into the undisputed frontrunner – which would have been a proper sensation!

And he came very close.

1.g3 g6 2.♘g2 ♘g7 3.c4 e5 4.♗c3 f5 5.d4 exd4 6.♗b5 ♗c6 7.♗f3 ♗f6 8.0-0 ♗e4 9.♗bxd4 ♗xd4 10.♗xd4 0-0 11.♗b3 d6 12.♖b1 a5 13.♗d2 ♗c5 14.♖c2 a4 15.b4 axb3 16.axb3 f4 17.♘b2 ♖e7 18.♘g7 ♖xg7 19.♖b2 ♖xb2 20.♖xb2 ♖a3 21.♖c1 ♘g4 22.♙f1 fxg3 23.hxg3 ♖e8 24.f3 ♘f5 25.g4 ♘d7 26.b4 ♗e6 27.♗e4 ♖f8 28.♗c3 ♙g7 29.♙f2 ♗d4 30.♙e1 ♖f7 31.♗d5 ♘e6 32.♖d1 ♗c6 33.c5 dxc5 34.bxc5 ♗a5 35.♖b4 c6 36.♗f4 ♘c4 37.♖d4 ♖a1+ 38.♙f2 ♘b3 39.g5 ♖e7 40.♖e4 ♖xe4 41.♖xe4 ♖a4 42.♖xa4 ♘xa4 43.♘h3 ♗b3 44.♗e6+ ♙f7 45.♗d8+ ♙e7 46.♗xb7 ♘b5 47.♘c8 ♘a6 48.♗a5 ♗xa5 49.♘xa6 ♗b3 50.♙e3 ♗xc5 51.♘c4 ♗b7 52.♙d4 ♗d6 53.e4 ♗b7 54.♘g8 ♙f8 55.♘b3 ♙g7

Petrosian has defended as best he can, and just before the time-control the diagram position is reached.



Now White plays

56.♘a4

and after

56...♗d8 57.♘b3 h6 58.gxh6+ ♙xh6 59.♙e5 ♙g5!

Black can breathe again. If White had centralised his king at once, he would have had a winning endgame. Correct was 56.♙e5! in order to continue with 57.gxh6+ ♙xh6 58.♙f6 after 56...h6, when even Petrosian would not have been able to hold the game.

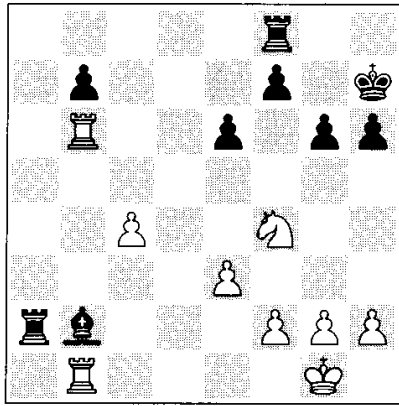
60.♘d1 ♗f7+ 61.♙e6 ♗h6 62.e5 ♙f4 63.♙f6 ♗g8+ 64.♙f7 ♙xe5 65.♙xg8 c5 66.♘e2 g5 67.♙f7 ♙f4 1/2-1/2

King's Indian Defence

Paul Keres
Efim Geller

A fine game, in the sense that it looks like a real one.

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♘g7 4.♗f3 0-0 5.♘g5 c5 6.e3 d6 7.♘e2 h6 8.♘h4 ♘g4 9.♖b3 cxd4 10.♗xd4 ♘xe2 11.♗dxh2 ♗bd7 12.0-0 ♖a5 13.♖ac1 ♗b6 14.♘xf6 ♘xf6 15.♗f4 ♘g7 16.♖fd1 ♙h7 17.♗cd5 e6 18.♗xb6 ♖xb6 19.♖xb6 axb6 20.♖xd6 ♘xb2 21.♖b1 ♖xa2 22.♖xb6



22...g7 23.bxb7 c2 24.c7 e5
 25.c6 xf4 26.exf4 b8 27.d1 d8
 1/2-1/2

Queen's Pawn Opening

Miroslav Filip
Mikhail Tal

1.f3 f6 2.g3 g6 3.g2 g7
 4.0-0 0-0 5.d4 c5 6.c3 b6 7.e5
 d5

Now a position has arisen which is known with the colours reversed, but with an extra tempo for White. Black doesn't seem to have any opening problems.

8.a4 b7 9.a5

The alternative is 9.f4

9...bd7 10.fxd7 fxd7 11.c4

Less an aggressive move than an attempt at creating clarity.

11...c8

A good reaction. 11...cxd4 would have allowed White to play 12.a6.

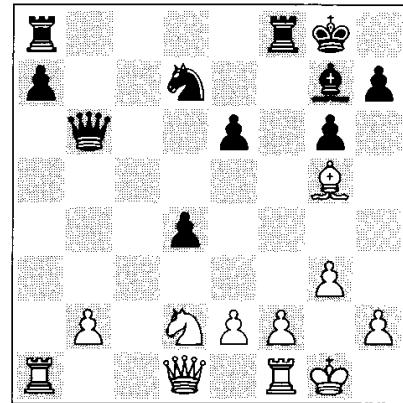
12.cxd5 cxd4 13.g5 e6

Tal doesn't mind weakening his pawn structure; the control of the centre this affords him is more important.

14.dxe6

Forced, although Filip thought for 35 minutes. He was probably not very happy with the position.

14...fxe6 15.bxb7 bxb7 16.axb6
 bxb6 17.f2d2



A curious pawn sacrifice that hardly yields White compensation. There was nothing against 17.a2, with the simple aim of protecting the b-pawn.

17...bxb2 18.e7 f8 19.b1
 c2 20.b7 c6 21.b1

A clear indication that the pawn sacrifice was not a success.

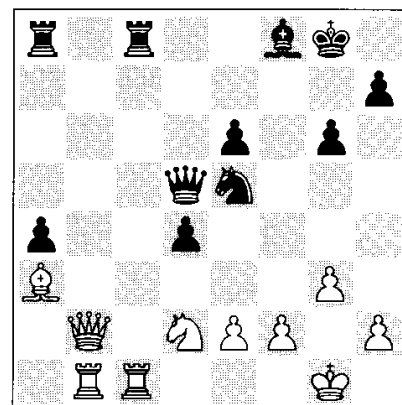
21...e5

Preventing 22.f3. Now Black is ready to advance his a-pawn.

22.b3 a5 23.a3 a4 24.b4

The white bishop manoeuvre was not too impressive, but at least the a-pawn has been stopped.

24...d5 25.f1 f8 26.b2



26...h6?

In time-trouble, Black loses the thread. If

Tal had been in form, he would undoubtedly have decided to swap on a3. After 26...♙xa3 27.♚xa3 ♖c3! 28.♗xc3 dxc3 29.♚xc3 a3 Black could have sacrificed a pawn to get a virtually certain winning position.

27.f4

A strong reply. The bishop is sidelined with tempo.

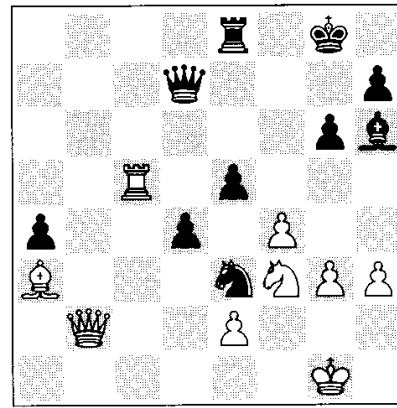
27...♘g4 28.♗xc8+ ♗xc8 29.♖c1 ♗e8

An awkward move; but even if he had swapped rooks, Black would not have had an easy time of it. The white pieces are co-operating perfectly.

30.♖c5 ♚d7 31.h3 ♘e3 32.♘f3

White is slowly taking over the entire board.

32...e5



An attempt to trouble the waters. 32...♙f8 would have been met very strongly by 33.♘e5 ♚g7 34.♖c6.

33.♘xe5?

A horrible mistake. After 33.♖xe5 White would have been superior.

33...♚xh3 34.♚a2+ ♗h8

White resigns. An abrupt end to an eventful game.

ROUND 6

May 10

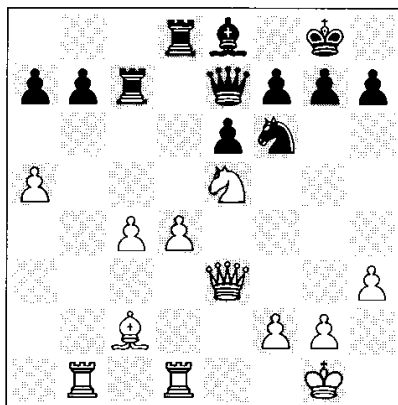
Kortchnoi - Filip	1-0
Petrosian - Fischer	½-½
Keres - Benko	1-0
Geller - Tal	½-½

Queen's Gambit Declined

Viktor Kortchnoi
Miroslav Filip

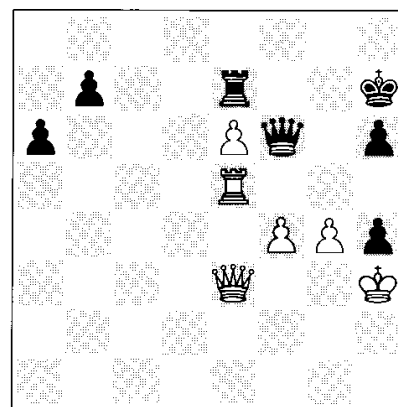
Kortchnoi's second victory in a row. It is a characteristic game for him: he clings fanatically to a tiny advantage that he eventually manages to convert to a win. Twice the game is adjourned: first after the 40th move and then again after the 89th move. On move 101 Kortchnoi has landed his catch.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.d4 c6
5.♙g5 ♘bd7 6.e3 ♚a5 7.♙xf6 ♘xf6
8.♙d3 ♙b4 9.♚b3 0-0 10.0-0 c5
11.cxd5 cxd4 12.exd4 ♙xc3 13.bxc3
♚xd5 14.c4 ♚d6 15.♚fd1 ♙d7 16.♘e5
♙c6 17.a4 ♚fd8 18.♙c2 ♚ac8 19.a5
♚e7 20.h3 ♚c7 21.♚e3 ♙e8 22.♚ab1



22...♘d7 23.♚e4 f5 24.♚e3 ♘xe5
25.♚xe5 ♚d6 26.♚e3 ♚xc4 27.♙b3 f4

28.♚e2 ♚c7 29.♙xe6+ ♙f7 30.d5 ♚e7
31.♚bc1 a6 32.♚b1 ♚c7 33.♚b6 ♚d6
34.♚xd6 ♚xd6 35.♚e1 ♙xe6 36.dxe6
♚d5 37.♚g4 g6 38.♚xf4 ♚xa5 39.♚e3
♚f5 40.♚b8+ ♚f8 41.♚e5 ♚f5
42.♚d4 h6 43.g4 ♚f8 44.♙g2 ♙h7
45.♚e5 ♚g7 46.♚c5 ♚f6 47.♙g3 ♙g7
48.♚d5 g5 49.♙g2 ♙h7 50.♚e5 ♙g7
51.♚e4 ♙h7 52.♚d3 ♙g7 53.♚e2 ♚g6
54.♚d6 ♚f6 55.♚d5 ♙h7 56.♚d2 ♙g7
57.♚d3 ♚g6 58.♚d8 ♚f6 59.♚e5 ♙h7
60.h4 gxh4 61.f4 ♙g7 62.♙h3 ♙h7
63.♚d3+ ♙g7 64.♚d4 ♙h7 65.♚e3



65...♙g8 66.♚e4 ♙g7 67.♙h2 ♙h8
68.♙g2 ♙g7 69.♚d4 ♙h7 70.♙h3 ♙h8
71.♚e4 ♙g7 72.♙h2 ♙h8 73.♚e3 ♙h7
74.♚d2 ♙g7 75.♙h3 ♙h7 76.♚d8 ♙g7
77.♚e4 ♙h7 78.f5 h5 79.♚d4 ♙h6
80.♚d6 ♚g5 81.♚f4 hxg4+ 82.♚xg4
♚e3+ 83.♙xh4 ♚f2+ 84.♙h3 ♚f1+
85.♙h2 ♚f2+ 86.♚g2 ♚xg2+

87.♔xg2 ♔g5 88.♖d5 b5 89.♔f3 b4
 90.♔e4 ♔f6 91.♖d8 ♖h7 92.♖f8+ ♔e7
 93.♖g8 ♖h1 94.♖g7+ ♔d6 95.♖d7+
 ♔c6 96.f6 ♖e1+ 97.♔f5 ♖f1+ 98.♔g6
 ♖e1 99.♔f7 b3 100.♖d2 a5 101.e7 1-0

King's Indian Defence

Tigran Petrosian
Robert Fischer

Fischer plays the Taimanov variation of the King's Indian, which is generally an invitation to sharp play. But Petrosian keeps things simple and shows little ambition. There is, after all, still a difficult adjourned game against Benko awaiting him. In a closed position with one open file a draw is agreed. At that point there was no life left in the position at all.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♘g7 4.e4 d6
 5.f3 0-0 6.♘ge2 ♘c6 7.♙e3 a6 8.♚d2
 ♖b8 9.♘c1 e5 10.♘b3 exd4 11.♘xd4
 ♘d7 12.♙e2 ♘h5 13.♘xc6 bxc6 14.0-0
 c5 15.♖ab1 ♙c6 16.♘d5 a5 17.b3 ♖a8
 18.♖fe1 ♖e8 19.a4 ♚d7 20.♙d3 ♘f6
 21.♙g5 ♘xd5 22.exd5 ♙b7 23.♖xe8+
 ♚xe8 24.♖e1 ♚f8 25.h4 h6 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres
Pal Benko

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.♘xd4 a6 5.♘c3 b5

The bulletin reports that Keres thought this advance premature. In this game he will launch an attack that cuts like a knife through butter. According to later insights this cannot be blamed on the text-move, which has served Black well since.

6.♙d3 ♙b7

Here, 6...♚b6 is regarded as a reliable move to enable Black to meet 7.♙e3 with 7...♙c5.

7.0-0 ♚c7 8.♖e1

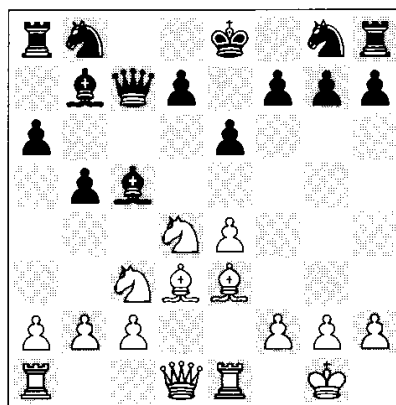
White is playing the sound moves that make some variations of the Sicilian so attractive.

8...♙c5

Only now does Black go wrong. This bishop move is clearly bad. 8...♘c6 would have been stronger.

9.♙e3

After this developing move Black is in trouble: there is a dangerous sacrifice on b5 in the offing. Remarkably enough, Keres had had this position on the board two years earlier.



9...♘f6

This developing move is not suitable to neutralise the capture on b5. In Keres-Ojanen, Leipzig 1960, Black played 9...♘e7, after which White went 10.♚h5!, and was clearly better. Play continued 10...e5 11.♘dx5 axb5 12.♘xb5 ♚c6 13.♙xc5 ♚xc5 14.b4! ♚c6 15.♚xe5, and the black position collapsed. Relatively speaking, the modest 9...♙e7 would probably have been Black's best bet. It would boil down to an admission that his opening strategy had

backfired, and White would have a clear advantage, but White would not have been in a position to launch a direct assault.

10. ♖dxb5

As in the game Fischer-Kortchnoi from the previous round, the decisive blow is dealt in a very early stage of the game.

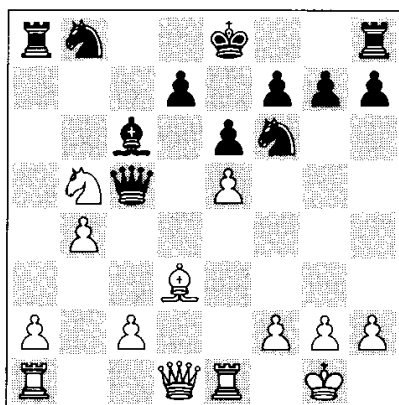
10... axb5 11. ♖xb5 ♖c6 12. ♕xc5 ♖xc5 13. e5

The point of the tenth move; White has the double threat of 14. ♖d6+ and 14. exf6.

13... ♕c6

Benko thought for more than an hour about this move. Alternatives were unsatisfactory, e.g. 13... ♖e4 14. ♖xe4! ♕xe4 15. ♖d6+ ♖e7 16. ♖h5 ♕g6 17. ♕xg6 hxg6 (or 17... ♖a6 18. ♕xf7) 18. ♖xh8 ♖xe5 19. ♖c8+ ♖f6 20. ♖d8+ ♖f5 21. ♖e7+, and the black king won't survive.

14. b4!



The same power move as against Ojanen.

14... ♖xb4 15. exf6

Sometimes when you're in a winning position, it's difficult to choose between the many promising options. Obvious and strong was 15. ♖c7+ ♖d8 16. ♖xa8. Keres is slightly worried about the knight sortie 16... ♖g4, when 17. ♖b1 is met by

17... ♖f4. But with 17. ♕e4! White can cut off the black queen's path to the kingside. But even then White is not out of the wood, as Black still has the riposte 17... ♖xf2, with the point of 18. ♖xf2 ♕xe4 19. ♖b1 ♖c5+, and the king has no good square.

This means that 18. ♖b1! at once is the correct move, and Black remains too far behind in material. The text-move, by the way, is more than enough for the win, especially from a strategic point of view.

15... ♖a6 16. fxc7 ♖g8 17. ♖b1 ♖f4 18. ♕e4!

Also strong here.

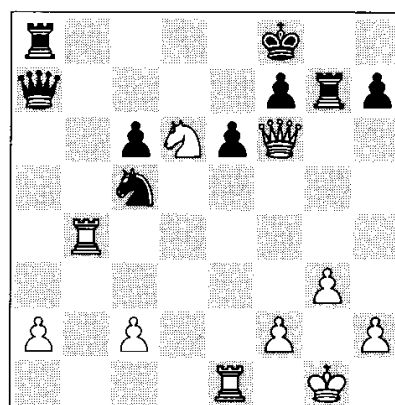
18... ♖xg7 19. ♖d4 ♖f8 20. g3

Threatening to take on g7.

20... ♖b8 21. ♕xc6 dxc6 22. ♖d6

White is not only a pawn up, but he also dominates the board. In time-trouble, Benko continues to flap around for a bit longer.

22... ♖a7 23. ♖f6 ♖c5 24. ♖b4



24... ♖c7

After 24... ♖xa2 White has an elegant win with 25. ♖f5! exf5 26. ♖e7+, followed by mate in two. 24... ♖e7 won't do either, as White can win an exchange with either 25. ♖xe7+ or 25. ♖xg7+, in both cases followed by 26. ♖f5+.

25.♖d1 ♜d8 26.♖bd4 ♜d7

27.♘e8!

An elegant finale.

27...♔xe8 28.♚xg7

Black resigns.

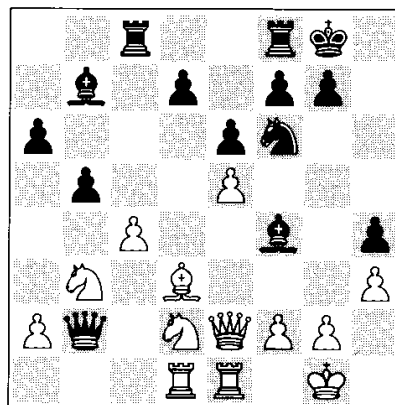
Sicilian Defence

Efim Geller
Mikhail Tal

For the first time, a solid game by Tal. His opening problems are solved adroitly and from move 14 onward he takes the initiative. This leads to a small strategic advantage that he manages to retain until the endgame. Neither player has much time, and Tal's self-confidence must have been not optimal. Black could at any rate have continued to play without running any risks. Remarkably enough, this is the second time in a row that Geller finds him-

self slightly worse against the Sicilian.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 e6 5.♘c3 ♚c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♙d3 ♘f6 8.0-0 b5 9.♚e2 ♙b7 10.♖ad1 e5 11.♙f4 ♙c5 12.♘b3 ♙b4 13.♘b1 ♙d6 14.♙g3 h5 15.h3 h4 16.♙f4 ♘f3+ 17.♚xf3 ♙xf4 18.♘1d2 ♜c8 19.♖fe1 0-0 20.♚e2 ♚e5 21.c4 ♚xb2 22.e5



22...bxc4 23.♘xc4 ♚xe2 24.♙xe2 ♘e4 25.♖xd7 ♘c3 26.♙f1 ♙d5 27.♘b6 ♜fd8

1/2-1/2

ROUND 7

May 12

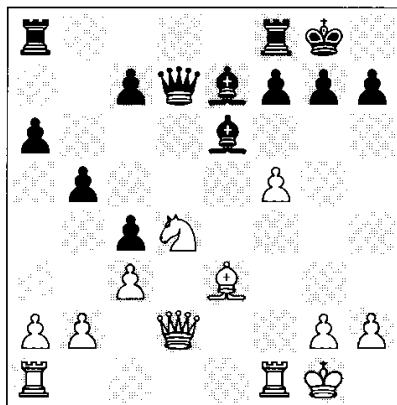
Tal - Kortchnoi	0-1
Filip - Petrosian	1/2-1/2
Fischer - Keres	1-0
Benko - Geller	1/2-1/2

Ruy Lopez

Mikhail Tal
Viktor Kortchnoi

Tal's crisis is clearly not over yet. Immediately after the opening he launches a sharp and reckless attack, burning all his bridges behind him. In a rapid game such an approach may pay dividends, but in serious tournament games a top grandmaster would not have much trouble refuting such wild actions. Kortchnoi's opening repertoire as Black is impressive: the Pirc against Fischer, the Open Ruy Lopez against Tal. Two totally different defences, both thoroughly prepared.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4
 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♙b3 d5
 8.dxe5 ♙e6 9.c3 ♙e7 10.♙e3 0-0
 11.♘bd2 ♚d7 12.♘d4 ♘xd2 13.♚xd2
 ♘xe5 14.f4 ♘c4 15.♙xc4 dxc4 16.f5



16...♙d5 17.f6 ♙xf6 18.♚xf6 gxf6

19.♙g5 ♚g4 20.♙xf6 c5 21.♘c2 ♚g6
 22.♚f1 ♙e4 23.♘e3 ♚ae8 24.h3 ♚e6
 25.♘g4 h5 26.♘e5 ♚g3 27.♚f2 ♚xf2+
 28.♚xf2 ♚fe8 29.♘d7 ♙c6 30.♘xc5
 ♚e1+ 31.♚f1 ♚8e2 32.♚xe1 ♚xe1+
 33.♚f2 ♚b1 34.b4 cxb3 35.axb3 a5

0-1

Grünfeld Indian Defence

Miroslav Filip
Tigran Petrosian

Petrosian continues to save his strength, and Filip could probably use the short draw as well, as he was still defending a game against Kortchnoi in which he was worse.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.d4 g6 3.g3 c6 4.♘f3 ♙g7
 5.♘c3 0-0 6.♙g2 d5 7.♚b3 dxc4
 8.♚xc4 ♙e6 9.♚d3 ♘a6 10.0-0 ♙f5
 11.♚c4 ♘d7 12.♙f4 ♚c8 13.♚b3 ♚b6
 14.♚xb6

1/2-1/2

Ruy Lopez

Robert Fischer
Paul Keres

Fischer's second model game against the Closed Ruy Lopez.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6

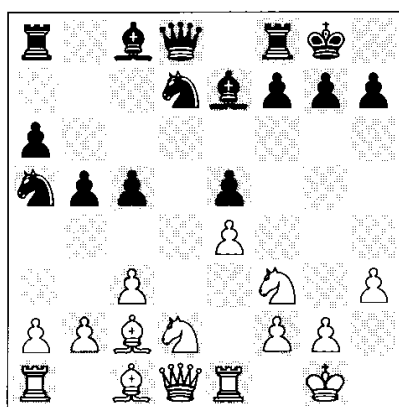
4.♖a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♞e1 b5
 7.♙b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 ♘a5
 10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♘d7

Deviating from what he had played against Tal (see Game 6). The text was a novelty at the time. In *My 60 Memorable Games*, Fischer observes that he was not impressed; he calls the move a waste of time and wonders if the knight would not be better positioned on f6. This is slightly too harsh a judgement; the results with the text aren't all that bad. The only thing is that against an expert like Fischer it is not easy to come up with new ideas in the Ruy Lopez.

12.dxc5

Fischer gives this swap an exclamation mark in his comments, but it doesn't stop him from opting for 12.d5 against Keres in Round 21. That must have been a pleasant surprise for the Estonian, as White usually only advances the d-pawn if it gains him a tempo. Other moves for White are 12.♘bd2, as in Tal-Keres, Round 17, and the mysterious 12.♚h1, as in Kramnik-Ponomarev, Linares 2003.

12...dxc5 13.♘bd2



13...♞c7

A serious mistake. Alternatives were:

A) 13...f6. Indicated afterwards by Boleslavsky, who assessed the position as

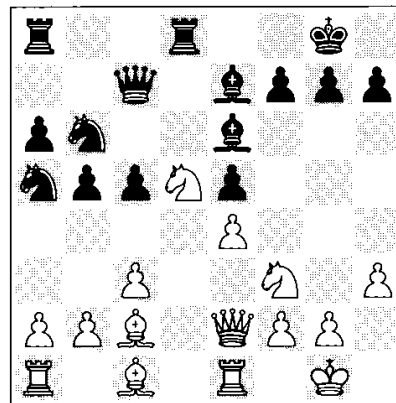
equal. The game Fischer-Ivkov, Havana 1965, continued as follows: 14.♘h4 ♘b6 15.♘f5 ♞f7 – and now, according to Fischer, 16.♞g4! (instead of the game move 16.♘xe7+) would have been sufficient for an advantage.

B) 13...♙b7 14.♞e2 ♞e8 15.b3 ♙f8 16.♞d1 ♞c8 17.♘f1 c4, and Black had enough counterplay in Kramnik-Ivanchuk, Monaco rapid 2003.

C) 13...♞e8 14.♘f1 ♘c4 15.♘3h2 ♙g5 16.b3 ♙xc1 17.♞xc1 ♘cb6 18.♘g4 ♞g5, with unclear play, Khalifman-Graf, Spain 2003.

14.♘f1 ♘b6 15.♘e3 ♞d8

16.♞e2 ♙e6 17.♘d5!



Now the drawback of Black's 13th move is revealed. With the knight jump, White succeeds in opening the e-file which, given the open character of the position, automatically yields White attacking chances, particularly because the black knight on a5 is sidelined.

17...♘xd5 18.exd5 ♙xd5

19.♘xe5 ♞a7

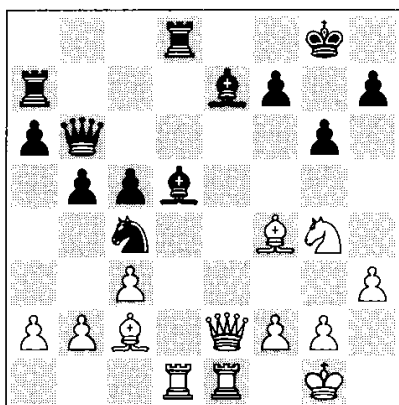
Covering the king's bishop. Other defensive moves won't do the job either, e.g. 19...♙e6 20.♘xf7! or 19...♙f8 20.♞h5 g6 21.♞h4 ♙g7 22.♘g4, with a strong attack.

20.♙f4 ♞b6 21.♞ad1

White calmly reinforces his position, trusting that at a later stage he will be able to deal the decisive blow.

21...g6 22.♘g4 ♘c4

Trying to involve the knight in the defence. After 22...♙xa2 23.♖xd8+ ♚xd8 24.♙h6 White would have had too many threats.



23.♙h6

It is tempting to look for a direct, combinatory win here. Fischer observes that a number of experts were of the opinion that White could have decided the game with 23.♘h6+ ♚g7 24.♖xd5 ♖xd5 25.♘xf7, as 25...♙xf7 is met by 26.♚f3. The bulletin also gives this variation. But when Fischer delved more deeply into the position later, he found that Black has the sobering reply 25...♚f6!. *My 60 Memorable Games* contains many such examples, in which Fischer rejects a seemingly simple win because his intuition warns him that there is a snake in the grass.

23...♙e6

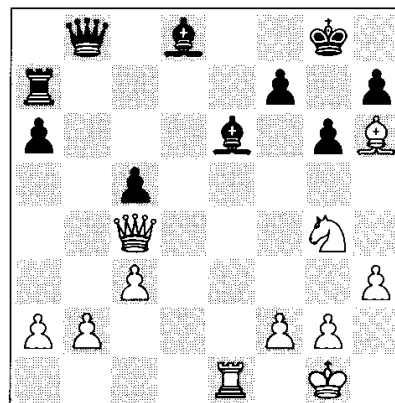
Again, Black cannot capture a pawn on the queenside: after 23...♘xb2 White would win with 24.♖xd5! ♖xd5 25.♙e4 ♖d8 26.♚xb2 f5 27.c4, and he is threatening mate in one.

24.♙b3

Piling on the pressure.

24...♚b8 25.♖xd8+ ♙xd8

26.♙xc4 bxc4 27.♚xc4



Now White has won a pawn. Fischer handles the technical phase of the game with considerable adroitness

27...♚d6 28.♚a4 ♚e7 29.♘f6+

♙h8 30.♘d5 ♚d7 31.♚e4 ♚d6

32.♘f4 ♖e7 33.♙g5

White heedlessly continues with his plan. With 33.♙f8 he could have won at once.

33...♖e8 34.♙xd8 ♖xd8

35.♘xe6 ♚xe6 36.♚xe6 fx6

37.♖xe6 ♖d1+ 38.♙h2 ♖d2

39.♖b6 ♖xf2 40.♖b7

Cutting off the black king.

40...♖f6 41.♙g3

The sealed move was 41...♙g8. After the adjournment Black resigned the game without resuming play. Keres' first defeat!

Réti Opening

Pal Benko Efim Geller

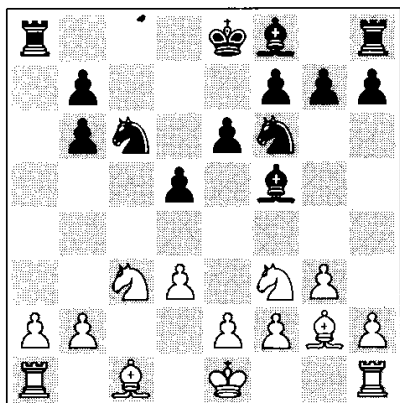
As per usual, Benko opens with 1.g3. Geller opts for the Lasker system, the queens are swapped off at an early stage and the game slowly peters out into a draw.

The only thing worth mentioning is that a decade on it was discovered that Black's ninth move, natural as it seems, is in fact a serious error. Instead of 10.0-0 White could have got himself a large advantage with 10.♘b5!. The game Portisch-Smyslov, Wijk aan Zee 1972, continued as follows:

10...♙b4+ 11.♙d2 ♖e7 12.♘fd4 ♙xd2+ 13.♖xd2 ♙g6 14.f4 h6 15.a3 ♜hc8 16.♜ac1 ♙h7 17.♙h3 ♘d7 18.♜c3 ♘xd4 19.♘xd4 ♜xc3 20.♖xc3, and the white king became very strong.

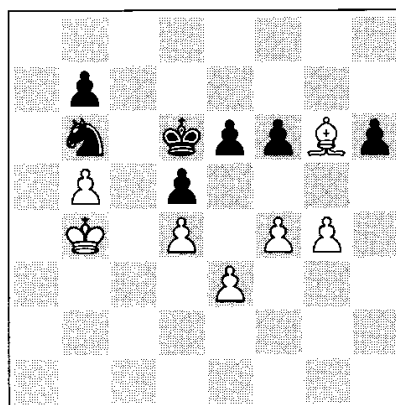
A striking illustration of Réti's adage that one should always study the position before castling: it might contain a better move.

1.g3 d5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♙g2 ♙f5 4.c4 c6 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.♞b3 ♞b6 7.♞xb6 axb6 8.♘c3 ♘c6 9.d3 e6



10.0-0 ♙c5 11.b3 0-0 12.♙b2 ♙g4 13.♘b5 ♜fc8 14.♜fc1 ♘e8 15.♖f1 ♙xf3

16.♙xf3 ♘c7 17.♘xc7 ♜xc7 18.a3 ♜ac8 19.e3 ♙d6 20.♙e2 ♖f8 21.f4 ♙e7 22.♜c2 ♘a5 23.♜xc7 ♜xc7 24.♙d1 ♙f6 25.♙xf6 gxf6 26.b4 ♘c6 27.♜c1 ♜c8 28.♖e1 ♖e7 29.♖d2 f5 30.♙f3 ♖d6 31.b5 ♘e7 32.♜xc8 ♘xc8 33.♖c3 ♖c5 34.a4 ♘e7 35.♙h5 ♘g6 36.d4+ ♖d6 37.♖b4 ♖c7 38.♖c3 ♖d6 39.♖b3 ♖e7 40.♖b4 ♘f8 41.h3 ♘d7 42.a5 bxa5+ 43.♖xa5 f6 44.♙e2 ♖d6 45.♙d3 ♖c7 46.g4 ffg4 47.hxg4 h6 48.♖b4 ♖d6 49.♙g6 ♘b6



50.♙d3 ♘c8 51.♙e2 b6 52.♖c3 ♖e7 53.♖d2 ♘d6 54.♖e1 f5 55.gxf5 ♘xf5 56.♖f2 ♖f6 57.♙d3 h5 58.♖f3 h4 59.♙f1 ♘d6 60.♖f2 ♘e4+ 61.♖e1 ♖f7 62.♙g2 ♘d6 63.♙f1 ♖e7 64.♖f2 ♖f6 65.♖f3 ♘f5 66.♙g2 ♘d6 67.♙f1 ♘e4 68.♙h3 ♘d2+ 69.♖e2 ♘c4 70.♖f3 ♘d6 71.♙f1 h3 72.♙xh3 ♘xb5 73.♖e2 ♘d6 74.♖d3 b5 75.♖c3 1/2-1/2

FIRST PART

Cross table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1 Kortchnoi	*	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	5
2 Keres	½	*	½	½	1	0	½	1	4
3 Geller	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	½	4
4 Petrosian	½	½	½	*	½	½	½	1	4
5 Benko	½	0	½	½	*	1	0	1	3½
6 Fischer	0	1	0	½	0	*	1	½	3
7 Filip	0	½	½	½	1	0	*	0	2½
8 Tal	0	0	½	0	0	½	1	*	2

Arbiter Harry de Graaf calls for the next round.



A view of the playing hall during round 14.





The attentive audience.



Paul Keres.

Pal Benko is waiting for his opponent Kortchnoi. Score Assistant Nieuwkerk is ready to record the moves.



Fischer against Kortchnoi. Even Score Assistant Avis is nervous.



The post mortem between Petrosian and Tal. Half-hidden behind Tal, Nacho Moron.

Russian second, GM Isaak Boleslavsky, analyses with KGB representative Sergey Gorshkov. Press Officer Berry Withuis watches smilingly, as Rona Petrosian is interfering as usual.



THE COURSE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Part II

May 13-25



In a tournament of 28 rounds, one might expect the likelihood of surprises to stay alive till the very last moment, which is exactly what many people were bracing themselves for during the tournament in Curaçao. It was, for example, quite possible that Fischer would make up for his poor start by suddenly surging ahead and ending up earning the right to challenge Botvinnik. As regards Tal, it was hard to remain optimistic about him; he was too far behind. This did not stop Tal himself from seeing the bright side, however. As he put it: 'I finished the first cycle with 2 points out of 7, alone in last place. But my natural optimism urged me on, and with 21 games still to go – a whole tournament! – somewhere in my mind I "changed my schedule". Seeing that the competitors in Curaçao were playing more reservedly than in Yugoslavia three years previously, and that the number of points required for first place – I didn't even consider any other! – would be less, I decided to... steal up on them'.

In reality, the standings midway through the tournament gave a good indication of what was to follow. Almost unnoticed, but with great determination, Petrosian, Geller and Keres forged ahead to gain the lead during the second part of the tournament. Kortchnoi lost ground due to defeats at the hands of Fischer and Tal, compensated for by only a single win against Filip. His loss against Fischer, after a blunder in a superior position, must have come as a particularly hard blow.

Fischer failed to exploit his chance to catch up with the leaders and remained stuck on 50 per cent. As far as the scores were concerned, Tal would prove to have guessed correctly. Before the start of the tournament, the experts had expected the winner to score about 70 per cent. Halfway through the tournament it was slightly over 60 per cent, and it would remain this way till the end.

ROUND 8

May 13

Tal - Petrosian	0-1
Geller - Kortchnoi	1/2-1/2
Filip - Keres	0-1
Fischer - Benko	1-0

French Defence

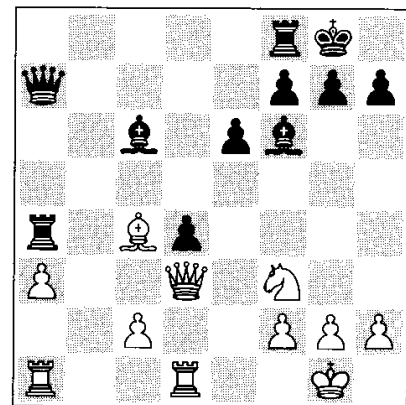
Mikhail Tal
Tigran Petrosian

The most terrible game of the tournament. Petrosian goes for the Burn variation of the French. Tal almost immediately leaves the well-trodden paths, but in a way that inspires very little confidence. He himself has this to say about it: '...somewhere around move 8 I thought for more than an hour, trying to choose between one of two normal continuations, both of which would give White an opening advantage. First I wrote down one move, then the other (incidentally, two rounds later, I adopted the second against Benko, and won, while Spassky played the first against Petrosian a year later, and also won), and, being unable to decide which was the stronger, I suddenly made a third, ridiculous move. By move 13 White already stood worse, and then, to top it all off, I immediately blundered away a bishop'.

It is painful to see such a great player carrying on like this, seemingly more at war with himself than with his opponent.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 dxe4
5.♘xe4 ♘bd7 6.♘xf6+ ♘xf6 7.♘f3 c5
8.♙d3 ♙e7 9.♙xf6 ♙xf6 10.♙b5+ ♙d7
11.♙xb7 ♚b8 12.♙xa7 ♚xb2 13.♙d3

cx d4 14.0-0 ♙c6 15.♙a3 ♙b6 16.♙c4
♚b4 17.♙d3 0-0 18.a3 ♚a4 19.♚fd1
♙a7



20.♚a2?? ♚xc4

0-1

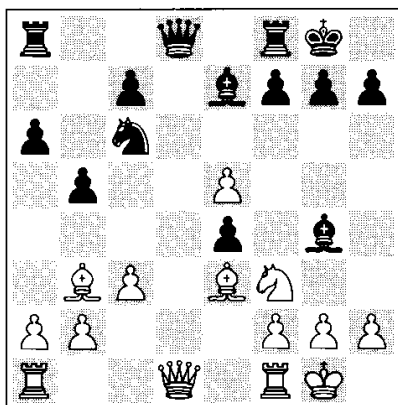
Ruy Lopez

Efim Geller
Viktor Kortchnoi

Again, Kortchnoi goes for the open Ruy Lopez, steering towards a draw without encountering any significant problems. Yet his set-up was dubious. Towards the end of the 1970s it was demonstrated that White is better after 13.♙d5! (instead of the game move 13.♙d5). This queen move per se had been known from the 1940s. Michell-Najdorf, Mar del Plata 1941, continued 13.♙d5 exf3 14.♙xc6 fxe3 15.♙xg2 ♙d7 16.♙h6! gxe6 17.e6

fxe6 18. ♖xg4+ ♔h8, with equality. In Kasparov-Yusupov, USSR championship Minsk 1979, White showed that 17.f3 is far stronger. After 17...h5 18. ♖ad1 ♕f5 19.fxg4 ♕xe5 20. ♖de1 Black was facing a very difficult defence.

1.e4 e5 2. ♘f3 ♘c6 3. ♙b5 a6 4. ♙a4 ♘f6 5. 0-0 ♘xe4 6. d4 b5 7. ♙b3 d5 8. dxe5 ♙e6 9. c3 ♙e7 10. ♙e3 0-0 11. ♘bd2 ♙g4 12. ♘xe4 dxe4



13. ♙d5 ♘xe5 14. ♙xe4 ♘xf3+ 15. ♙xf3 ♕xd1 16. ♙xd1 ♙xd1 17. ♖fxd1 ♖fd8 18. ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 19. ♔f1 ♔f8 20. a4 ♙e8
1/2-1/2

Queen's Gambit Accepted

Miroslav Filip
Paul Keres

1. ♘f3 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 ♘f6
4. ♙xc4 e6 5. 0-0 c5 6. d4 a6
7. ♕e2 b5 8. ♙b3 ♙b7

An important starting position in the Queen's Gambit Accepted. The critical move now is 9.a4, after which White may hope for an opening advantage.

9. ♖d1 ♘bd7 10. ♘c3

This is making life very easy for Black.

10...b4

Quite correct. Black wants to expand his queenside territory.

11. ♘b1

This retreat constitutes a serious waste of time. In Spassky-Keres, Candidates' Tournament Amsterdam 1956, White played 11. ♘a4, and after 11... ♕a5 he continued with the sharp pawn sacrifice 12.e4. On second thoughts, Filip probably judged this continuation to be too sharp, yet 11. ♘a4 was preferable in all respects, since the text-move lands him in all kinds of trouble.

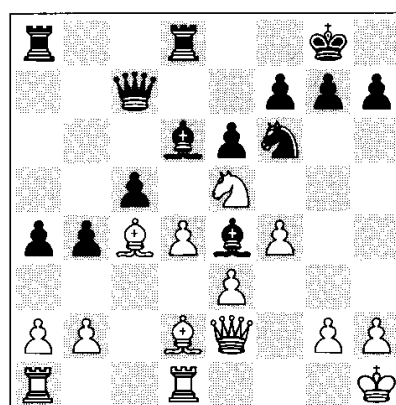
11... ♙e7 12. ♘bd2 0-0 13. ♘c4 ♕c7 14. ♙d2 a5 15. ♘ce5

Another waste of time. White was probably afraid of the pinning move 15... ♙a6. Correct was 15. ♖ac1, in order to meet 15... ♙a6 with 16. ♙c2.

15... ♘xe5 16. ♘xe5 ♙d6 17.f4

Sad necessity. The black queen's bishop now has a clear diagonal.

17... a4 18. ♙c4 ♖fd8 19. ♔h1 ♙e4



Keres is a maximalist. By swapping on d4 he could have achieved a tangible strategic plus, but he wants more: with the text-move he embarks on a policy of encirclement. The enemy must be completely hemmed in.

20. ♖ac1 ♕b6 21. dxc5

Inevitable in the long run.

21... ♙xc5 22. ♘d3 ♙e7 23. ♘f2 ♙b7

Both black bishops have been forced back, but White has nevertheless failed to free himself.

24. ♖d3 ♜ac8 25. ♗e5 ♙e4

For the second time, the bishop lands on this vital square.

26. ♙d3 ♗xd3 27. ♗xd3 ♜xc1

28. ♙xc1 ♗e4

Very systematic. After swapping his queen's bishop Black puts the knight on the all-important square.

29. ♔g1 ♚b5 30. ♔f1 ♚c4

31. ♗e1 ♚xa2 32. ♜xd8+ ♙xd8

33. ♚d3

33. ♚b5 would have run into 33... ♙e7, with an easy win.

33... ♚d5 34. ♚xd5 exd5 35. ♗c2

♙e7 36. ♔e2 ♙c5 37. ♙d2 b3

White resigns.

French Defence

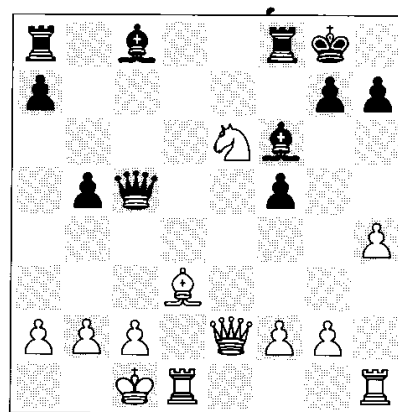
Robert Fischer

Pal Benko

With sound and active play, Black manages to solve his opening problems. With 19... ♙xb2+ Benko could have forced perpetual check, but strangely enough he overlooked this possibility completely. Even more strangely, Fischer must have missed this simple turn as well, as Benko told me 40 years later. Benko and Fischer were not getting on at all during this stage of the tournament, as they were quarrelling about their joint second, Bisguier. Fischer was of the opinion that Bisguier was mainly there to help him in his fight against the Soviets, but Benko thought he could also lay claim to the second's services, particularly because he

had started the tournament with better scores than Fischer. Bisguier had been appointed their second by the American chess federation, but their instructions had apparently not been very clear. Because of this friction, they did not conduct a post-mortem. The next day, Benko nevertheless told his opponent that he could have forced a draw. To his amazement, Fischer maintained that Black had at no time had a chance to draw. Benko then showed him the drawing turn. Instead of replying, Fischer just shook his head, demonstrating once more that he had not brought his best form to Curaçao. All the same, he demonstrated superior endgame technique later in the game.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3. ♗c3 ♗f6 4. ♙g5 dxe4 5. ♗xe4 ♙e7 6. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 7. ♗f3 ♗d7 8. ♚d2 ♙e7 9.0-0-0 ♗f6 10. ♙d3 0-0 11. ♗xf6+ ♙xf6 12. ♚f4 c5 13.dxc5 ♚a5 14. ♚c4 ♙e7 15.h4 ♚xc5 16. ♚e4 f5 17. ♚e2 b5 18. ♗g5 ♙f6 19. ♗xe6



19... ♙xe6 20. ♚xe6+ ♔h8 21. ♔b1 ♚xf2 22. ♚xf5 ♚xf5 23. ♙xf5 g6 24. ♙d3 ♜ad8 25.h5 ♔g7 26.hxg6 hxg6 27. ♙xb5 ♜xd1+ 28. ♜xd1 ♜b8 29.a4 a6 30. ♜d7+ ♔h6 31. ♜d6 ♙xb2 32. ♔xb2 axb5 33.a5 ♜a8 34.a6 ♔h5 35. ♔b3 g5 36. ♔b4 ♔g4 37. ♔xb5 ♔g3 38. ♜d7 g4 39.a7 1-0

ROUND 9

May 16

Petrosian - Kortchnoi	1/2-1/2
Keres - Tal	1/2-1/2
Benko - Filip	1-0
Fischer - Geller	0-1

Queen's Gambit Accepted

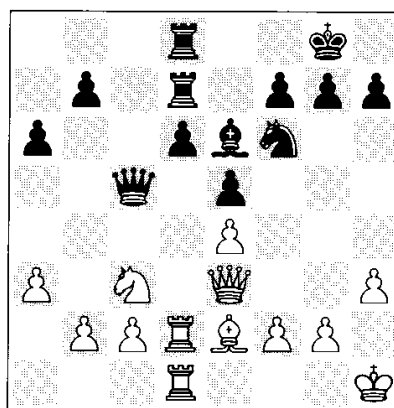
Tigran Petrosian
Viktor Kortchnoi

After his stroke of good luck in the previous round, Petrosian again takes it easy as White. He may briefly have striven for an advantage, but he soon acquiesces in a draw.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.g3 f6 4.f4 a4+
c6 5.g3 c3 g4 6.g3 e5 d7 7.f4xc4 e6
8.g5 e7 9.gxf6 gxf6 10.g3xd7 f4xd7
11.e3 e7 12.a3 0-0 13.g3e2 a5
14.f4a2 c5 15.dxc5 f4c6 16.0-0 f4xc5
17.f4ac1 f4e5 18.b4 g3c6 19.g3a4 f4fc8
20.g3 d6 21.g3b2 g3f8 22.g3c4 f4f5
23.f4fd1 g3e5 24.g3xe5 f4xe5 25.g3f3
f4c7 26.f4d2 a5

1/2-1/2

1.e4 c5 2.g3 f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.g3xd4
c6 5.g3c3 f4c7 6.g3e3 a6 7.g3e2 g3f6
8.a3 g3d6 9.f4d2 g3xd4 10.g3xd4 g3f4
11.f4d3 e5 12.g3e3 g3xe3 13.f4xe3 d6
14.0-0 0-0 15.f4ad1 g3e6 16.f4d2 f4ad8
17.f4fd1 f4d7 18.h3 f4fd8 19.g3h1 f4c5



20.f4xc5 dxc5 21.f4xd7 f4xd7 22.f4xd7
g3xd7 23.b4 cxb4

1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres
Mikhail Tal

As against Geller, Tal uses the Taimanov variation strongly and energetically. Here, too, he takes the king's bishop to d6. Then the dark-squared bishops are swapped, leading to a very satisfactory position for Black. After a wholesale exchange of the major pieces the players quickly agree on a draw.

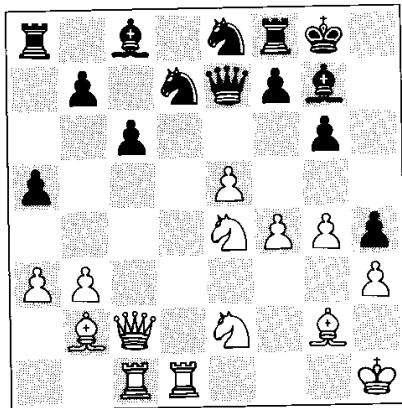
Grünfeld Indian Defence

Pal Benko
Miroslav Filip

Benko continues to swear by 1.g3, and again it yields him victory – Filip is swept aside in classical style. Benko's high score with the white pieces is remarkable: 4 out of 5, including the draw against Petrosian in which he overlooked a win.

1.g3 f6 2.g2 d5 3.g3 f3 g6 4.c4 g7
5.cxd5 g3xd5 6.0-0 0-0 7.d4 g3a6 8.g3c3

♖b6 9.b3 ♖b4 10.♙b2 a5 11.♖c1 c6
 12.a3 ♖a6 13.♚c2 ♙f5 14.e4 ♙g4
 15.♗e5 ♙e6 16.♖fd1 ♗c7 17.♗d3 ♙g4
 18.f3 ♙c8 19.♗e2 ♖b5 20.♗c5 ♚e8
 21.♗h1 h5 22.h3 ♗d7 23.♗a4 h4 24.g4
 ♗d6 25.♗ac3 e5 26.dxe5 ♚xe5 27.f4
 ♚e7 28.e5 ♗e8 29.♗e4



29...♗b6 30.♙d4 ♗d7 31.♙f2 ♗c7
 32.♗2c3 ♚xa3 33.♗d6 ♗d5 34.♗xd5
 cxd5 35.♖a1 ♚b4 36.♖a4 g5 37.♖xb4
 axb4 38.♚c7 1-0

Sicilian Defence

Robert Fischer
Efim Geller

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4
 4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 ♗c6 6.♙c4
 e6 7.♙b3 ♙e7 8.f4

Given the circumstances (the black a-pawn still being on a7), this set-up will not yield any opening advantage, as Geller will demonstrate in no uncertain terms. A good alternative is 8.♙e3.

8...0-0 9.♙e3 ♗xd4 10.♙xd4 b5!

This advance is characteristic of Geller's style. Black is threatening 11...b4, so White's next move is more or less forced.

11.e5 dxe5 12.fxe5 ♗d7 13.0-0

Ten years later Stein played 13.♚g4 here,

but without getting any advantage. In Stein-Gheorghiu, Reykjavik 1972, chances were equal after 13.♚g4 b4 14.♗e4 ♙b7 15.♗d6 ♙xd6 16.exd6 ♗f6. An interesting alternative is 13.♚f3, e.g. 13...♖b8 14.0-0-0 ♚c7 15.♖he1 a5 16.a4, with unclear play, Sigurjonsson-Van der Wiel, Reykjavik 1985.

13...♙c5!

Turning his sights on the e-pawn.

14.♙xc5

White's best bet. He is aiming for an end-game with roughly equal chances. 14.♗xb5 would have run into the very unpleasant 14...♚b6.

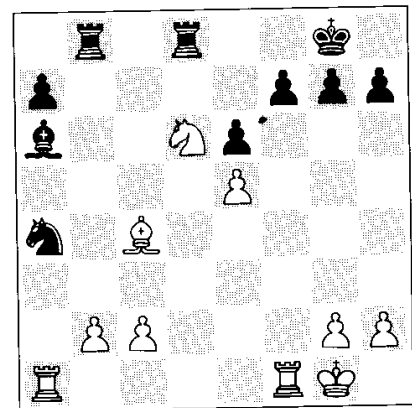
14...♗xc5 15.♚xd8 ♖xd8

16.♗xb5 ♙a6 17.♙c4 ♖ab8

18.a4 ♗xa4

The point of Black's 13th move.

19.♗d6



This move was probably based on a miscalculation. Correct was 19.♖xa4 in order to liquidate to a double rook ending. After 19...♙xb5 20.♙xb5 ♖xb5 21.♖xa7 ♖f8 22.b3 ♖xe5 23.c4 the position is quite drawish and White is certainly not worse.

19...♙xc4 20.♗xc4 ♗xb2 21.♗d6 ♖d7 22.♖fb1 ♖c7

In order to meet 23.♖a2 with 23...♖xc2.

23.h3

This cannot have been Fischer's intention.

After 23.c4 Black had prepared the reply 23...♖b4, when there is no way for White to exploit the pin along the b-file and he simply remains a pawn down.

23...♖b6 24.c4 h6

Here, too, 24...♖b4 was called for. After the text White will succeed in reaching a rook ending a pawn down that is just within drawing distance.

25.♘b5 ♖c5

Certainly not 25...♖xc4? in view of 26.♖xb2 a6 27.♘a3 or 27.♘d6, winning a piece.

26.♖xb2 a6 27.♖f2!

White grabs his chance and launches an attack on f7 with both rooks.

27...axb5 28.♖a7 ♖xe5

Black's only winning chance. The rook is on its way to g5 to cover the g-pawn.

29.♖xf7 ♖g5 30.♖fb7

Forcing the draw:

30...♖xb7 31.♖xb7 bxc4 32.♖c7

♖f5 33.♖xc4 ♔f7 34.g4

This active response is justified, although a more conservative approach would have sufficed as well.

34...♖f3 35.♔g2 ♖d3 36.♖c7+

♔f6 37.h4 ♖a3 38.♖b7 ♖c3

39.g5+

White wants to force the draw at once, with the result that he will have to be extremely accurate later.

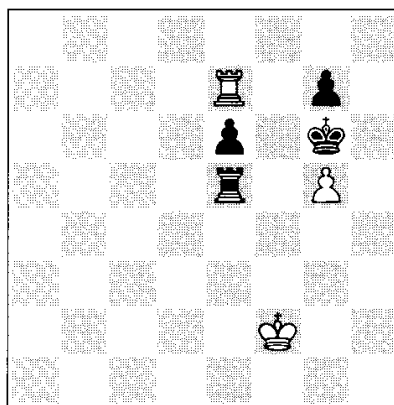
39...hxc5 40.hxc5+ ♔g6 41.♖e7

♖e3 42.♔f2?

Fischer had made his two last moves before the adjournment, so that Geller now had to seal his move. Fischer must have

cursed himself during the adjournment, since 42.♔h2! would have been enough to hold the game. After the text he is lost. The bulletin has an interesting way of putting it: 'By way of a highly tentative prognosis we would say "a draw", but after about 12 hours the technical proof still wasn't forthcoming.' It seems that the authors had not immediately realised that the text-move was a blunder.

42...♖e5



This is the problem; now the king is 'caught' in the area of the e-, f- and g-files.

43.♔f3 ♖f5+ 44.♔e3 e5

Winning the white g-pawn. The rest is a simple matter of technique.

45.♔e4 ♖xc5 46.♖e8 ♖g1 47.♔f3 ♖f1+

48.♔g3 ♖f5 49.♖b8 ♔g5 50.♖e8 ♔f6

51.♖f8+ ♔e6 52.♖e8+ ♔f6 53.♖f8+

♔e6 54.♖e8+ ♔d5 55.♖a8 ♖f7 56.♔g4

♖e7 57.♖a5+ ♔e6 58.♖a6+ ♔f7

59.♔f3 ♖e6 60.♖a8 e4+ 61.♔e3 g5

62.♖a1 ♔g6 63.♖b1 ♖e5 64.♔d4 ♔f6

65.♖e1 ♖a5 66.♖xe4 ♔f5 67.♖e8 ♔g4

68.♔e3 ♔g3 **0-1**

ROUND 10

May 17

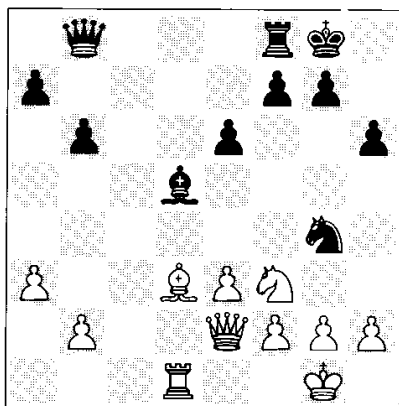
Filip - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Kortchnoi - Keres	1/2-1/2
Tal - Benko	1-0
Geller - Petrosian	1/2-1/2

Nimzo-Indian Defence

Miroslav Filip
Robert Fischer

After a Nimzo-Indian opening, Fischer develops a rock-solid initiative, but as if to show once more that he is not in the best of forms he liquidates to a simple endgame that only *seems* promising. After White's 41st move the game is adjourned, and on closer scrutiny Black's advantage turns out to be illusory.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.♗f3 0-0
5.♚b3 c5 6.dxc5 ♘a6 7.♙d2 ♚e7 8.e3
♘xc5 9.♚c2 b6 10.♙e2 ♙b7 11.0-0
♚ac8 12.♚ac1 ♘ce4 13.♘xe4 ♘xe4
14.♙xb4 ♚xb4 15.♙d3 d5 16.♚b1 ♘f6
17.cxd5 ♙xd5 18.a3 ♚d6 19.♚fd1 ♚xc1
20.♚xc1 ♚b8 21.♚d2 h6 22.♚e2 ♘g4



23.e4 ♙b7 24.♙b1 ♚c8 25.h3 ♘f6
26.♚e3 ♚c7 27.♚e1 ♘d7 28.♚d2 ♘c5

29.♚c1 ♚d8 30.♚e3 ♚c7 31.♚f4 ♚d7
32.♙c2 ♚f6 33.♚xf6 gxf6 34.♚e1 ♘d3
35.♚d1 ♙xe4 36.♘e1 ♘xe1 37.♚xd7
♘xc2 38.♚xa7 ♙d5 39.a4 ♘b4 40.♚c7
♙g7 41.♚c8 ♘d3 42.b4 ♘xb4 43.♚b8
♘c6 44.♚xb6 f5 1/2-1/2

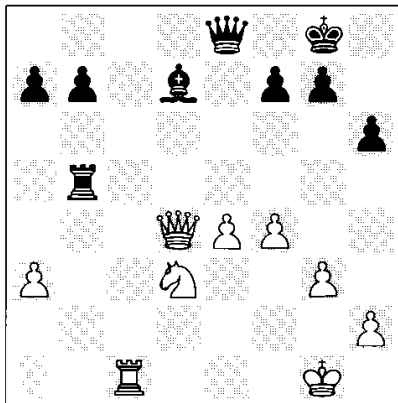
Tarrasch Defence

Viktor Kortchnoi
Paul Keres

A charged fight. Keres goes for the Tarrasch defence, which fits well with his style. With solid play he puts his pieces on good squares. Kortchnoi tries everything to manufacture an advantage, eventually winning a pawn at the expense of weakening his own position. Keres has ample compensation, and on move 28 White is forced to return the pawn, leaving Black with the better position, which he could have consolidated with 30...♚a5! (instead of 30...♙c6). In slight time-trouble, and with an equal rook ending on the horizon, the players agree to call it a day.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.g3 ♘c6
5.♙g2 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.d4 ♙e7 8.0-0
0-0 9.♙f4 ♙e6 10.♚c1 ♚c8 11.dxc5
♙xc5 12.♘a4 ♙b6 13.a3 ♘e4 14.b4
♚f6 15.♚d3 ♙c7 16.♙xc7 ♚xc7 17.b5

♞e5 18.♞xe5 ♖xc1 19.♖xc1 ♚xe5
20.f4 ♚b8 21.♙xe4 dxe4 22.♚xe4
♜e8 23.♚d4 ♜d8 24.♚b4 h6 25.♞c5
♙h3 26.♞d3 ♜d5 27.♞f2 ♚e8 28.e4
♜xb5 29.♚d4 ♙d7 30.♞d3



30... ♙c6 31.♞e5 ♜b6 32.♚c4 1/2-1/2

French Defence

Mikhail Tal
Pal Benko

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♞c3 ♞f6
4.♙g5 dxe4 5.♞xe4 ♞bd7
6.♞xf6+ ♞xf6 7.♞f3 c5 8.♙c4

This time Tal refuses to be sidetracked by delusions and opts for the theoretical approach. Sound alternatives are 8.♙b5+ and 8.♙e2.

8...cxd4 9.0-0

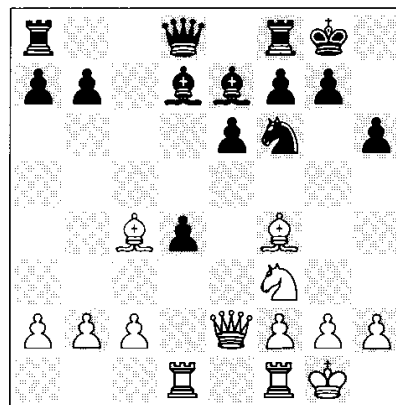
This is also a well-known principle in the Tarrasch variation of the French; White doesn't need to be in any rush trying to win back the pawn.

9...♙e7 10.♚e2 h6

Afterwards the players failed to agree on the best approach: Tal was of the opinion that Black should have castled at once, whereas Benko still believed that he should have chased away the bishop first.

It is hard to say which of the two players was right.

11.♙f4 0-0 12.♜ad1 ♙d7



13.♜xd4

This move elicits the following curious comment: 'A *Fingerfehler*; Tal wrote down 13.♞xd4 on the form, but picked up the rook...' Could this really be true? It goes without saying that I don't doubt for a second that this is what Tal had told press chief Berry Withuis, but I really wonder whether he wasn't just putting a nice gloss on it. Like Petrosian, Tal was in the habit of noting down his moves before executing them, and unlike other players he never put his pen or watch on the recorded move to hide it. On the contrary, he was eager to see the reaction of his opponent. I myself remember looking at a move Tal had written down before he actually played it. He immediately fixated me to gauge my reaction. Sometimes he crossed out a move he had just written down and replaced it with another one. He had also been known to play a different move from the one he had recorded and only then to cross out the move he had originally written down. However this may be, three years after this game Tal again took with the rook in his match against Portisch. This time there could be

no doubt that he had meant to do so, as he had prepared a sharp attack. I will return to this later.

13...♖b6 14.♗d3

Played with a clear plan in mind. White wants to take his knight to e5 prior to involving his rook in an offensive against the enemy king along the third rank. As the game progresses, Benko will show that this plan is harmless for Black. Far stronger than the text was 14.♖d2!, as in Tal-Portisch, fourth match game, Bled 1965. After 14...♙c6 15.♙xh6 ♘e4 16.♖f4 gxf6 17.♗xe4 ♙xe4 18.♖xe4 White had ample compensation for the exchange. One might think that Tal, on the assumption that Portisch was familiar with his games in Curaçao, would have prepared especially for this line, but this does not seem to have been the case. In *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal* he relates how, during the game against Portisch, he failed to remember how his game against Benko had gone, adding that he has always been fairly successful in forgetting his Curaçao games, so he is duly surprised when Portisch tells him afterwards that the games had been identical for 13 moves. An amazing story that is illustrative of Tal's ceaseless striving for inventiveness over the board and his repugnance for endless preparation in his study. In this case this attitude paid handsomely, as he ended up defeating both Benko and Portisch.

14...♙b5

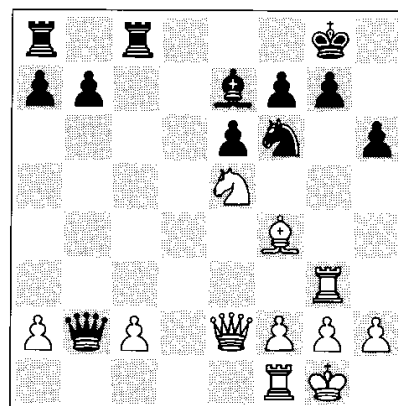
It is too dangerous to capture on b2 at once, as after 14...♖xb2 15.♗b3 ♖xa2 16.♘e5 Black would be in insuperable trouble.

15.♙xb5 ♖xb5 16.♘e5

Consistent, but the careful 16.b3 would

have been objectively better, although this would be tantamount to White admitting that he had made no progress whatever.

16...♖xb2 17.♗g3 ♗fc8!



Very strong. Black doesn't bother covering his h-pawn and vacates square f8 for the bishop. He has correctly concluded that the white attack will not strike home. On the contrary; Black is already better. The artificial 17...♖h7 would have given White a choice between 18.♖d2 and 18.♗b3, in both cases with sufficient counterplay for White. •

18.♙xh6 ♙f8 19.♖e3 ♖xc2

Black continues to defend strongly and soberly. 19...♘d5 was insufficient in view of 20.♖g5 f6 21.♖xg7+ ♙xg7 22.♗xg7+ ♖f8 23.♗xb7+, and White wins.

20.♗e1

Threatening to take on f7.

20...♗c7 21.h3

For the moment Black has averted all threats, and White plays a quiet move to create an escape hatch for his king. In practical play such moments are especially dangerous for the defender. When it seems that you're finally out of the woods, it is easy to make a mistake, and this is exactly what happens here. With the quiet pawn move White introduces a

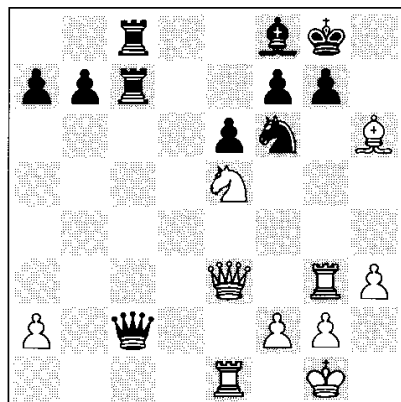
positional threat, viz. taking on g7. If White had done so at once, it would not have been quite so effective. After 21. ♖xg7 ♖xg7 22. ♖xg7+ ♔xg7 23. ♖g5+ ♕f8 24. ♖xf6 Black has the following possibilities

A) 24... ♖d2? I indicated this queen move as quite logical in itself in *New In Chess* 2004/4, but I should have consulted the computer first, as the refutation is quite elegant and forcing: White mates with 25. ♗g6+ ♕e8 26. ♖xe6+! fxe6 27. ♖f8+ ♕d7 28. ♗e5. A clean mate.

B) 24... ♖ac8 25. h3 leads to the game; Black is having a hard time of it.

C) 24... ♖f5 25. ♖h6+ ♕g8! The correct continuation. Black is exploiting the fact that the white rook cannot yet intervene. It looks as if White will fall just short of full compensation for the exchange, e.g. 26. h3 f6 27. ♗g4 ♖f8 28. ♖e3 ♖g5 29. ♖xe6+ ♕h7, and the white initiative peters out.

21... ♖ac8



Benko was very optimistic here, which was quite characteristic of him. Like so often, he had landed himself in desperate time-trouble. With the careful 21... ♗e8 he could have repulsed the white attack. After 22. ♖e2 ♖h7 23. ♖f4 White keeps some compensation in the active posi-

tions of his pieces, but Black clearly has the best papers.

22. ♖xg7

This transaction is justified here, as White is sure of the draw.

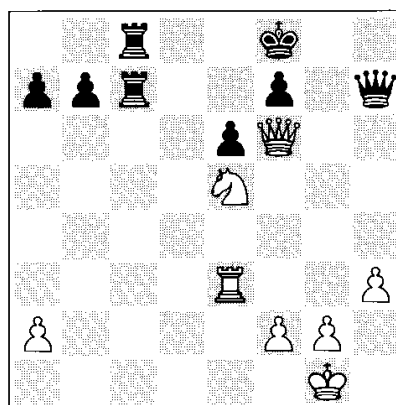
22... ♖xg7 23. ♖xg7+ ♕xg7

24. ♖g5+ ♕f8 25. ♖xf6 ♖h7

According to the bulletin, Benko was still convinced that he was winning here. This explains why he did not play 25... ♖f5, after which White can force a draw with 26. ♖h6+ ♕e7 27. ♖h4+ ♖f6 28. ♖b4+, and perpetual check.

26. ♖e3

Thanks to his 21st move White can mobilise his rook to join the attack; Black's situation is precarious.



26... ♖f5

Panic. Black realises the danger he is in and tries to get back to the drawing variation after all. The bulletin indicates 26... ♖g7 as better, but then, too, the black position turns out to be indefensible after 27. ♖f4 and 28. ♖g3.

27. ♖h8+ ♕e7 28. ♖h4+ ♖f6

29. ♖b4+ ♕e8 30. ♖b5+

Covering the knight, so that the rook can range freely along the third rank.

30... ♕f8 31. ♖f3 ♖d8 32. ♖b4+

♕e8 33. ♖g3 ♖c5

And in this totally lost position Black lost on time.

Caro-Kann Defence

Efim Geller

Tigran Petrosian

The way this game develops clearly indicates that it had been arranged beforehand. 'There was hardly any fight between High Priests Geller and Petrosian,'

reported the bulletin.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 dxe4 4.♗xe4
♗f6 5.♗xf6+ exf6 6.♙c4 ♙d6 7.♚e2+
♚e7 8.♚xe7+ ♚xe7 9.♗e2 ♙e6
10.♙xe6 fxe6 11.♙f4 ♙xf4 12.♗xf4
♗d7 13.0-0-0 ♚he8 14.♚he1 ♚f7
15.♚e3 e5 16.dxe5 ♗xe5 17.h3 ♚ad8
18.♗d3 ♗xd3+ 1/2-1/2

ROUND 11

May 19

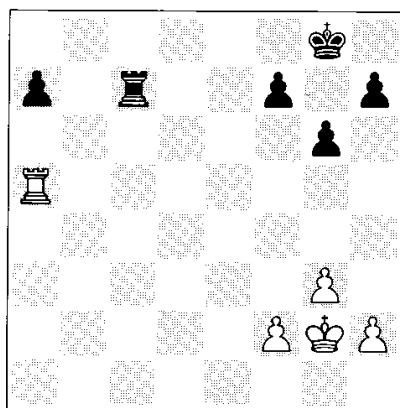
Benko - Kortchnoi	1/2-1/2
Fischer - Tal	1-0
Filip - Geller	0-1
Keres - Petrosian	1/2-1/2

Réti Opening

Pal Benko
Viktor Kortchnoi

This time, Benko's favourite opening fails to yield him any advantage. On the contrary, Kortchnoi quickly takes the initiative and manoeuvres his way into a rook ending a pawn up. The active position of the white pieces, however, prevents him from exploiting his advantage.

1.g3 d5 2.♘f3 c5 3.♙g2 g6 4.c4 d4
5.b4 cxb4 6.♚a4+ ♙d7 7.♚xb4 ♘c6
8.♚b3 ♙g7 9.d3 ♘f6 10.0-0 0-0
11.♘a3 ♙c8 12.♘c2 ♘d7 13.♙a3 ♖b8
14.♖ab1 b6 15.♚b2 ♙b7 16.♘fxd4
♘xd4 17.♘xd4 ♘e5 18.♙b4 ♙xg2
19.♙xg2 ♘xd3 20.exd3 ♙xd4 21.♙xe7
♙xb2 22.♙xd8 ♖bxd8 23.♖xb2 ♖xd3
24.♖e1 ♖d7 25.a4 ♖c8 26.a5 bxa5
27.♖c1 ♖c5 28.♖a2 ♖d4 29.♖ca1
♖dxc4 30.♖xa5 ♖xa5 31.♖xa5 ♖c7



32.♙f3 ♙f8 33.♙f4 f6 34.h4 ♙e8
35.h5 ♙d8 36.hxg6 hxg6 37.♖a6 ♖f7
38.g4 ♙c8 39.g5 fxg5+ 40.♙xg5 ♙b7
41.♖a2 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Robert Fischer
Mikhail Tal

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♘xd4 e5

The Löwenthal variation, which used to enjoy a measure of popularity in the 1960s.

5.♘b5

In Morphy-Löwenthal, 6th match game, London 1958, White captured on c6, but it is clear that the text is the only move offering White any hope of an advantage.

5...a6 6.♘d6+ ♙xd6 7.♚xd6 ♚f6
8.♚d1

White has several alternatives: 8.♚c7, 8.♚a3 and 8.♚xf6. Modern opening theory regards all queen moves – including the swap – as better for White.

8...♚g6 9.♘c3 ♘ge7 10.h4

This advance was first played by Boleslavsky in the 1950s.

10...h5

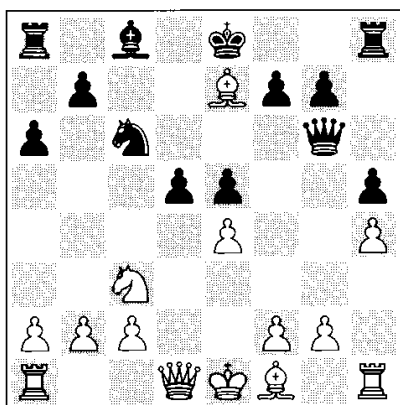
Black must prevent any further advances by the white h-pawn.

11. ♖g5 d5

This sharp set-up is supposed to justify Black's handling of the position.

12. ♖xe7

At first sight this seems to be the right approach, but in fact it allows Black to create counter-chances with sharp play. A later analysis by Uhlmann demonstrated that 12.exd5 ♘b4 13. ♖xe7! ♔xe7 14.d6+ ♔d8 15. ♖d3 ♘xd3+ 16. ♚xd3 leads to a better position for White.



12...d4!

This strong move is known from the game Matanovic-Bouwmeester, Utrecht 1961.

13. ♖g5

Matanovic played 13. ♖c5, but he didn't manage to get an opening advantage either.

13...dxc3 14.bxc3 ♚xe4+

15. ♖e2 f6 16. ♖e3 ♖g4

Forcing White to swap bishops. Insufficient was 16... ♚xg2 in view of 17. ♖xh5+, followed by 18. ♖f3.

17. ♚d3

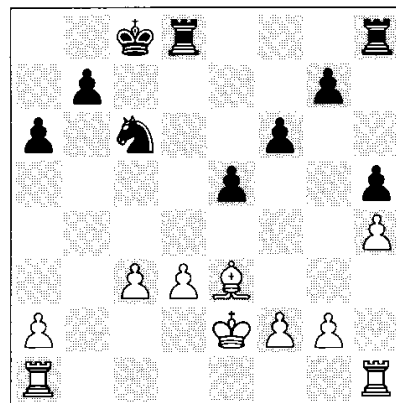
The best solution to White's positional problem. He forces a queen swap in order to improve his pawn structure.

17... ♚xd3 18.cxd3 ♖xe2

19. ♔xe2 0-0-0

Black has come out of the opening quite well and can even boast a slight advan-

tage: his pawn structure is slightly more compact and in this type of position his knight is certainly not worse than the white bishop.



20. ♖ad1

It seems more logical to take the other rook to d1, but Fischer was apparently anticipating Black's plan to double rooks; after 20... ♖d5 he could continue with 21.f3, with the intention of 21... ♖hd8 22.g4, after which he would have counterplay on the kingside.

20... ♘e7

Bisguier rejects this knight manoeuvre in the bulletin - wrongly, I think. Black now has the strong positional threat of 21... ♘f5, so that White is forced to advance his d-pawn.

21.d4 ♘d5 22. ♖c1 ♖he8

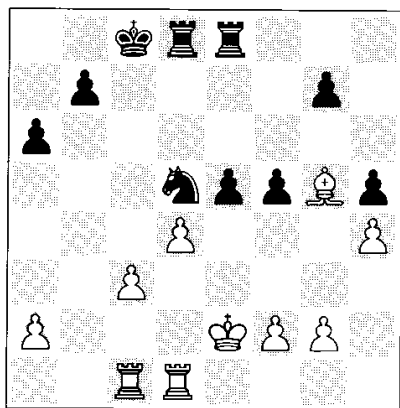
23. ♖hd1 f5

This is asking too much of the black position. The simple 23...exd4 would have left Black with a slight plus. Considering that 24.cxd4+ ♔b8 is unattractive for White then, 24. ♖xd4 seems to be White's best bet, after which Black can continue with 24... ♘xe3 25.fxe3 ♖d7. 24... ♖e5, as indicated by Kasparov in *My Great Predecessors IV* is good as well.

24. ♖g5!

Tal must have underestimated this strong

reply. White creates a solid foothold for his bishop, while at the same time gaining a tempo.



24...Rd7

Tal may well have pinned his hopes on 24...exd4+ 25.♔f3 ♘xc3, only to realise later that White then gets an advantage with 26.♙xd8 ♖xd8 27.♖d3.

25.dxe5 ♖xe5+ 26.♔f3 ♖e4

27.♖d3 ♖c4

Not a very good move. Black is hunting for pawns, but at the risk of the white king penetrating his kingside. If Tal had been in form, he would almost certainly have gone for 27...♘b6, with roughly equal chances.

28.♖cd1!

And Fischer is quite happy to sacrifice the pawn.

28...♖xc3 29.♖xc3+ ♘xc3

30.♖c1 ♖c7 31.♙f4 ♖c6 32.♙e5

The point of White's 28th move. After 32...♘xa2 33.♖xc6+ bxc6 34.♔f4, Black would quietly go under.

32...♘d5 33.♖d1

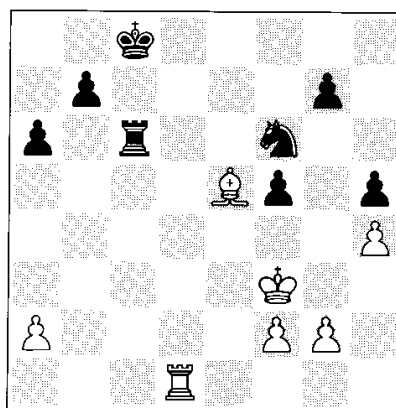
Given the situation, White does not want to swap rooks, of course, as this will prevent his king from penetrating.

33...♘f6

Another indication that Tal is not in the best of forms. He refuses to let go of his

slight material plus. The Russian analyst Chistiakov indicates 33...♖c5 as better here, intending to meet 34.♙xg7 with 34...♔d7, and Black keeps a reasonably solid defensive line.

It is important that Black can meet 35.♖e1 with 35...♘c7!, followed by 36...♘e6. White's best continuation is probably 35.g3 in order to be able to create a return square for his king if necessary.



34.♔f4 g6

34...♖c2 would have been met strongly by 35.♙d4, as indicated by Chistiakov. Kasparov is of the opinion that Black would not be worse after 35...♖xa2 36.♔xf5 b5. However, his variations fail to convince me. After 37.♔g6 b4 38.♔xg7 ♘g4 39.♔g6 ♘xf2 40.♖c1+ ♔d7 41.♔xh5 he gives two possibilities for Black:

A) 41...♖a5+ 42.♔g6 ♘d3 and here Kasparov's analysis ends. It seems to me that White should be winning after 43.♖f1. His passed pawns are far more dangerous than the black ones, and his bishop is superior to the black knight as well;

B) 41...a5 42.g4 b3 43.g5 ♖d2, and here, too, Kasparov unexpectedly stops his analysis. White is going to find it hard to find a suitable square for his bishop, but it

seems to me that 44.♖c4!, to cover the bishop and keep the knight away, is a good move, e.g. 44...b2 45.♙xb2 ♖xb2 46.g6, and I fail to see how Black could possibly stop the white kingside pawns.

35.f3

Fischer is in his element. He is painstakingly setting the scene for his king to penetrate the black position.

35...♗d7 36.♙d6

Cutting off the enemy pieces from the defence.

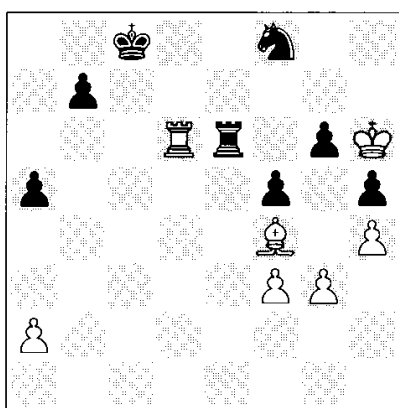
36...♖c2 37.g3 ♖e2

Black has no time to take the a-pawn. His only chance of survival is to cover g6.

38.♙g5 ♖e6 39.♙f4 ♗f8 40.♖d6 a5

A trap just before the time-control.

41.♙h6



Fischer correctly thinks better of going for the pawn ending after 41.♖xe6 ♗xe6+ 42.♙xg6 ♗xf4+ 43.gxf4 b5, e.g. 44.♙e6 b4 45.f5? ♙d8 and Black wins.

41...♖e2 42.♖d2 ♖e7 43.♙d6

The sealed move. The players' interim analysis must have convinced both players that White, meanwhile, is winning.

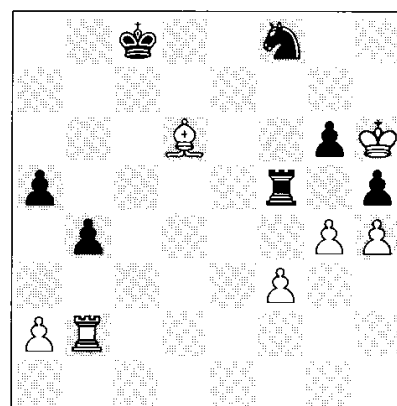
43...♖h7+ 44.♙g5 ♖f7 45.♖b2!

White is proceeding very systematically.

45...f4 46.♙xf4 ♖f5+ 47.♙h6 b5

By returning the pawn Black has made his queenside more mobile.

48.♙d6 b4 49.g4!



With this fresh pawn sacrifice Fischer forces the issue.

49...♖xf3 50.g5 ♗e6 51.♙xg6 ♖d3 52.♙e5 ♖e3 53.♙f5

The Black knight is dominated.

53...♗f8 54.♖g2 ♖f3+ 55.♙f4

Now there's no way to prevent the further advance of the white g-pawn.

55...♙d7 56.g6 ♗e6 57.g7 ♖xf4+ 58.♙e5 ♖f8 59.gxf8 ♗xf8 60.♙d5 a4 61.♖g7+ ♙e8 62.♙d6 b3 63.a3

Black resigns.

English Opening

**Miroslav Filip
Efim Geller**

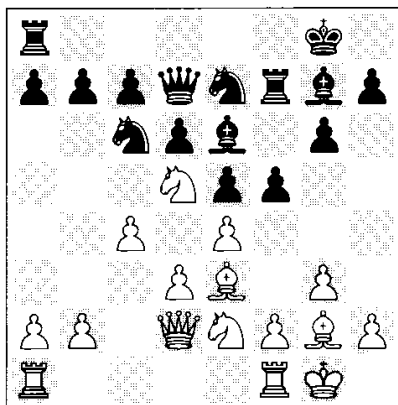
**1.c4 g6 2.g3 ♙g7 3.♙g2 e5
4.♗c3 ♗e7 5.e4 0-0 6.♗ge2
♗bc6 7.d3 d6 8.0-0 ♙e6 9.♗d5
f5 10.♙e3 ♗d7 11.♗d2 ♖f7**

An unusual move order has given rise to a well-known position of the Botvinnik variation of the English Opening.

12.♗xe7+

After this insipid swap there will be no question of an opening advantage for White. On the contrary; he will have to be

careful not to find himself worse. At least two alternatives are stronger here:



analysis diagram

A) 12.♖ae1 ♖af8 13.f4 fxe4 14.dxe4 ♘c8 15.c5 ♗h3 16.b4 ♗xg2 17.♔xg2 exf4 18.gxf4 ♖e8, and now, according to Botvinnik, 19.♘ec3, which leads to a position that is hard to assess, was probably White's strongest move. In the famous game Benko-Botvinnik, Monte Carlo 1968, Black grabbed the initiative after 19.♘g3 h5!;

B) 12.♖ac1. This refinement allows White to take the initiative. In Uhlmann-Timman, Niksic 1978, Black had a hard time after 12...♖af8 13.b4 ♘c8 14.b5 ♘d8 15.d4! c6 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.f4 because of the pressure White is exerting on the enemy position.

12...♖xe7 13.♘c3

Another pretty aimless move. Better was 13.♖ac1, with a view to possibly taking on f5 and following up with d3-d4. With the text, White is aiming to take the knight to d5, which is not a particularly significant square; giving up square d4 will come back to haunt White badly.

13...♖f8

Threatening 14...f4.

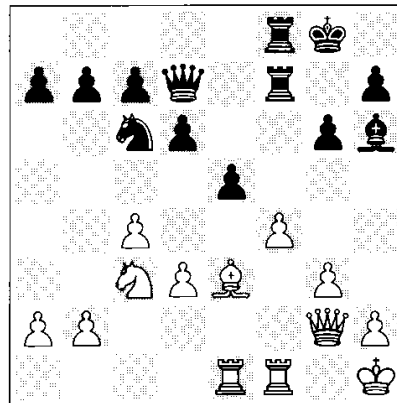
14.exf5 ♗xf5 15.♖ae1 ♗h3

Black is already clearly better.

16.f4 ♗xg2 17.♖xg2 ♖ef7

Preventing White from swapping on e5. Now Black has all the time in the world to reinforce his position.

18.♔h1 ♗h6!



A subtle little move. After 18...exf4 White would have gone 19.♖xf4, as the rook swap would relieve the pressure on the white position. This is why Black prepares for the swap in such a way as to prevent the white rook from recapturing on f4.

19.♘d5

It looks as if the knight has landed on a strong outpost, but in reality it will be pretty useless on d5.

19...exf4 20.♗xf4 ♗g7

The point of Black's 18th move. The bishop has done its job on the h-file and is returned to the long diagonal.

21.g4

After this weakening move the white position quickly collapses. More tenacious was 21.b3.

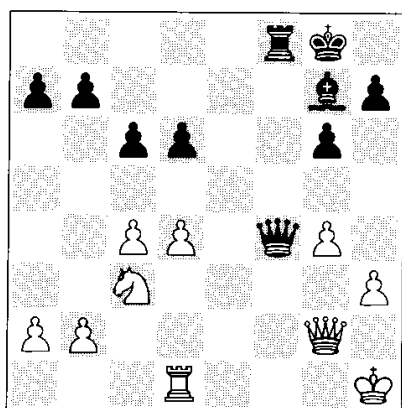
21...♘e5 22.♗xe5 ♗xe5 23.h3 c6 24.♘c3 ♖e7

Black deploys his queen.

25.♖xf7 ♖xf7 26.♖d1 ♖f4 27.d4 ♗g7

White has averted all direct threats but will be unable to prevent the black queen

from penetrating on e3 with devastating force.



28. ♖e4 ♜e3 29. ♔h2 ♜f4

White resigns. This victory elevated Geller to shared first place.

Queen's Gambit Declined

Paul Keres
Tigran Petrosian

An ultra-tame version of the Tartakower variation of the Queen's Gambit; ideal for short, bloodless draws.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 d5 3.c4 e6 4.♘c3 ♙e7
5.♙g5 h6 6.♙h4 0-0 7.e3 b6 8.cxd5
♘xd5 9.♙xe7 ♜xe7 10.♜c1 ♙b7
11.♙d3 ♜c8 12.0-0 c5 13.♜e2 ♘xc3
14.♜xc3 ♘d7 15.♙a6 cxd4 16.♜xc8+
♙xc8 17.♘xd4 ♙xa6 18.♜xa6 ♘c5
19.♜b5 e5 20.♘b3 ♘xb3 21.♜xb3

1/2-1/2

ROUND 12

May 20

Kortchnoi - Fischer	0-1
Petrosian - Benko	1/2-1/2
Geller - Keres	1/2-1/2
Tal - Filip	0-1

King's Indian Defence

Viktor Kortchnoi
Robert Fischer

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3

As in his first-round game against Geller, Kortchnoi fianchettoes his king's bishop against the King's Indian.

3...♙g7 4.♙g2 0-0 5.♘c3 d6
6.♘f3 ♘c6 7.0-0 e5

The alternative is 7...a6, which is the start of the Panno system, a system that was virtually unknown in the 1960s. With the text, Black forces developments in the centre.

8.d5 ♘e7 9.c5

The sharpest continuation. White wants to open the c-file. The main alternative is 9.e4, while Ivanchuk and Karpov have also played 9.b4.

9...♘d7

A less common continuation that hands the initiative on the queenside to White. The usual continuation is 9...♘e8 in order to take back with the knight on d6 if necessary. Some players have also experimented with 9...e4 and the sharp 9...b5, but it seems that in both cases White ends up with the better position.

10.cxd6 cxd6 11.a4

White extends his territory. The immediate 11.♘d2 could be met by 11...f5.

11...♘c5

Now 11...f5 would be awkward in view of 12.♘g5, and White is better.

12.♘d2

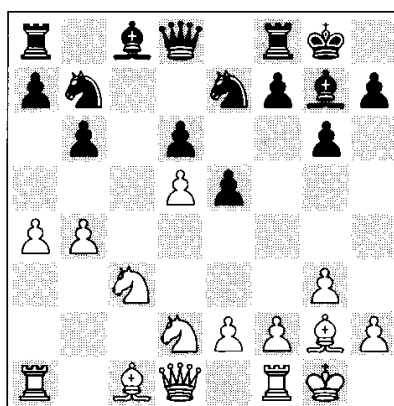
The advance 12.b4 was less effective in view of 12...e4 when, after 13.♘d4, Black has the following possibilities:

A) 13...♙xd4? 14.♚xd4 ♘b3 15.♚f6!, and Black is in bad trouble;

B) 13...♘f5 14.♘xf5 ♙xf5 15.bxc5 ♙xc3 16.♙h6, with some advantage for White;

C) 13...♘d3! The correct solution for Black's positional problem. After 14.exd3 ♙xd4 he has a comfortable position.

12...b6 13.b4 ♘b7



Not a particularly good square for the knight, but Black wants to develop his queen's bishop to d7.

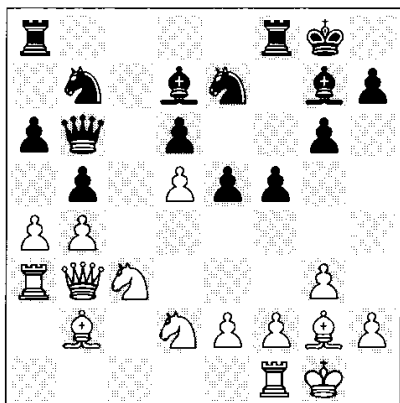
14.♚b3 ♙d7 15.♙a3 a6 16.♘c4

Provoking the advance of the b-pawn that now follows.

16...b5 17.♘d2 ♖b6 18.♙b2

White changes tack; his bishop no longer has any business on a3, so he vacates the square for the rook.

18...f5 19.♖a3



19...♙h6

This bishop move may be the result of a miscalculation. Rabar indicates 19...e4, intending to meet 20.e3 with 20...♖ac8 and 21...♘d8, when it looks as if Black will have decent counterplay. It might, by the way, also be a good idea for White to change plans again after the advance of the black e-pawn. With 20.a5 ♖a7 21.♘d1 White can aim for a bishop swap and then continue f2-f4, which leaves Black with the strategic problem that his minor pieces remain quite passive.

20.e3 ♖ac8

Dubious was 20...f4 in view of 21.exf4 exf4 22.♘ce4!, with the double threat of 23.♖c3 and 23.♘f6+. Now Black can still try 22...♖ac8, with the following possibilities:

A) 23.♘f6+ ♖xf6 24.♙xf6 fxf3 25.♘e4 gxf2+ 26.♘xf2 bxa4, and the situation is not entirely clear;

B) 23.a5! ♖d8 24.♖d3, with a large advantage for White.

21.axb5 axb5 22.♖a2 ♙g7

Admitting that his 19th move was not up to scratch.

23.♖a1

White is ready to penetrate the a-file, but is leaving his options open: he can go for a6 or a7.

23...e4 24.♙f1

Setting his sights on the weak b-pawn.

24...♘d8 25.♖a6 ♖b8 26.♖a7

♖c7 27.♖xc7 ♖xc7 28.♘xb5

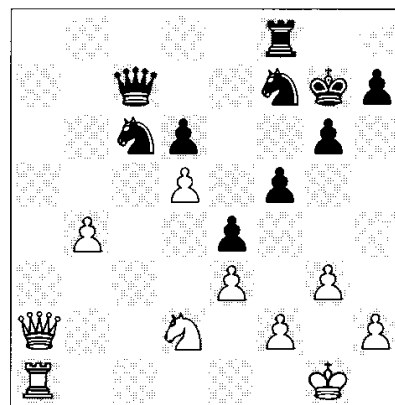
White has won a pawn, but it will be far from simple to convert his material advantage to a win. By steering his passive knight to e5 Black will be able to create counterplay.

28...♙xb5 29.♙xb5 ♘f7 30.♙xg7

♙xg7 31.♙c6

The start of a terrible blunder. Rabar gives 31.♖b2+ ♘e5 32.♖c1 ♖b6 33.♙c6, followed by 34.♘c4 here, when White is indeed winning: after 33...♖b8 he can just go 34.b5, as the threat of 35.♘c4 is as potent as ever. But Black has a better defence in 32...♖b8!, intending to meet 33.♙c6 with 33...♙g8. The threat of 34...♘d3 forces White to give back his extra pawn. After 34.♖b1! ♘7xc6 35.dxc6 ♘xc6 36.b5 White is firmly in control, but it is not entirely clear whether he has a winning advantage.

31...♘xc6



32.♖c1??

With this blunder Kortchnoi throws

away his chance of gaining the lead. After the simple 32.dxc6 White would still be marginally better. In *The Games of Robert J. Fischer*, 32.♖c2 is indicated, with the conclusion that White is clearly better. It seems to me, however, that Black can limit the damage with 32...♗c8, the main point being that Black should be able to hold the knight ending after 33.♗c1 ♘fe5 and a wholesale swap on c6. This means that White is better off going 33.dxc6 ♖xc6 34.♖xc6 ♗xc6 35.b5, but even then Black seems to have sufficient defensive resources after 35...♗b6 36.♗b1 ♘e5.

32...♖a7

And wins because 33.♖b2+ is refuted by 33...♘ce5.

33.♖xa7 ♘xa7 34.♗c7 ♘b5

35.♗b7 ♘c3 36.♘c4 ♖f6

White might as well have resigned here, but after a blunder it often takes a while before a player is ready to accept the inevitable.

37.b5 ♘e5 38.♘xd6 ♗d8 39.♗b6

♖g5 40.♗a6 ♘xd5 41.b6 ♘b4

42.♗a4 ♗xd6 43.♗xb4 ♗d1+

44.♖g2 ♘f3

White resigns.

Grünfeld Indian Defence

Tigran Petrosian

Pal Benko

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5

4.♘f3 ♖g7 5.♖f4 0-0 6.♗c1

A special system against the Grünfeld Indian. Black will have to play accurately.

6...c5

6...dxc4 is usually regarded as the most reliable approach for Black these days.

7.dxc5 dxc4

This move is risky but it is hard to find a clear refutation. The alternative is 7...♖e6 in order to support the centre.

8.e4

This advance is very strong, particularly because White's development is slightly ahead of Black's.

8...♖a5 9.e5 ♗d8 10.♖d2

The point of White's play. The black king's knight now has to flee to a less favourable square.

10...♘g4 11.♖xc4

White's main threat is 12.♘d5, so Black has no time to take on e5.

11...♖xc5 12.♘e4 ♖b6

13.♖xf7+!

This pseudo-sacrifice comes as no surprise really. White has deployed almost all his forces, whereas the black queenside is still undeveloped. But it is the elegant turn four moves later that makes the entire white concept so impressive.

13...♖xf7 14.♗xc8 ♗xc8

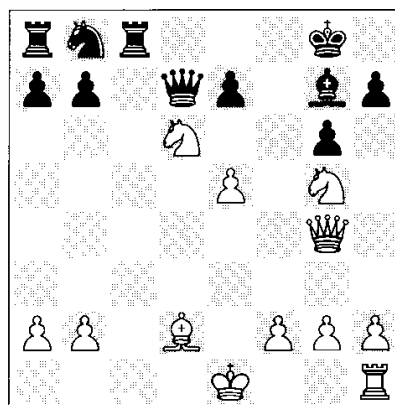
15.♘fg5+ ♖g8 16.♖xg4 ♖c6!

It looks as if Black has survived the white onslaught more or less intact, but now the second wave starts rolling.

17.♘d6!

This knight cannot be taken in view of 18.♖e6+, followed by smothered mate.

17...♖d7



18. ♖xd7

White goes for an endgame that looks very good for him, yet offers Black certain counter-chances. The alternative was 18. ♖h4, with the following possibilities:

A) 18...exd6 19. ♖xh7+ ♔f8 20. ♖xg6 ♔g8 21. 0-0, with a winning attack for White, according to Boleslavsky;

B) 18...h6 19. ♗xc8 hxg5 20. ♖c4+ ♔f8? 21. ♗xe7! ♔xe7 22. ♕b4+, and again the white attack strikes home.

However, later it was found that Black may weather the storm after 20...e6!

18... ♗xd7 19. ♗xc8 ♖xc8 20. f4 ♖c2

Winning back the pawn. But this doesn't mean that Black's problems are over.

21. ♕e2

Now 21...♖xb2 22. ♖c1 would be very good for White.

21... ♕h6 22. ♗f3

Stronger was 22. ♗e4, as indicated by Benko in the bulletin. After 22...♖xb2 23.g3, followed by 24. ♖c1, White has a strong initiative, particularly because the black bishop has been cut off from the play.

22... ♖xb2 23.g3 g5

Draw. After 24.fxg5 ♕g7 Black has sufficient counterplay.

Tarrasch Defence

Efim Geller Paul Keres

This bloodless draw lifted Geller to the top of the table.

1. ♗f3 ♗f6 2. c4 c5 3. g3 e6 4. ♕g2 d5 5. cxd5 ♗xd5 6. 0-0 ♕e7 7. ♗c3 0-0 8. ♗xd5 exd5 9. d4 ♗c6 10. dxc5 ♕xc5

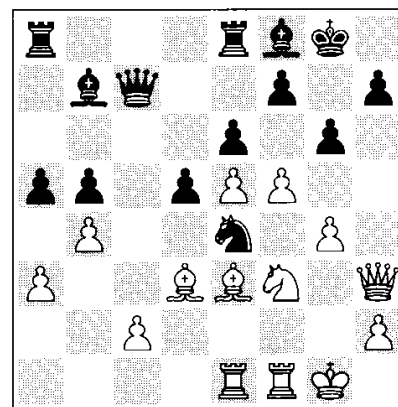
11. ♕g5 ♕e7 12. ♕xe7 ♖xe7 13. ♖xd5 ♖xe2 14. ♖b3 ♖e7 15. ♖fe1 ♕e6 16. ♖c3 ♖b4 17. ♖xb4 ♗xb4 18. ♗d4 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Mikhail Tal Miroslav Filip

Tal is playing too sharply and is ambushed by an exchange sacrifice from Filip. Later on in the game, White gets into time-trouble and loses the thread, so that the attack swings to Black. This is Filip's first really good game, but Tal's resistance, unfortunately, didn't count for much.

1. e4 c5 2. ♗f3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. ♗xd4 a6 5. ♗c3 ♖c7 6. f4 b5 7. a3 ♕b7 8. ♖f3 ♗f6 9. ♕d3 ♕c5 10. ♗b3 ♕e7 11. 0-0 0-0 12. ♕d2 d6 13. g4 d5 14. e5 ♗fd7 15. ♖h3 g6 16. ♗d4 ♗c6 17. ♗ce2 ♗xd4 18. ♗xd4 ♗c5 19. b4 ♗e4 20. ♕e3 ♖fe8 21. ♖ae1 ♕f8 22. ♗f3 a5 23. f5



23...exf5 24. gxf5 ♖xe5 25. fxg6 hxg6 26. ♗xe5 ♖xe5 27. c3 axb4 28. ♕d4 ♕c8 29. ♖g2 ♖h5 30. ♕xe4 dxe4 31. ♖xe4 ♖g5+ 32. ♔h1 ♕e6 33. ♕e5 ♖d8 34. h4 ♖h5 35. ♖f4 ♖d3 36. ♕f6 ♖d5+ 37. ♔g1 bxc3 38. ♖e4 ♕c5+ 39. ♔h2 ♖a2+ 0-1

ROUND 13

May 23

Filip - Kortchnoi	0-1
Fischer - Petrosian	0-1
Benko - Keres	0-1
Tal - Geller	0-1

Nimzo-Indian Defence

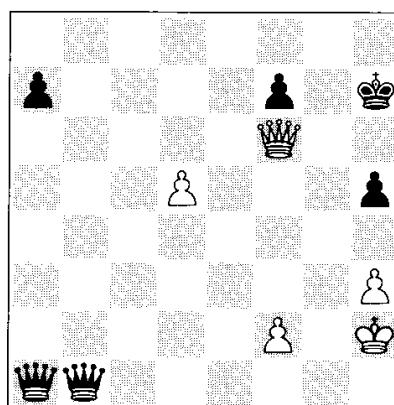
Miroslav Filip
Viktor Kortchnoi

Starting from the Rubinstein variation of the Nimzo-Indian, Kortchnoi succeeds in wresting the initiative from his opponent in the early middle game. In the battle of bishop pair against knight pair it is of crucial importance for Black to have the better pawn structure.

After some patient manoeuvring Kortchnoi liquidates to a technically winning endgame at precisely the right moment. The game is adjourned and resumed, but the resumption is just a formality.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♙b4 4.e3 0-0
5.♙d3 d5 6.♘f3 c5 7.0-0 ♘c6 8.a4
♙xc3 9.bxc3 ♖c7 10.cxd5 exd5
11.dxc5 ♙g4 12.♙e2 ♗fd8 13.a4 ♘e4
14.♖c2 ♘xc5 15.♙a3 ♘e4 16.♙d3
♙xf3 17.gxf3 ♘f6 18.f4 ♘a5 19.♙b4
♘c4 20.a5 ♗e8 21.♗fd1 ♗ad8 22.♙f1
♘d6 23.♙g2 ♖c8 24.♗ab1 h5 25.♙xd6
♗xd6 26.♗b4 ♗c6 27.♖b2 ♗e7 28.♗d3
♗ec7 29.h3 ♗c5 30.♗b5 ♗xb5 31.♖xb5
♗c5 32.♖b4 ♖c7 33.a6 bxa6 34.♙f3
a5 35.♖a3 g6 36.♙g2 ♙g7 37.♖a2
♗xc3 38.♗d2 ♗c5 39.♙xd5 ♘xd5
40.♗xd5 ♖b7 41.e4 ♗xd5 42.exd5 a4
43.♖a1+ ♙h7 44.♖e5 a3 45.f5 a2

46.♙h2 ♖b1 47.fxg6+ ♙xg6 48.♖d6+
♙h7 49.♖f6 a1 ♖



50.♖xf7+ ♖g7 51.♖xh5+ ♙g8
52.♖e8+ ♖f8 53.♖e6+ ♙h7 0-1

French Defence

Robert Fischer
Tigran Petrosian

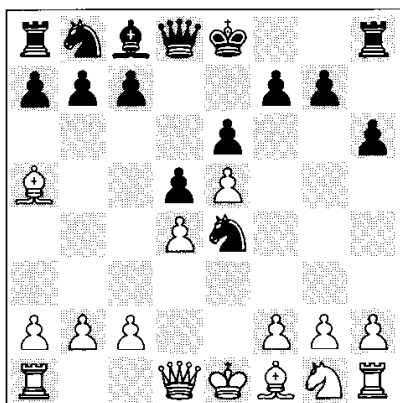
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♘f6
4.♙g5 ♙b4

The MacCutcheon variation, called after the amateur player John Lindsay MacCutcheon from Pittsburgh who played this bishop move against Steinitz during a simultaneous display in New York in 1885. Petrosian had never played this line before, so his approach came as a considerable surprise.

5.e5 h6 6.♙d2 ♙xc3 7.♙xc3
Unusual and not particularly good.

Fischer rightly gives this recapture a question mark in *My 60 Memorable Games*. In very old practical games White soon started taking with the b-pawn, and according to modern theoretical insights this is still the correct way. After 7.bxc3 ♖e4 8.♖g4 Black will not find the going easy.

7...♖e4 8.♖a5



This artificial bishop move was a recommendation from the Russian theoretician Kopaev, whose fame was mainly based on his solid research in theoretical endgames. Afterwards, Fischer was extremely dissatisfied with it, even to the extent of giving the text two question marks. The idea of the text is that after 8...b6 9.♖b4 c5 10.♖a3 Black is in an awkward situation. But Petrosian comes up with a simple solution for his positional problems.

8...0-0 9.♖d3

An alternative is 9.♖f3 in order to meet 9...♖c6 with 10.♖d2.

9...♖c6 10.♖c3 ♖xc3 11.bxc3 f6!

Strong play. Black attacks the white centre as soon as he is slightly ahead in development.

12.f4

Given the circumstances, White should try to keep his centre intact.

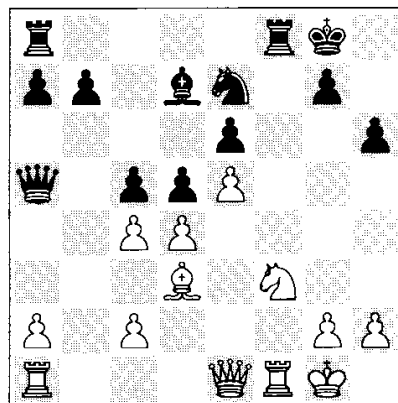
12...fxe5 13.fxe5 ♖e7

Preparing the advance of the c-pawn.

14.♖f3 c5 15.0-0 ♖a5 16.♖e1 ♖d7

Black calmly completes his development, presenting his opponent with the problem of how to alleviate the pressure on the queenside.

17.c4



Fischer opts for a radical solution. Boleslavsky rejects the text, even giving it a question mark. But his recommendation, 17.♖h1, isn't a whit better than the text. 'A half-move,' as Kortchnoi would say. White's position is anything but healthy and with the text he manages to save his skin in an endgame that, with accurate play, he will just about be able to save.

17...♖xe1 18.♖fxe1 dxc4 19.♖e4

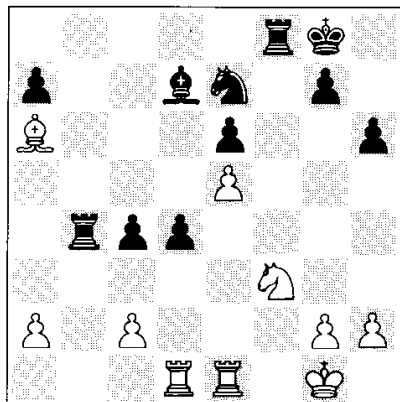
Another good move. White temporarily sacrifices a pawn in order to prevent Black from forcing him on the defensive. Boleslavsky observes that 'White was not happy' with 19.♖xc4 b5 20.♖f1 c4. I believe that 20.♖d3 is a better option here, as 20...c4 21.♖e4, followed by 22.♖eb1, gives White sufficient counterplay. Stronger is 19...♖ac8! (instead of 19...b5), as indicated by Kan and Suetin, when Black is better. After 20.♖d3 c4 21.♖e4 ♖c6

22. ♖xc6 ♜xc6 he has the strong positional threat of 23... ♗d5.

19...cxd4

The only way for Black to go for an advantage. After 19... ♖c6 20. ♖xc6 ♗xc6 21.dxc5 the chances would be roughly equal.

**20. ♖xb7 ♜ab8 21. ♖a6 ♜b4
22. ♜ad1**



The point of White's play. If Black goes 22... ♜a4, White has the reply 23. ♜xd4.

22...d3

By returning the pawn in this way Black retains the initiative.

23.cxd3 cxd3 24. ♜xd3 ♖c6

With the curious threat of 25... ♜a4, after which the bishop would be caught.

25. ♜d4

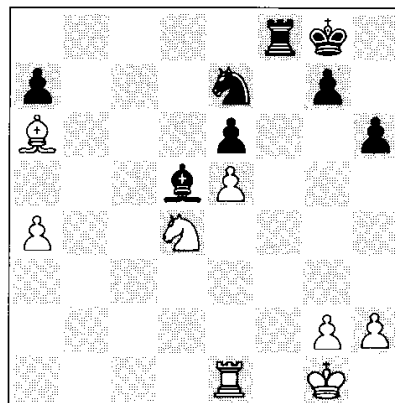
White correctly aims for a rook swap. After any other move the black pressure would increase considerably.

25...♜xd4

A very good move was 25... ♜fb8 in order to keep the enemy position under pressure. After 26. ♖c4 ♖d5 Black has a small but unmistakable endgame advantage, although with tough and accurate defending White should be able to hold.

26. ♗xd4 ♖d5 27.a4?

An obvious advance but at the same time the decisive error.



As Petrosian indicated after the game, White could have saved himself with the positional retreat 27. ♖f1!. Square b5 is vacated for the knight, enabling White to shore up his weaknesses. 27... ♖xa2 is met by 28. ♗b5 a5 29. ♜a1, and White wins back the pawn. But not 28. ♜a1, as indicated in *The Games of Tigran Petrosian*, because after 28... ♖d5 29. ♜xa7 ♗g6 Black stays a pawn up. If White plays 30. ♜a6?, Black has the reply 30... ♜xf1+ ♖xf1 ♖c4+, winning a piece.

27...♜f4 28. ♜d1 ♗g6

Now White cannot cover both weak pawns at once.

29. ♖c8 ♖f7 30.a5 ♗xe5 31.a6

This seems to have been Fischer's intention. He wants to take the bishop to b7 in order to get counterplay. But Black still has the initiative.

31...♜g4 32. ♜d2

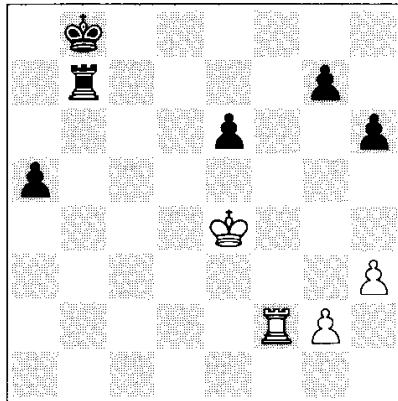
Certainly not 32.g3?? in view of 32... ♜xd4, and wins.

**32...♗c4 33. ♜f2+ ♖e7 34. ♗b5
♗d6 35. ♗xd6**

Measured play. After 35. ♗xa7 ♜c4 36. ♖b7 ♗xb7 37.axb7 ♖xb7 Black would reign supreme. Yet this was probably White's best chance, for after the knight swap he is technically out for the count.

35...♖xd6 36. ♖b7 ♖xb7 37.axb7

♔c7 38.h3 ♖g5 39.♖b2 ♕b8
 40.♕f2 ♜d5 41.♕e3 ♜d7 42.♕e4
 ♞xb7 43.♞f2 a5



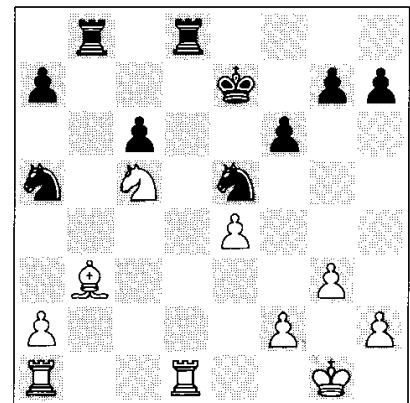
The sealed move. Fischer resigned without resuming play. Boleslavsky adds the nice variation 44.♕e5 ♞a7! 45.♕d6 a4 46.♕c6 ♞c7+ 47.♕b6 ♞b7+ 48.♕a6 a3! 49.♞f8+ ♕c7 50.♞f7+ ♕c6 51.♞xb7 a2, and wins.

Vienna Game

Pal Benko
Paul Keres

A rather messy game. For the seventh consecutive time Benko opens with the g-pawn. Keres is the first player to reply 1...e5, which surprisingly enough leads to the Vienna Game. White's play is very active and strategically committal. For a while, things work out fairly well for White and the game remains dynamically balanced, but in the end he finds himself in bad time-trouble. From move 31 on, Benko starts making mistakes, which eventually lead to a hopeless adjourned position. After 31.♞dc1 (instead of 31.♞ac1) the position would have remained dynamically balanced. The third win by Black in this round.

1.g3 e5 2.e4 ♘f6 3.♙g2 ♘c6 4.♘c3
 ♙c5 5.d3 d6 6.♘a4 ♙b4+ 7.c3 ♙a5
 8.b4 ♙b6 9.♘f3 ♙e6 10.O-O ♖d7
 11.♙g5 ♘g8 12.d4 ♙g4 13.b5 ♘a5
 14.♖d3 f6 15.♙e3 ♘e7 16.c4 O-O
 17.♖c3 ♘g6 18.c5 ♙xf3 19.♙xf3 exd4
 20.♖xd4 ♘e5 21.♙e2 dxc5 22.♖xd7
 ♘xd7 23.♞fd1 ♞fd8 24.♙g4 ♘e5
 25.♙e6+ ♕f8 26.♙xc5+ ♙xc5 27.♘xc5
 ♕e7 28.♙d5 c6 29.bxc6 bxc6 30.♙b3
 ♞ab8



31.♞ac1 ♞xd1+ 32.♙xd1 ♞b2 33.f4
 ♘ec4 34.♙b3 ♘d2 35.♘d3 ♘axb3
 36.axb3 ♞xb3 37.♘f2 ♕d6 38.♕g2
 ♞b2 39.♞d1 ♕c7 40.♘d3 ♞a2 41.♘b4
 ♞b2 42.♘d3 ♞a2 43.e5 fxe5 44.fxe5
 ♘c4+ 45.♕f3 ♞d2 46.♞xd2 ♘xd2+
 47.♕e3 ♘b3 48.♘f4 ♕d7 49.h4 ♘c5
 50.♘h5 ♘e6 51.♕d3 c5 52.♕c4 ♕c6
 53.♘f4 ♘xf4 54.gxf4 g6 55.h5 a5
 56.h6 a4 0-1

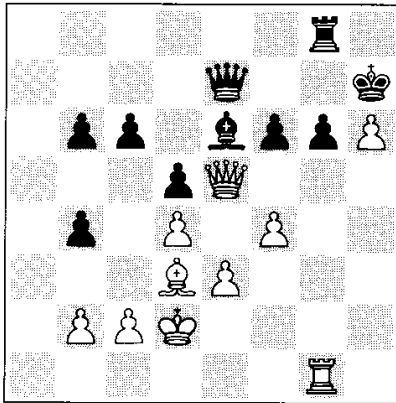
Queen's Pawn Opening

Mikhail Tal
Efim Geller

And this is the fourth win for Black. From the very start Tal is aiming for a very sharp confrontation. Contrary to his usual practice, he opens with the d-pawn and the Veresov attack arises. After 9.O-O-O it

looks unlikely that the game will end in a draw, but it could still have happened if White had played differently on move 25.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 d5 3.♙g5 h6 4.♙xf6
 exf6 5.e3 c6 6.♙d3 ♙d6 7.♚f3 0-0
 8.♘ge2 ♜e8 9.0-0-0 b5 10.g4 b4
 11.♘a4 ♘d7 12.h4 ♘b6 13.♘xb6 axb6
 14.g5 fxg5 15.hxg5 ♜xa2 16.gxh6
 ♜a1+ 17.♙d2 ♜xd1+ 18.♙xd1 g6
 19.♜g1 ♙e6 20.♘f4 ♙xf4 21.♚xf4 ♙h7
 22.♙d2 ♚e7 23.♚e5 ♜g8 24.f4 f6



White had a nice combination here that would have led to a drawn endgame. Af-

ter 25.♜xg6! ♜xg6 26.♙xg6+ ♙xg6
 27.f5+ ♙xh6 28.♚f4+ ♙g7 29.fxe6
 ♚xe6 30.♚c7+, followed by 31.♚xb6,
 neither player has any hope of winning. It
 is quite possible that Tal had seen this line
 and rejected it, since he was extremely ea-
 ger to win; only victory would do for
 him if he wanted to continue to play a
 significant part in the tournament. As it
 was, Geller managed to throw up an ade-
 quate defensive line and then concen-
 trated on restricting the radius of the
 white bishop. After the time-control the
 white position was hopeless. The game
 was nevertheless adjourned, but Tal
 resigned shortly afterwards.

25.♚h5 ♙f7 26.♚h4 c5 27.c3 c4
 28.♙c2 b5 29.♙e2 b3 30.♙b1 ♚d6
 31.♚h5 ♚d7 32.♚h4 f5 33.♜g5 ♙e6
 34.♚g3 ♙xh6 35.♚g2 ♚f7 36.e4 fxe4
 37.♚g3 ♙f5 38.♙e3 ♙g7 39.♜h5 ♜h8
 40.♜xh8 ♙xh8 41.♚h4+ ♙g7 42.♚d8
 0-1

ROUND 14

May 24

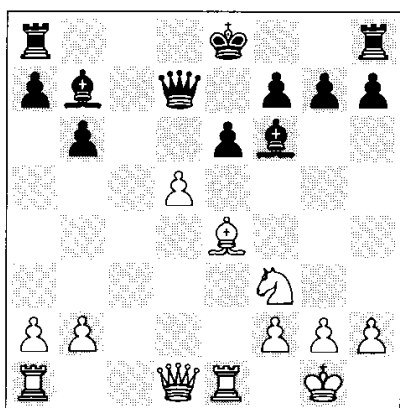
Kortchnoi - Tal	0-1
Petrosian - Filip	1-0
Keres - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Geller - Benko	1/2-1/2

Tarrasch Defence

Viktor Kortchnoi
Mikhail Tal

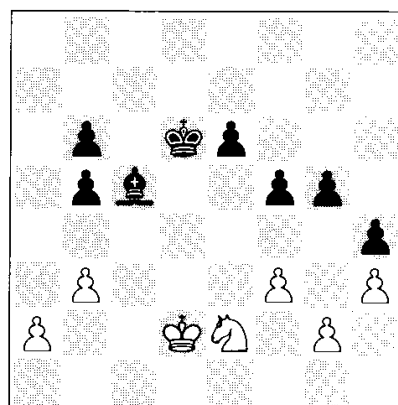
Kortchnoi's second defeat as White. It is obvious that he miscalculates in the opening phase: he never gets the expected compensation for the pawn he sacrifices on move 15. Once Black has castled, his position, technically speaking, is virtually winning, and Tal expertly carries out the demolition job. The former World Champion – despite his poor form – is not one to let a winning position slip through his fingers.

1.c4 ♟f6 2.♟c3 e6 3.♟f3 d5 4.d4 c5
5.cxd5 ♟xd5 6.e3 ♞e7 7.♞d3 cxd4
8.exd4 b6 9.♟xd5 ♞xd5 10.0-0 ♟d7
11.♞e1 ♟f6 12.♞g5 ♞b7 13.♞xf6 ♞xf6
14.♞e4 ♞d7 15.d5



15...♞d8 16.♞c2 ♞xd5 17.♞xd5 ♞xd5
18.♞ed1 ♞b7 19.♞xd8+ ♞xd8 20.♞d1
♞f6 21.♞a4+ b5 22.♞b4 ♞e7 23.♞a5

0-0 24.♞e5 ♞c8 25.h3 ♞b6 26.♞xb6
axb6 27.♞d7 ♟f8 28.♟f1 ♞c1+ 29.♟e2
♞c2+ 30.♞d2 ♞xd2+ 31.♟xd2 ♞c5
32.f3 ♞d4 33.♟d3 ♟e7 34.b3 ♟d6
35.♟b4 f5 36.♟d3 ♞b2 37.♟c2 ♟c5
38.♟d2 g5 39.♟d3 ♟d5 40.♟e3+ ♟e5
41.♟c2 ♟d6 42.♟b4 h5 43.♟d2 ♞d4
44.♟d3 h4 45.♟c1 ♞c5 46.♟e2



46...b4 47.♟d3 ♟d5 48.♟c1 e5 49.♟d2
e4 50.fxe4+ ♟xe4 51.♟d3 ♞d6
52.♟e2 ♟d4 53.♟e1 g4 54.♟c2+ ♟e4
55.♟e3 gxh3 56.gxh3 f4 57.♟f1 f3+
58.♟d2 ♞f4+ 59.♟e1 b5 60.♟d1 ♟d3
61.♟e1 ♞g3+ 62.♟d1 f2 0-1

Queen's Gambit Declined

Tigran Petrosian
Miroslav Filip

1.c4 e6 2.♟c3 d5 3.d4 ♞e7
4.♟f3 ♟f6 5.♞f4 0-0 6.e3 c5

7.dxc5 ♖xc5 8.a3 ♘c6 9.♔c2

Petrosian plays a variation whose theory was still in its infancy at that time. Nowadays the usual reply is 9...♔a5, after which 10.0-0-0!? can lead to very sharp play.

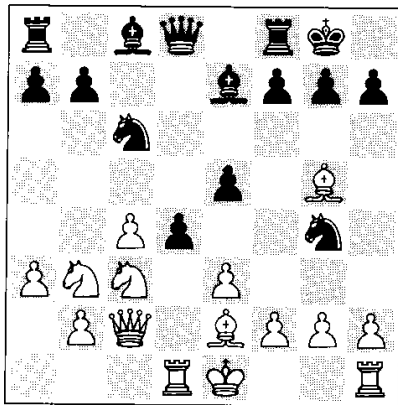
9...♖e7 10.♖d1 ♔a5 11.♘d2

The alternative is 11.♖d2, but practice has shown that after this move Black has no opening problems worth mentioning.

11...e5 12.♖g5 d4 13.♘b3 ♔d8

An important alternative is 13...♔b6. Sokolsky recommends 13...♔c7, giving the variation 14.♘b5 ♔b8 15.exd4 a6 16.♘c3 exd4 17.♘xd4 ♘xd4 18.♖xd4 ♔e5+ 19.♖e3 ♖f5, 'with an attack'. It is true that Black has a dangerous initiative for the pawn here, so a stronger option for White is the simple 14.♖xf6 (instead of 14.♘b5) 14...♖xf6 15.♘d5, with a strategically superior position.

14.♖e2 ♘g4



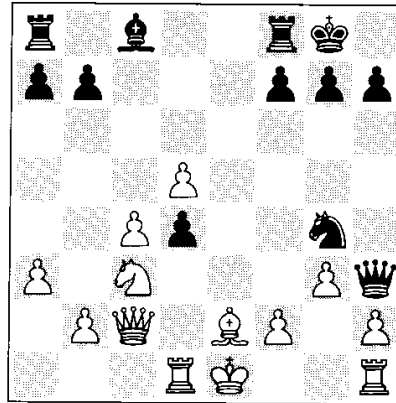
Filip's play is deserving of praise; he had doubtlessly found the enterprising text-move over the board. In this game, the idea never gets a chance to come into its own, but later practical examples have shown that the double pawn sacrifice that the text leads up to is correct. It was also demonstrated that the alternatives 14...g6 and 14...h6 are insufficient for equality.

Another viable option is 14...a5, after which White will not find it easy to show an advantage.

15.♖xe7 ♔xe7 16.exd4 ♔h4

The point of Black's play. The white king is kept in the centre.

17.g3 ♔h3 18.d5 ♘d4 19.♘xd4 exd4



20.♖xd4

The critical position in the game. The bulletin already indicates that 20...♖e8! is Black's best bet now. With this move he not only pins the white bishop but also keeps the white queen away from e4, with the result that 21...♔g2 becomes a serious threat. Four years later it was shown that the rook move is indeed Black's best option. In Portisch-Spassky, Havana Olympiad 1966, the game was drawn after 20...♖e8 21.♖e4 ♖d7 22.♖f1 ♔h5 23.♖e2 ♔h3 24.♖f1. 22...♔h6 is probably more accurate than 22...♔h5, since the latter allows White to go for 23.h3, as in Ree-Kuijpers, Dutch championship, Leeuwarden 1978.

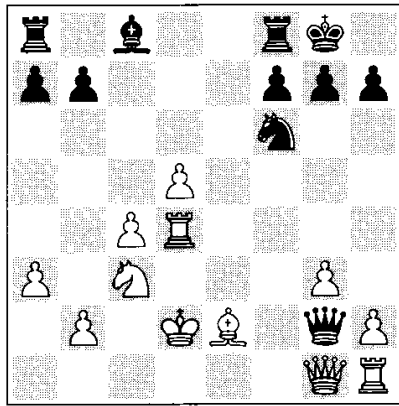
20...♔g2?

This foray turns out to be a shot in the dark.

21.♔e4!

The refutation. White centralises his queen, confident that his king is safely ensconced on d2.

21... ♖xf2+ 22. ♔d2 ♗f6 23. ♕e3
 ♗g2 24. ♕g1!



The black queen is systematically forced back.

24... ♕h3 25. ♖h4 ♕d7 26. ♕d4

And now the queen is centralised again.

26... ♖e8 27. ♗d3 g6 28. ♖f1

Black resigns.

Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres
Robert Fischer

1.e4 c5 2. ♗e2

An indication that Keres is not aiming for an Open Sicilian.

2... d6 3.g3 g6

In *My 60 Memorable Games*, Fischer observes that 3...d5 is sharper and will lead to equality, and it is true that is the drawback for White if he prepares to fianchetto without having total control of the centre.

4. ♗g2 ♗g7 5.0-0

Keres ignores Réti's adage: always study the position before castling; it might contain a better move. Stronger was 5.c3, followed by 6.d4. White builds up a strong centre and has good chances of an opening advantage.

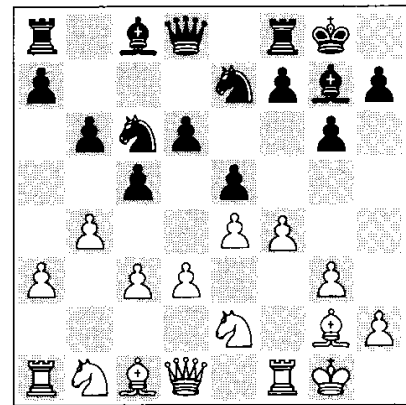
5... ♗c6 6.c3 e5

Now the difference is revealed. Black is in time to prevent white from forming his strong centre.

7.d3 ♗ge7 8.a3

A standard plan. White is aiming for b2-b4 in order to gain space on the queenside. The alternative 8. ♗e3 was insufficient in the game Pachman-Tal, Interzonal Tournament Amsterdam 1964. After 8...0-0 9.d4 exd4 10.cxd4 ♖b6 11. ♗bc3 cxd4 12. ♗a4 ♕a5 13. ♗xd4 ♗e5 Black had the initiative. A sounder option is 8.f4.

8...0-0 9.b4 b6 10.f4



Together with the previous two moves, this constitutes an erroneous plan. A better option for White was to calmly continue his development with 10. ♗d2.

10...exf4! 11.gxf4 d5

The correct reply. Due to White's many pawn moves his position is full of holes.

12.e5

Fischer observes that although Keres played this advance with his usual poker face, it was really about the last move he should have gone for. White should do his utmost to keep the position closed. Giving up square f5 only favours Black.

12... ♗g4

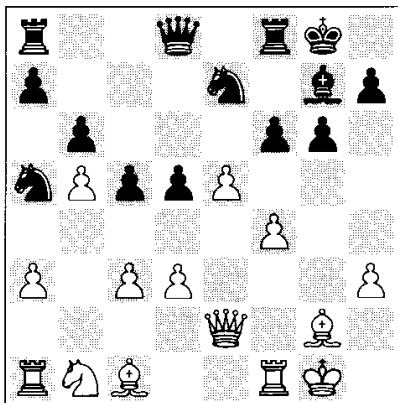
Black is following quite a straightforward plan: he wants to swap on e2 and then at-

tack the white centre with f7-f6. Afterwards, Fischer was none too happy with this move and indicated 12...♘f5, with the intention of aiming for f7-f6, as stronger. This plan does indeed seem better suited to meet the requirements of the position; there is no reason to give up the bishop pair without a struggle.

13.h3 ♕xe2 14.♖xe2 f6 15.b5

White chases away the knight in order to keep his centre intact. If he postponed this by just one move, e.g. by playing 15.♘d2 or 15.♖a2 first, Black would continue 15...♘f5, after which the queen's knight can be withdrawn to e7.

15...♘a5



16.♘d2

Fischer indicates 16.♖a2 as better, with the point that Black is in trouble after 16...fxe5 17.fxe5 ♖xf1+ 18.♖xf1 ♕xe5 19.♕g5!. 19...♖g7 runs into the unpleasant 20.♖f2, which means that Black must postpone opening the centre. A good move seems to be 16...♖c7, after which chances are approximately equal.

16...fxe5

Now Black is in a position to open the centre.

17.fxe5 ♖xf1+ 18.♘xf1

Keres takes back with the correct piece. After 18.♕xf1 ♖c7 19.♘f3 ♘b3 20.♖b1

♘xc1 21.♖xc1 ♖f8 White would have a hard time of it.

18...♘b3 19.♖b1 ♘xc1 20.♖xc1 ♖c7 21.♖e1

White has succeeded in keeping his outpost on e5, but he still has to play very accurately in order to maintain the balance.

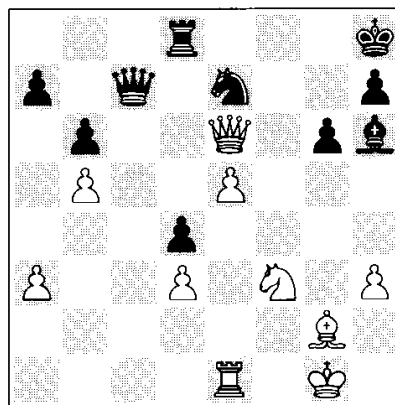
21...♖d8 22.♘h2 d4 23.cxd4 cxd4 24.♘f3

A curious mistake. If Black had recaptured on d4 with the rook, the text would have been justified, but with the centre more or less closed the alternative 24.♘g4 strongly suggests itself. The knight is now far more actively positioned. Fischer assesses the chances after 24.♘g4 ♖f8 25.♖f1 as equal, and it is true that neither player is in a position to launch a serious winning attempt.

24...♕h6

Activating the bishop, while at the same time keeping the white knight from g5.

25.♖a2+ ♔h8 26.♖e6



White has taken his queen to a strong square, but to no avail; his other pieces are too passive.

26...♘d5

The wrong square for the knight. It is understandable enough in itself that Black wants to have the option of taking his knight to f4, but now White has a measured defence that yields him a tenable

position. Far stronger was 26...♘f5, after which White is in bad trouble, e.g. 27.♚f6+ ♔g7 28.♚e6 ♖f8 29.♘g5 ♙h6, and Black makes steady progress. White's main problem is the weak dark squares in his camp.

27.♘h2 ♘e3 28.♙c6!

This strong bishop move keeps the black troops in check, but cannot prevent the fight from becoming quite sharp now.

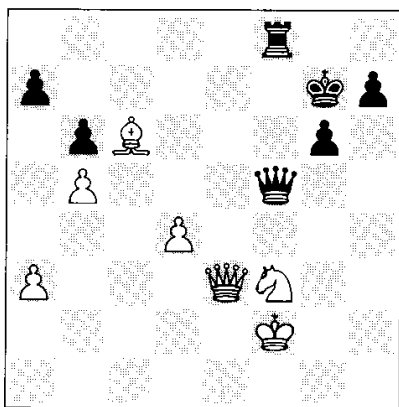
**28...♖f8 29.♘f3 ♙f4 30.♘xd4
♙xe5 31.♘f3 ♙d4!**

Forcing the transaction that now follows.

**32.♖xe3 ♙xe3+ 33.♚xe3 ♚g3+
34.♙f1 ♚xh3+ 35.♙e1**

Materially speaking, forces are approximately equal, although two minor pieces are usually regarded as slightly stronger than rook and pawn. Black's safe king position, however, means that he retains a slight initiative.

35...♚f5 36.d4 ♙g7 37.♙f2



Given an exclamation mark by Fischer. In order to stop the black kingside pawns White is forced to direct his king there, despite the fact that it will be rather exposed. Insufficient was the queen swap with 37.♚e5+. After 37...♚xe5+ 38.dxe5 ♖f4, followed by 39...♖a4, Black would be calling the shots.

37...h5 38.♙g3 ♚g4+ 39.♙h2

♖f4 40.♚e7+ ♙h6

Here the game was adjourned and White was required to seal his move. It is clear that the white queen will have to return.

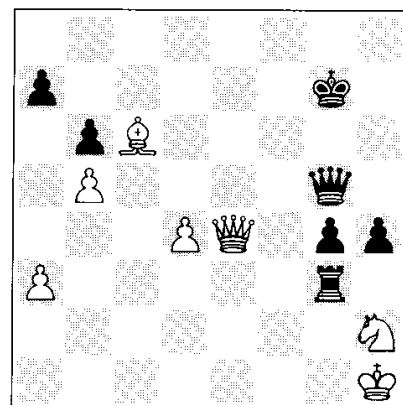
41.♚e2

When play was resumed Keres offered a draw, which Fischer refused – mainly because he was already sure of a draw. Only victory would keep his hopes of catching up with the leaders alive.

**41...♚f5 42.♚e3 g5 43.♙g2
♖g4+ 44.♙f2 ♖f4 45.♙g2 ♚c2+
46.♙h1 ♚b1+ 47.♙h2 ♚a2+
48.♙h3 ♚f7 49.♙h2 ♚f6
50.♙g2 ♙g7 51.♙g3 h4+**

Black is starting to make some progress.

**52.♙g2 ♖g4+ 53.♙h1 ♖g3
54.♚e4 g4 55.♘h2 ♚g5**



56.♘f1

White's last move before the second time-control is a serious mistake. With the black pawns having been pushed up so far, it was time to swap queens with 56.♚e5+. After 56...♚xe5 57.dxe5 Black will not be able to hang on to his g-pawn, which means that he is forced to play 57...♖xa3, when a draw is almost inevitable.

56...♖h3+

'Patzner sees a check, gives a check,' is Fischer's comment - undisguised self-

criticism. Two hours earlier he would never have suspected that he would be handed such a great chance to win this game, even though the winning variation is anything but easy. It goes as follows: 56...♖xa3 57.d5 g3 58.d6 ♖a1 59.♖e7+ ♖xe7 60.dxe7 h3!, and now Fischer indicates 61.e8♗+ ♔f8, and Black wins.

57.♖g1 ♖xa3 58.d5 g3 59.♗d7 ♖a1 60.♗f5!

Preparing the further advance of the d-pawn.

60...♖f6 61.♖f4 ♖e1 62.d6 ♖e5 63.♖g4+ ♔f8 64.d7 ♖d5

It looks as if White has landed himself into a hopeless situation after all, but Keres manages to save his skin with very pointed play.

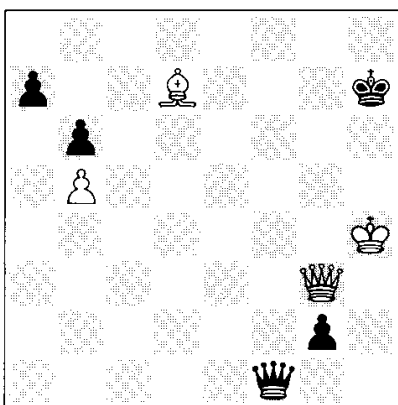
65.♔g2! ♖xd7! 66.♗xd7!

Razor-sharp calculation.

66...♖f2+ 67.♔h3 ♖xf1+ 68.♔xh4 g2

The g-pawn is unstoppable now, so White is forced to look for salvation in queen checks.

69.♖b4+ ♔f7 70.♖b3+ ♔g7 71.♖g3+ ♔h7



Now Fischer must have thought the win was in the bag. White seems to have nothing better than 72.♗f5+ ♖xf5 73.♖xg2, which is followed by 73...♖f4+ 74.♖g4

♖xg4+ 75.♔xg4 ♔g6, and Black has the opposition.

72.♖e5!

A fantastic move, based on a few study-like stalemate patterns.

72...♖h1+

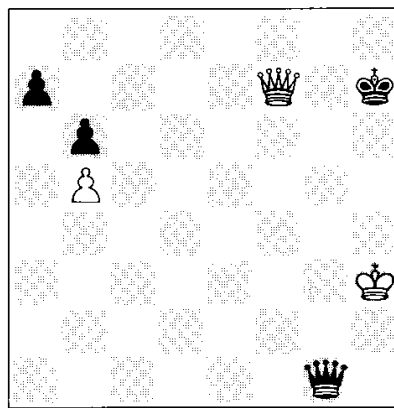
After 72...♖f2+ 73.♔h3 g1♖ forces a draw with 74.♗f5+ ♔h6 75.♖f6+ ♔h5 76.♗g6+! ♖xg6 77.♖g5+!, and stalemate.

73.♗h3 ♖xh3+

73...g1♖ is met by 74.♖h5+ ♔g7 75.♖g6+!, again followed by stalemate.

74.♔xh3 g1♖ 75.♖e7+ ♔h8

76.♖f8+ ♔h7 77.♖f7+



Draw. After 77...♖g7 78.♖xg7+ ♔xg7 79.♔g3! White has the opposition.

French Defence

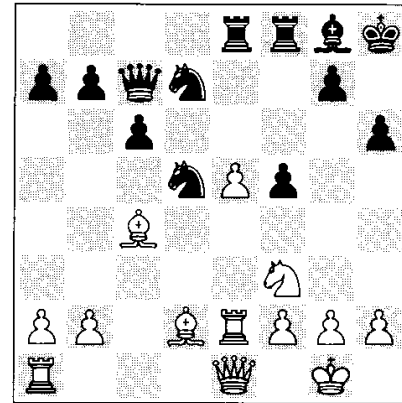
Efim Geller
Pal Benko

Astonishing: Benko goes for an inferior continuation in the Tarrasch variation of the French and equalises easily. Geller must really have been on *terra incognita* here; later practical examples have shown that White is better advised to take his queen's knight to f3, and then develop the king's knight via e2. In the game,

White wants to exploit the weaknesses on e5 and g5. After 18 moves Geller wisely offers a draw. According to the bulletin, Benko hesitated before accepting, but in the end he decided that he could not face another heart-rending time-trouble struggle.

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘d2 f5 4.exf5 exf5
 5.♘gf3 ♘f6 6.c4 ♙d6 7.cxd5 0-0 8.♙e2
 ♘xd5 9.0-0 ♚h8 10.♖e1 ♙e6 11.♙c4
 ♙g8 12.♘e5 ♘d7 13.♘df3 c6 14.♙g5
 ♗c7 15.♖e2 ♖ae8 16.♗e1 ♙xe5

17.dxe5 h6 18.♙d2



1/2-1/2

SECOND PART

Cross table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1 Geller	*	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	5
2 Petrosian	½	*	½	1	½	½	1	1	5
3 Keres	½	½	*	½	½	1	½	1	4½
4 Fischer	0	0	½	*	1	1	1	½	4
5 Kortchnoi	½	½	½	0	*	½	0	1	3
6 Benko	½	½	0	0	½	*	0	1	2½
7 Tal	0	0	½	0	1	1	*	0	2½
8 Filip	0	0	0	½	0	0	1	*	1½

Standings

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1 Geller	*	½½	½½	½½	11	½½	½1	½1	9
2 Petrosian	½½	*	½½	½½	½1	½½	11	½1	9
3 Keres	½½	½½	*	½½	0½	11	1½	½1	8½
4 Kortchnoi	½½	½½	½½	*	10	½½	10	11	8
5 Fischer	00	½0	1½	01	*	01	½1	1½	7
6 Benko	½½	½½	00	½½	10	*	10	01	6
7 Tal	½0	00	0½	01	½0	01	*	10	4½
8 Filip	½0	½0	½0	00	0½	10	01	*	4

SIX DAYS IN ST. MARTIN

May 26 - 31

St. Martin lies roughly 600 miles northeast of Curaçao, and it had been decided that the players, their wives and the rest of their entourage would spend five days there midway through the tournament. 'An exceedingly suitable place to recuperate,' according to the bulletin. And superficially at least, the chess aces did seem to enjoy their rest. The group consisted of 31 people in total, all lodged at the Little Bay, a hotel adjacent to sea and beach. There was a reception in the 'idyllically situated' country house 'Mary's Fancy' that passed in 'what was definitely a relaxed atmosphere', again according to the bulletin.

One of the participants, Viktor Kortchnoi, describes the occasion in very different terms four decades later: 'It had been stipulated beforehand that we would all go to St. Martin to relax. But for us Europeans this was no great relaxation. The same tropical climate, everyone had a hut and we hardly met or talked with each other. I don't remem-



Steel band on the beach of St Martin.



Bus trip on the island of St Martin.

ber any friendly chats. Not even with Tal, although we were fairly friendly at the time'. (*New In Chess* 2003 issue 1).

The interviewer, Dirk Jan ten Geuzendam, then comments, 'But then he was not feeling too well...' To which Kortchnoi replies: 'Okay, but he could have told me that he wasn't feeling too well and we might have discussed it, but he didn't. I remember Tal's wife visiting us, but she was the only one. We felt some animosity from the others – Petrosian and his wife and Geller and his wife. There was tension and we sensed that something was wrong'.

Atmosphere is a relative concept. Officials and other people involved with an organisation may experience such days as relaxed and then project their feelings onto the players who take the trouble to be polite about it.

But it is clear that every player still in the race must have continued to feel the tension. Geller and Petrosian may have given each other support, as they were friends. Keres probably locked himself away with his wife, while Tal had plenty of time to think about what had gone wrong. In *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal*, he tells his readers that he was still harbouring hopes, despite all his painful defeats and the yawning gap between him and the leaders.

Fischer must still have been hopeful as well, as were his loyal fans. Larry Evans, for example, wrote in an article entitled 'Halfway Highlights' in the June 1962 issue of *Chess Life*: 'It is my own feeling that everyone, the Soviet chess public included, would like to see a Fischer-Botvinnik title match. Perhaps they will still get their wish. The excitement thus far has been about whether Fischer can overcome a two-point deficit to overtake the leaders, especially with four players launched in front of him'.



Playing chess with Sara Tal, Manuel Acosta Silva is laughing in the foreground.

With Paul Keres at the bar.

THE COURSE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Part III

June 1 - 13

The third part of the tournament was a resounding success for Keres. Not counting his games against Geller and Petrosian, it could in fact be said that he won all his games. In Vasiliev's book about Petrosian, Keres's success is explained as follows: 'Because of his age, he could not place too much faith in his finishing ability. So it might have been expected that in the third cycle Keres would try to break away from the field, in order to leave himself with a reserve of points at the end'. This is a strange line of reasoning, an expectation based on a now-or-never situation. It seems to me that Keres just happened to hit top form, although this is far from saying that he always had it easy. In his game against Benko he found himself in serious difficulties, only to be saved by the terrible time-trouble the American grandmaster got himself into.

Geller and Petrosian also notched up quite respectable scores: 5 out of 7. But instead of being half a point ahead of Keres, they were now trailing him by half a point.

Kortchnoi no longer counted as a possible winner. Once again he lost twice as White, against Geller and Petrosian. Fischer failed to catch up with the frontrunners and continued to score around 50 per cent.

ROUND 15

June 1

Kortchnoi - Geller	0-1
Petrosian - Tal	1/2-1/2
Keres - Filip	1-0
Benko - Fischer	1/2-1/2

Grünfeld Indian Defence

Viktor Kortchnoi
Efim Geller

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♕g7
4.g3 d5

This is how Black goes for the Grünfeld Indian after all. In Round 1 – a full month earlier! – Geller tried the same, but after 3.g3 c6 Kortchnoi gave the game a King's Indian 'flavour' with 4.d5.

5.cxd5 ♗xd5 6.♕g2 ♕e6

Unusual and probably insufficient for equality. The alternatives 6...♗xc3 and 6...♗b6 are regarded as more reliable.

7.♗e4

After this artificial move Black has no opening problems whatever. The simple 7.♗f3 was sufficient for a slight plus.

7...0-0 8.♗f3

8.♗c5 is met by 8...♕c8, and White has not achieved anything.

8...♗a6 9.0-0 c6 10.a3 ♕f5

Good timing. Black takes over the initiative.

11.♗h4 ♕xe4 12.♕xe4 ♗b6

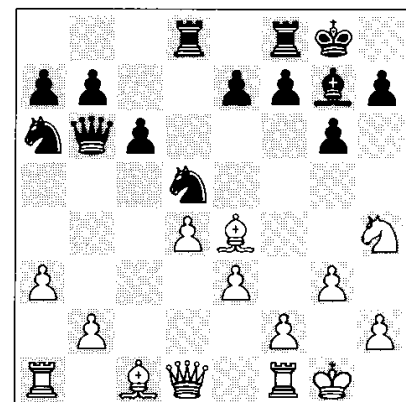
With this queen move Black starts exerting pressure on the white centre.

13.e3

Kotov indicates 13.♕xd5 cxd5 14.♗f3 as better and assesses the chances after this sequence as equal. It is understandable

that Kortchnoi wanted to avoid this set-up. He had lost some ground to the top players, so an unpretentious approach with white would not get him anywhere. But ambition can be a double-edged sword, as the rest of the game will show.

13...♖ad8



14.♗f3

It seems to me that this queen move is the main cause of White's problems. There was no reason to take away the return square of the knight on the outside of the board. After 14.♗c2 or 14.♗e2 Black would have been marginally more comfortable but no more.

14...e5

Breaking open the centre and the king's bishop's diagonal at the same time.

15.dxe5 ♕xe5 16.♕c2 ♗c5

17.♖b1

White hesitates. After 17.e4 ♗c7 18.♕e3

♙d4 19.♙xd4 ♖xd4 20.b4 ♘5e6 Black would be slightly better.

17...♗b5

After this less than energetic continuation White can restore the balance. Kotov indicates 17...f5! for Black to keep control of the position. He continues 18.b4 ♘e6 19.♙b2 ♙xb2 20.♖xb2, and now he assesses both 20...a5 and 20...♘g5 as clearly better for Black. And it is a fact that Black can now dominate on both wings, so the careful 18.♖d1, intending to prepare developing the bishop to d2, looks like a better option for White, since now Black will find it harder to make his advantage count.

18.e4

White grabs this chance to get active play with both hands.

18...♘c7 19.♙h6 ♖fe8 20.b4

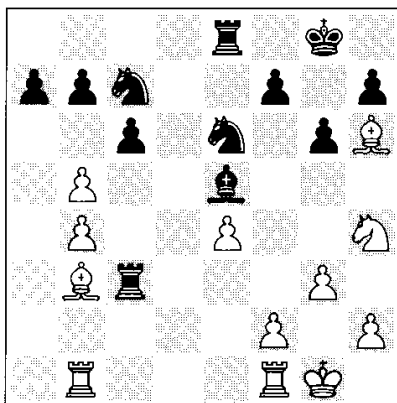
♘5e6 21.♙b3

The first point of White's plan. Now Black cannot take his knight to d4, as the f-pawn is hanging.

21...♖d3 22.a4!

And this is the second point. Black has to go for the queen swap.

22...♖xf3 23.axb5 ♖c3



24.bxc6

Kortchnoi, already in considerably time-trouble, overlooks an important finesse in the position. As indicated by

Kotov, the position after 24.♙xe6 ♘xe6 25.bxc6 bxc6 would have been equal. White has the slightly better pawn structure, but Black's pieces are marginally more active.

24...♘d4!

With this strong intermediate move White is forced on the defensive.

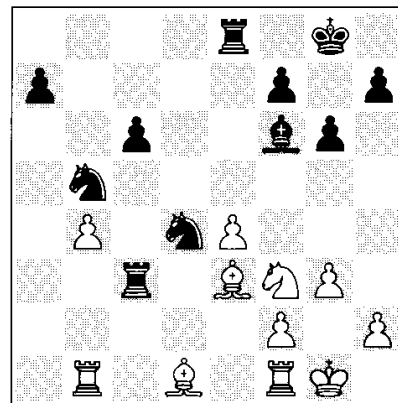
25.♙d1 bxc6

As far as structure is concerned, the position is again good for White, but the d1 bishop is dominated by the centralised black knight.

26.♙e3 ♘cb5 27.♘f3

The correct plan. White tries to relieve the pressure by swapping pieces.

27...♙f6



Geller is playing consistently. He has no objection to swapping pieces, albeit only on Black's terms; he wants to maintain his foothold on d4.

28.♘d4

In time-trouble, any attempt at simplifying the position tends to be welcome, but in these circumstances 28.♘d2 was the correct move. Now White has a fairly solid defensive line.

28...♙xd4 29.♙xd4 ♘xd4 30.f3

This move weakens the white position so badly that it is probably no longer tenable. Correct was 30.♖e1.

30...♖b8

With the unpleasant threat of 31...a5.

31.♖a1 ♗xb4 32.f4

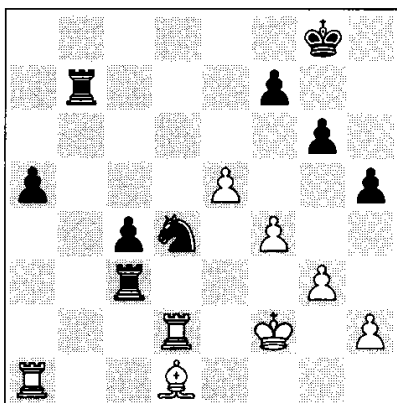
Not 32.♖xa7 in view of 32...♖b2, and the threat 33...♗d3 is decisive.

32...♗b7

Keeping the extra pawn.

33.e5 h5 34.♗f2 c5 35.♗fa2 c4

36.♔f2 a5 37.♗d2



And again White cannot take the a-pawn, since the rook would then penetrate decisively on b2.

37...♗b3 38.♗d8+ ♔g7 39.♗a3

♗c1 40.♔e2 ♗b1

White has made the time-control, but his position is hopeless.

41.♔e3

The sealed move. Now Black will start a series of careful manoeuvres to improve his position.

41...♖b2 42.h3 ♗h2 43.h4 ♖b2

44.♔e4 a4 45.♔e3

White has no useful plan and is reduced to passively awaiting developments.

45...♗a7 46.f5

A last-ditch attempt.

46...gxf5 47.♖c8 ♗d7 48.♖xa4

♗d3+ 49.♔f4 ♗d4

The king is starting to feel the heat.

50.♗aa8 ♗e6+ 51.♔xf5 ♗f2+

52.♔e4 ♗xd1 53.♗g8+ ♔h7

54.♗h8+ ♔g6 55.♗ag8+ ♗g7

56.g4 ♗e1+ 57.♔d5 c3

White resigns. After 58.♗xh5 ♗d2+ 59.♔c4 c2 60.♗g5+ ♔h7 61.♗5xg7+ ♔h6 62.g5+ ♔h5 the black king escapes.

English Opening

**Tigran Petrosian
Mikhail Tal**

For the first time in this tournament, Petrosian gets into trouble as White, which is surprising enough in itself, as the English Opening suits him very well. White's eighth move, however, is premature and immediately hands Black a strong initiative that eventually gains him a pawn. In the technical phase, Tal really does not find his stride. When the game is adjourned after 41 moves, White is within striking distance of the draw.

1.c4 ♗f6 2.♗c3 g6 3.g3 ♔g7 4.♔g2 0-0

5.♗f3 d6 6.0-0 ♗c6 7.♖b1 e5 8.b4 e4

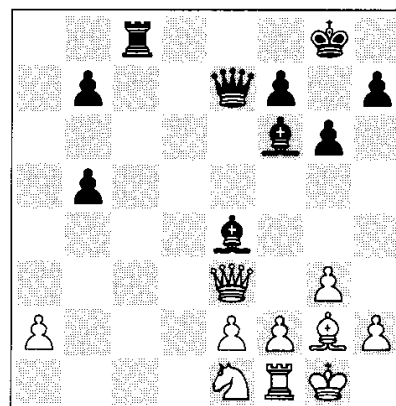
9.♗e1 ♗f5 10.d3 d5 11.b5 ♗e7 12.cxd5

♗exd5 13.♔b2 ♗xc3 14.♔xc3 ♗e8

15.♗c2 ♗e7 16.♖c1 ♖ac8 17.♗a4 c6

18.♔xf6 ♔xf6 19.♗xa7 cxb5 20.♖xc8

♖xc8 21.dxe4 ♔xe4 22.♗e3

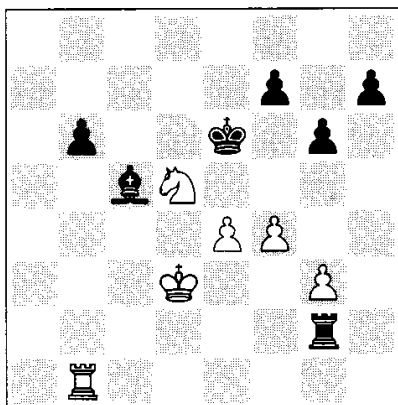


22...♔xg2 23.♗xe7 ♔xe7 24.♔xg2 ♗a8

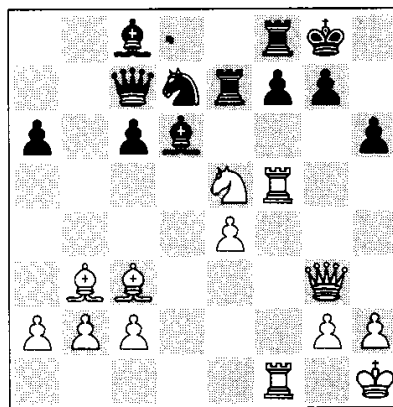
25.♗d3 ♖xa2 26.♖b1 ♗a5 27.♖b2 ♔f8

28.f4 ♔a3 29.♖b1 ♔d6 30.♔f3 ♔e7

31.♔e3 ♕e6 32.♔d4 ♖a4+ 33.♕e3 b4
 34.♔d4 ♖a2 35.e4 b6 36.♘xb4 ♙c5+
 37.♖c4 ♖xh2 38.♗d5 ♖c2+ 39.♔d3
 ♖g2



23.♖f5 ♖e7 24.♖af1 h6 25.♗xe5 ♙d6



26.♖xf7 ♖exf7 27.♖xf7 ♖xf7 28.♙xf7+
 1-0

40.♗xb6 ♖xg3+ 41.♔c4 ♖g1 42.♖xg1
 ♙xg1 43.♗d5 h6 44.♗c7+ ♔d6
 45.♗b5+ ♔c6 46.♗c3 g5 47.fxg5 hxg5
 48.e5 g4 49.♔d3 ♙h2 50.♔e4 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres
Miroslav Filip

An easy victory for Keres; all he had to do was direct his pieces to the correct squares, crank up the pressure and allow the black position to collapse of its own accord. It is striking that Filip, who had acted so decisively against Tal in the Sicilian earlier in this tournament, now seemed to be entirely devoid of fighting spirit.

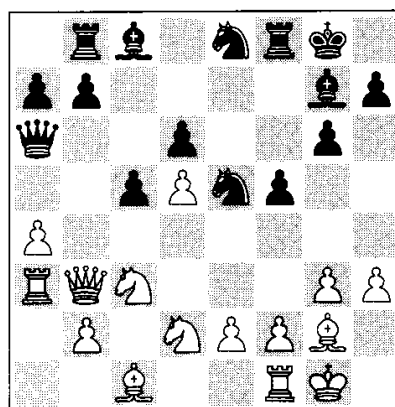
1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4 a6
 5.♙d3 ♗f6 6.0-0 ♖c7 7.♗d2 ♙c5
 8.♗2b3 ♙e7 9.f4 d6 10.♖f3 0-0 11.♙d2
 ♗c6 12.♗xc6 bxc6 13.♔h1 e5 14.♙a5
 ♖b8 15.♙c3 ♙e6 16.♗a5 ♖c7 17.fxe5
 dx e5 18.♙c4 ♙d7 19.♙b3 ♖ae8
 20.♖e3 ♙c8 21.♗c4 ♗d7 22.♖g3 ♙c5

Larsen/Benko Opening

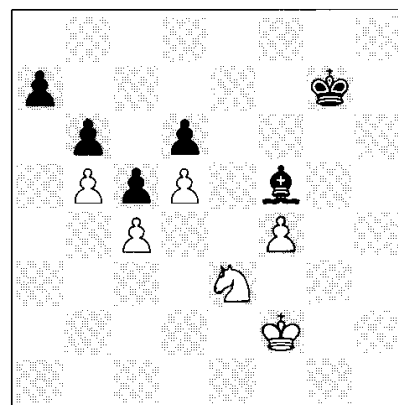
Pal Benko
Robert Fischer

It would be something of a sensation now if Benko didn't open 1.g3, but remarkably enough it leads to a different kind of opening each time. Against Fischer it resulted in a kind of Ben-Oni. This encounter turned into a real fighting game that was always dynamically balanced.

1.g3 g6 2.♙g2 ♙g7 3.d4 c5 4.c3 ♖b6
 5.♗f3 ♗f6 6.0-0 0-0 7.d5 d6 8.c4 e6
 9.♗c3 exd5 10.cxd5 ♗bd7 11.♗d2
 ♗e5 12.h3 ♖a6 13.♖b3 ♖b8 14.a4
 ♗e8 15.♖a3 f5



16.f4 ♘f7 17.e4 ♚a5 18.♘c4 ♚d8
 19.♞e1 fxe4 20.♘xe4 ♘c7 21.♙d2 ♙f5
 22.♘c3 ♞e8 23.♞aa1 b6 24.♘b5 ♘xb5
 25.axb5 ♞b7 26.♙c3 ♞xe1+ 27.♞xe1
 ♞e7 28.♞xe7 ♚xe7 29.♙xg7 ♚e1+
 30.♚h2 ♚xg7 31.♚c3+ ♚xc3 32.bxc3
 ♙d3 33.♘a3 g5 34.♚g1 gxf4 35.gxf4
 ♚g6 36.♚f2 ♚h5 37.♚g3 ♘h6
 38.♙f3+ ♚g6 39.♚f2 ♘f5 40.♙d1 ♙e4
 41.♙f3 ♙d3 42.♙d1 ♘e7 43.c4 ♚f5
 44.♚e3 ♙f1 45.♙c2+ ♚f6 46.♙xh7
 ♘f5+ 47.♚f2 ♙xh3 48.♘c2 ♚g7
 49.♙xf5 ♙xf5 50.♘e3



50...♙c8 51.♚f3 ♚g6 52.♚g3 a6
 53.bxa6 ♙xa6 54.♚g4 b5 55.cxb5
 ♙xb5 56.♚f3 1/2-1/2

ROUND 16

June 2

Kortchnoi - Petrosian	0-1
Tal - Keres	0-1
Geller - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Filip - Benko	0-1

Ruy Lopez

Viktor Kortchnoi
Tigran Petrosian

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.d3

Interestingly, Kortchnoi opened with the d-pawn in both his encounters with Geller, whereas he went for the e-pawn against Petrosian. In Round 2 he opted for the traditional 9.h3, but now he is steering towards less theoretical waters.

9...♘d7

Black can go for all kinds of set-ups. The main alternatives are 9...♘a5, 9...♙b7 and 9...♙e6.

10.♘bd2 ♘b6

A strategic move. Black wants to increase his control of the queenside. The text is aimed towards preventing the advance a2-a4. Another possible plan is 10...♙f6, followed by 11...♘c5.

11.♘f1 ♘a5 12.♙c2 c5 13.♘e3
♘c6 14.h3 ♙e6 15.d4

In combination with the previous move this is not the way to get an opening advantage, as a wholesale swap on d4 will give Black very active piece play.

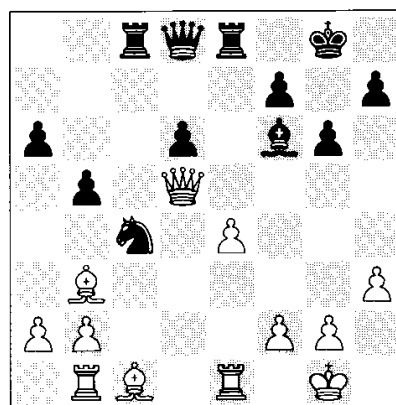
15...cxd4 16.cxd4 ♘xd4 17.♘xd4
exd4 18.♙xd4 ♖c8 19.♙d3 g6
20.♙b3

Preventing d6-d5. The drawback of the text is that the black knight will now be able to find a strong foothold on c4.

20...♘c4 21.♘d5

This yields White the bishop pair, but it will do him little good. 21.♖b1 was probably more accurate.

21...♙xd5 22.♙xd5 ♙f6 23.♖b1
♖e8



24.♖d1

White is attacking the enemy d-pawn, but leaving his own e-pawn unprotected in the process, with the result that these pawns will be swapped. The alternative was 24.♙f4 in order to meet 24...♖c5 with 25.♙d1.

24...♙e7 25.♙xc4 ♖xc4
26.♙xd6 ♙xe4 27.♙e3

It looks as if White has managed to keep things on an even keel, but Black can boast a considerable advantage, mainly

because of the vulnerability of the white queenside pawns.

**27...♖e6 28.♗b8+ ♔g7 29.b3
♞c2 30.♞bc1 ♞ec6**

Black cannot take on a2, as this would allow the white rook to penetrate, so he now aims for a rook swap.

31.♞xc2 ♞xc2 32.a3

White has managed to stave off losing a pawn for the moment, but Black continues to push.

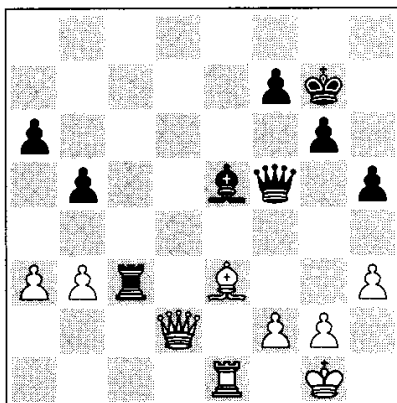
32...♞c3 33.♗d6

Active defending. White is threatening 34.♕h6+, giving Black no time to take on b3.

33...♕e5 34.♗d2 h5

Again, White was threatening 35.♕h6+.

35.♞e1 ♗f5



36.♗d1?

A passive intermediate move that ends up losing a pawn. White should have continued to play actively. After 36.♕d4 ♕xd4 37.♗xd4+ ♗f6 38.♗b4 he would successfully have thrown up a solid defensive line.

36...♞d3 37.♗b1 ♗d7

Very strong. Black prevents 38.♞d1 and prepares to take his queen to d5.

38.♗c1

For the third time, White is threatening the bishop check on h6, but this time Black parries it effectively.

38...♕c3

Forcing the white rook to a passive square.

39.♞f1 ♗d5 40.b4 ♗b3

The last move before the time-control. An even stronger alternative was 40...♕f6.

41.♕c5 ♕f6 42.♗f4

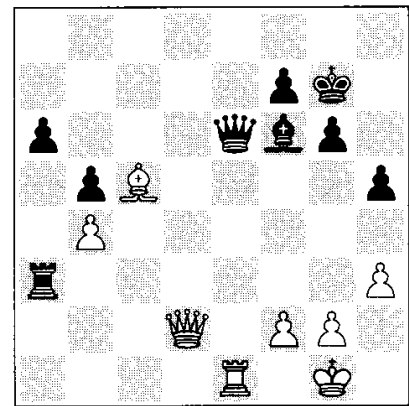
At this point the game was adjourned.

42...♗e6

The sealed move. Black wants to take on a3 with the rook. There is little White can do to defend himself, particularly in view of the passivity of his rook.

43.♗c1 ♞c3 44.♗d2 ♞xa3

45.♞e1



Kortchnoi's interim analysis must have shown him that his position was hopeless. With the text he admits that he would have liked nothing better than to give it a good kick. 45.♞d1 would have constituted a more tenacious defence.

45...♗xe1+

Of course. The bishop ending is technically winning.

46.♗xe1 ♞a1 47.♔f1 ♞xe1+

48.♔xe1 a5

Creating a passed pawn.

49.bxa5 ♕c3+ 50.♔d1 ♕xa5

51.♕d4+ ♔f8 52.♔c2 ♔e7 53.f3

White cannot prevent the enemy king from being centralised.

53...♔d6 54.♕e3 ♔d5 55.♔b3

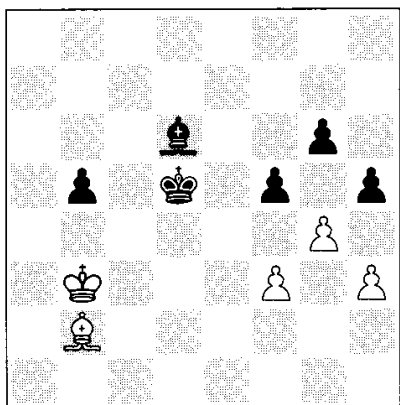
♔c6 56.♙d4 ♘b6 57.♙f6 ♙c5

58.♙b2 ♔d5

Played very systematically. After manoeuvring his bishop to a better square, Black returns his king to a more central position.

59.♙c3 ♔e6 60.g4 ♔d5 61.♙f6

♙d6 62.♙b2 f5



Creating room on the kingside.

63.gxf5 gxf5 64.♙c3 f4 65.♙b2
b4

Black is preparing to give up his b-pawn to enable his king to penetrate the enemy position via d4.

66.♙f6 ♙e5 67.♙g5 ♔d4

68.♔xb4 ♔e3 69.♔c4 ♔xf3

White resigns.

Ruy Lopez

Mikhail Tal

Paul Keres

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 ♘a5

10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♘d7

Despite his defeat against Fischer in Round 7, Keres decides to play this knight move again. Against Tal in Round 2 he had opted for 11...♘c6.

12.♘bd2

Tal decides not to wait for the improvement Keres may have come up with and is the first player to deviate from Fischer-Keres, in which White swapped on c5.

12...cxd4 13.cxd4 ♘c6 14.a3

This hesitant move makes it relatively easy for Black to equalise. The critical continuations are 14.d5, 14.♘f1 and 14.♘b3, and in all three cases White is entitled to be optimistic about getting an advantage.

14...exd4 15.♘b3 ♘de5

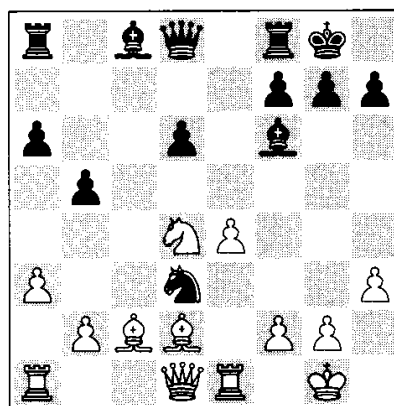
16.♘fxd4 ♙f6

Keres is looking for active squares for his minor pieces.

17.♙d2

Thomas gives this move a question mark and indicates 17.♘xc6 ♘xc6 18.f4, followed by 19.♚d3. But then Black could go 18...♙e6, with an excellent position. It seems to me that the modest 17.♚b1 is White's best bet, as the position is now balanced. After the text Black takes over the initiative, although this doesn't count for much yet.

17...♘xd4 18.♘xd4 ♘d3!



Again Keres plays for piece activity.

19.♘c6?

Tal must have pinned his hopes on this

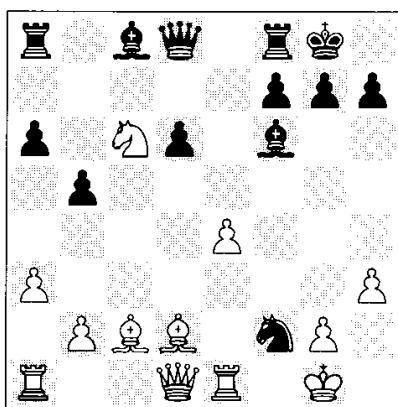
sortie, but the rest of the game will show that the ensuing complications end up favouring Black. After 19.♙xd3 ♘xd4 White had the following alternatives:

A) 20.♖b1 ♚f6 21.♗e2. This is indicated by Thomas, with the conclusion that Black is slightly better. But I fail to see what White can do after the simple 21...♙xb2. He has lost a pawn without a shred of compensation;

B) 20.♚c2 ♚f6 21.♙c3 ♘xc3 22.♚xc3 ♚xc3 23.bxc3 ♙e6 24.a4, and White forces a draw.

19...♗xf2!

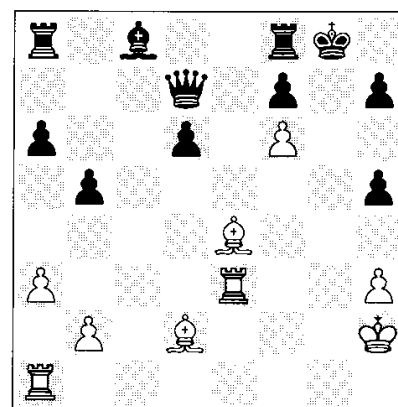
This capture required sharp calculation.



20.♚f3

In *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal*, Tal has this to say about this moment: ‘I thought up a very interesting combination and after making a preparatory move, I even went up for Petrosian and joked: “I’m going for the brilliancy prize”. The point was that, in my preliminary calculations, I was planning to sacrifice my queen for only two minor pieces, but after writing down ♚h5, which would have led to the sacrifice, I instead changed my mind and played ♚f3, forgetting about Black’s obvious reply. Within two moves, not a trace of my attack remained, but I was a pawn down, and soon had to

resign.’ Is it really true that the alternative 20.♚h5 would have led to a promising queen sacrifice? Remarkably enough, Thomas doesn’t even mention the move. I decided to have the queen move checked by the computer, which came up with the following main line: 20.♚h5 ♗xh3+ 21.♙h2 g6 22.♚f3 ♙e5+ 23.♗xe5 dxe5, and Black is superior by far. So where was the queen sacrifice Tal had in mind? After some thinking I discovered it. Let’s say that Black does not play the computer move 21...g6, but moves his queen, e.g. 21...♚c7. Play then continues 22.e5 g6 23.exf6! gxh5 24.gxh3 ♚xc6 25.♙e4 ♚d7 26.♖e3.



analysis diagram

And White gets a very strong and probably decisive attack.

It seems likely that Keres, who was in top form, was well aware of the danger, so he would undoubtedly have gone for the computer move. Tal must have realised as well, however vaguely, that the variation was not all that convincing, or else he would certainly have played it. Remarkably enough, Tal did make a remark to Petrosian during the game. Fischer, in his fierce indictment, had accused the Soviets of talking about their games against him, and it appears that they also discussed the

games they played amongst themselves. But I have the feeling that Petrosian cannot have been too happy with Tal's remark. He must have been worried about Tal suddenly showing such unbridled adventurousness against his direct competitor.

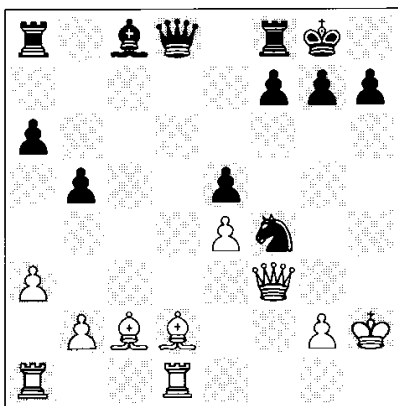
20... ♖xh3+ 21. ♔h2 ♕e5+

Here this little check is also very strong.

22. ♖xe5 dxe5 23. ♖ed1

23. ♕b4 could have been met very strongly by 23... ♖g5.

23... ♖f4!



Far better than 23... ♖g5. After 24. ♕xf4 Black plays 24... ♖h4+, with an easy win.

24.g3 ♖e6 25. ♕c3 ♖g5

Black is two healthy pawns up. The rest of the game speaks for itself.

26. ♖d6 ♖h6+ 27. ♔g1 ♖d4

28. ♖xh6 ♖xf3+ 29. ♔f2 gxf3

30. ♔xf3 ♖e8 31. ♖h1 ♔g7

32. ♕b3 ♕b7 33. ♕d2 f5 34. ♖xh6

♖ad8 35. ♖b6 ♕xe4+ 36. ♔e2

♕f3+ 37. ♔e1 f4 38. ♕c3 fxg3

39. ♖xa6 ♖d4 40. ♖a7+ ♔h6

41. ♖f7

0-1

Postscript:

It was only after writing this comment that I discovered that the game was published, with brief comments by Tal, after

Round 25. Tal must have written his comments on his sickbed!

Not that it offers much in the way of new insights. After White's 20th move he writes: '20. ♖h5 would offer more chances; the main line is 20... ♖b6 21.e5 ♖e4+ 22. ♔h2 g6 23.exf6 gxf5 24. ♕xe4, and White has counterplay. No good is 20... ♖xh3+ 21. ♔h2 ♕e5+ 22. ♖xe5 dxe5 23. ♖xd8 ♖xd8 24. ♕xe5'. The move 21...g6 (instead of 21...♕e5+) in the last variation also gets a mention.

Sicilian Defence

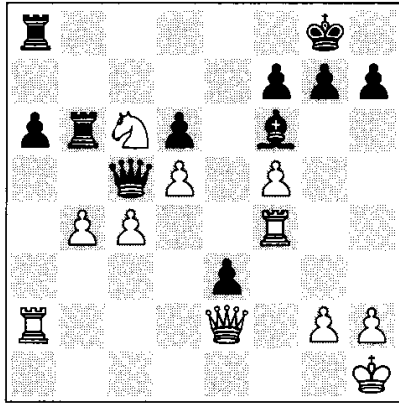
Efim Geller

Robert Fischer

The same opening variation as in Round 2 finds its way onto the board, but this time Geller does not dominate the proceedings. He is the first player to deviate by going 9.a4 (instead of 9.♕e3). In fact, this game is strikingly similar to Tal-Fischer from Round 4. On move 15 Geller deviates by playing 15.♔h1 (instead of 15.♕b6), which is indeed an improvement on White's play, although it is not enough for an advantage. Like Tal, Fischer sacrifices an exchange in the middle game, for which he will get reasonable compensation. When the game is adjourned after 44 moves, the assembled grandmasters cannot agree on their assessment. When play is resumed, only one move is played before the players agree to a draw.

1.e4 c5 2. ♖f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. ♖xd4 ♖f6 5. ♖c3 a6 6. ♕e2 e5 7. ♖b3 ♕e6 8.0-0 ♖bd7 9.a4 ♕e7 10.f4 ♖c7 11.f5 ♕c4 12.a5 0-0 13. ♕e3 b5 14.axb6 ♖xb6 15. ♔h1 ♖fc8 16. ♕xb6 ♖xb6

17.♙xc4 ♖xc4 18.♚e2 ♜b4 19.♞a2
 ♚b7 20.♘a5 ♛c7 21.♘d5 ♘xd5
 22.exd5 ♜b5 23.♚d2 ♛c5 24.c4 ♜b6
 25.♚e2 ♙g5 26.♞f3 ♙f6 27.♘c6 e4
 28.♞f4 e3 29.b4



29...♞xb4 30.♘xb4 ♚xb4 31.♚d3 a5
 32.♞f1 ♚c3 33.♚xc3 ♙xc3 34.♞b1 h5
 35.♙g1 ♜c8 36.♙f1 ♞xc4 37.♙e2 ♙b4
 38.♙xe3 ♙h7 39.♞f1 ♙h6 40.♞f3 ♙g5
 41.♙d3 ♜c3+ 42.♙e4 ♜c1 43.f6 g6
 44.♙d4 h4 45.h3 1/2-1/2

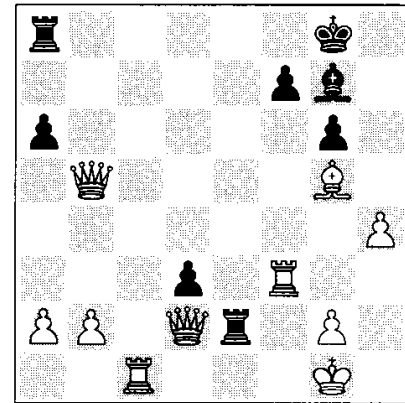
King's Indian Defence

Miroslav Filip
Pal Benko

For the second time in the tournament the Sämisch Variation of the King's Indian is played. Filip handles the Taimanov vari-

ation rather ineptly and gives Benko an easy game. After taking over the initiative Benko eventually manages to beat the tail-ender in the inevitable time-trouble phase.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 ♙g7 4.e4 d6
 5.f3 0-0 6.♘ge2 ♘c6 7.♙e3 a6 8.♚d2
 ♙d7 9.♘c1 e5 10.♘b3 exd4 11.♘xd4
 ♞e8 12.♙e2 ♘h5 13.0-0 ♘f4 14.♙xf4
 ♘xd4 15.♙g5 ♘xe2+ 16.♘xe2 ♚b8
 17.♘c3 ♙e6 18.♘d5 ♙xd5 19.cxd5 c5
 20.dxc6 bxc6 21.♞ac1 ♚b5 22.♞f2 d5
 23.exd5 cxd5 24.h4 d4 25.♙h6 ♙f6
 26.♙g5 ♙e5 27.f4 ♙g7 28.f5 d3
 29.fxg6 hxg6 30.♞f3 ♞e2



31.♚xd3 ♚xb2 32.♞xf7 ♞xg2+ 33.♙f1
 ♞xg5 34.♞xg7+ ♙xg7 35.♞c7+ ♙h8
 36.hxg5 ♞f8+ 37.♙e1 ♚e5+ 38.♙d1
 ♚xc7 39.♚d4+ ♚g7 40.♚h4+ ♙g8
 41.♚c4+ ♚f7 0-1

ROUND 17

June 4

Keres - Kortchnoi	1-0
Petrosian - Geller	1/2-1/2
Fischer - Filip	1-0
Benko - Tal	1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres
Viktor Kortchnoi

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 e6

Kortchnoi exhibited a broad opening repertoire against 1.e4 on Curaçao, but as this game will show, the Sicilian isn't really his cup of tea.

5.♗c3 ♖c7 6.♙e3 a6 7.♙e2 ♘f6
8.a3

With this careful pawn move White prevents Black from developing his bishop to b4. It has still not been proven conclusively whether or not White is better after 8.0-0 ♙b4 9.♗a4 ♙e7. In most practical examples Black holds his own with relative ease.

8...♙e7 9.0-0 0-0 10.f4 d6
11.♖e1 ♗xd4

The start of a standard manoeuvre that aims to free the black game completely. With his eighth move, Black had already put paid to the sharp continuations of the Scheveningen. The alternative was 11...♙d7, when White will find it equally difficult to play for an advantage.

12.♗xd4 e5 13.fxex5 dxe5
14.♖g3 ♜e8

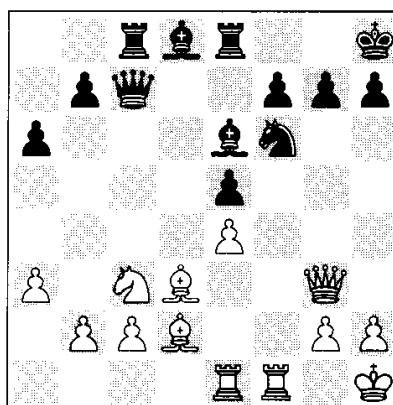
Indirectly covering the e-pawn; now 15.♖xe5 would fail to 15...♖xe5

16.♙xe5 ♙c5+, and Black wins a piece.

15.♖h1 ♙d8 16.♙e3 ♖h8

Black wants to prevent the bishop sortie to h6, but the immediate 16...♙e6 was better. After 17.♙h6 g6 18.♙g5 ♗d7 White would have achieved little or nothing.

17.♙d3 ♙e6 18.♜ae1 ♜c8
19.♙d2



19...♖b6

From this point on Black seems to be losing the thread. Correct was 19...♗h5, intending to meet 20.♖f3 with 20...♗f4, when Black's opening problems have been solved. After 21.♙xf4 exf4 22.♖xf4 ♖xf4 23.♜xf4 Black has the unpleasant 23...♙a5!, which yields him excellent play.

20.♗d1 ♗d7 21.b4

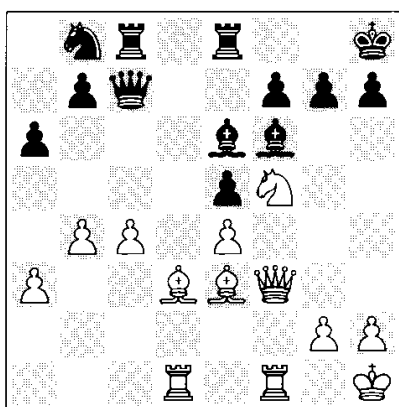
Keres gradually takes control of the position. In the Sicilian, advancing the

b-pawn is often a weakening move, but here it is more than justified; the knight is poised to jump to e3, taking control of square c4 for White.

**21...♙e7 22.♘e3 ♚d8 23.♖d1
♙h4 24.♚f3 ♘b8 25.♘f5**

It is obvious that White's grip on the position is getting stronger and stronger. Keres is getting into his element.

25...♙f6 26.♙e3 ♚c7 27.c4



The correct time for this advance. Black cannot take the pawn with 27...♙xc4 28.♙xc4 ♚xc4 29.♘d6, and remains doomed to passivity.

27...♙e7 28.c5 ♘c6 29.♚e2

White systematically increases his territory. The queen move paves the way for the king's bishop to take possession of the a2-g8 diagonal.

**29...♖cd8 30.♙c4 ♙f8 31.♙d5
g6 32.♘h6 ♘d4 33.♚c4 ♙xh6
34.♙xh6 b5**

Black's seeming activity is an illusion. With his next move White keeps the position under solid control.

**35.♚a2 ♚e7 36.♙e3 ♙g8
37.♙xd4 exd4 38.♖xd4 ♚g5
39.♚f2 ♚e5 40.♖fd1 ♙g7**

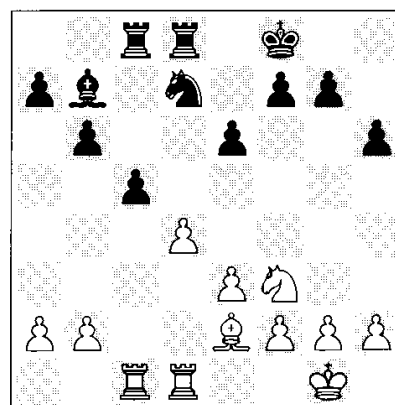
Adjourned and later resigned by Black without play being resumed. There is no record of Keres's sealed move.

Queen's Gambit Declined

Tigran Petrosian Efim Geller

'They moved the pieces 16 times; then they were tired,' thus the bulletin – an apt way to describe this short draw. Yet the comment was in no way meant to suggest that the game had been fixed. This draw catapulted Keres to the top of the standings.

**1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♙g5 ♙e7
5.♘f3 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.♙h4 b6 8.♙d3 ♙b7
9.0-0 ♘bd7 10.♖c1 c5 11.♚e2 ♖c8
12.cxd5 ♘xd5 13.♙xe7 ♘xc3 14.♙xd8
♘xe2+ 15.♙xe2 ♖fxd8 16.♖fd1 ♙f8**



1/2-1/2

Ruy Lopez

Robert Fischer
Miroslav Filip

**1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6
4.♙a4 d6**

The Neo-Steinitz. In their earlier encounter, Filip had gone for the classical 4...♘f6.

5.c3 ♙d7 6.d4 g6 7.0-0 ♙g7 8.d5

According to modern insights, maintaining the central tension with 8.♖e1 is

White's best way to play for an opening advantage. If the centre is closed, Black gets an easy game.

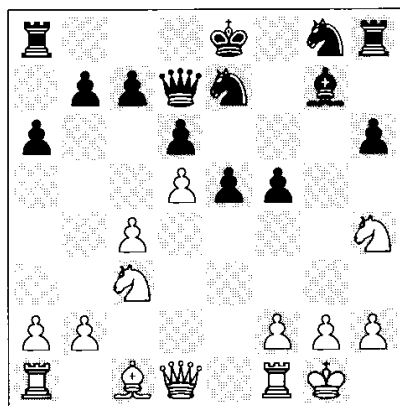
8...♖ce7 9.♙xd7+ ♚xd7 10.c4 h6

Black is preparing to push his f-pawn. The immediate 10...f5 was no good in view of 11.♘g5, and the white knight jumps to e6 with great force.

11.♘c3 f5 12.exf5

In Beliavsky-Smyslov, Leningrad 1977, White went for another plan by playing 12.♘e1. After 12...♘f6 13.f3 f4 a 'King's Indian battle' had arisen in which Black's prospects were quite good. Fischer prefers to keep the game relatively open.

12...gxf5 13.♘h4



The most obvious move, although 13.♘e1, with the possible aim of sending the knight to c2, was certainly worth considering.

13...♘f6 14.f4 e4 15.♙e3 0-0 16.h3 c5!

An excellent move: Black increases his influence in the centre. White is forced to take *en passant*. If he had failed to do so, he would have been left with no grip on the position at all.

17.dxc6 bxc6 18.♚e2

Byrne and Mednis assess this position as slightly better for White in the *Encyclope-*

dia of Chess Openings, but I beg to differ. Black has a flexible position, and his covered passed pawn in the centre may eventually turn out to be his trump card.

18...♚e6

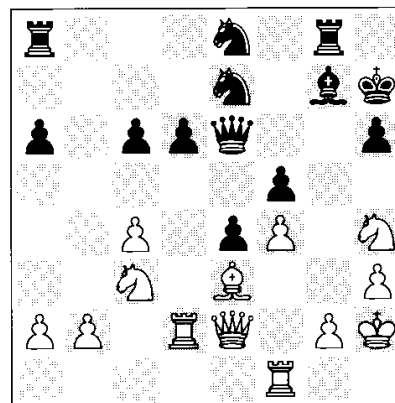
The queen is excellently placed here.

19.♖fd1 ♙h7 20.♙h2 ♖g8

21.♖d2

21.♖ac1 would have been more cautious.

21...♘e8



Probably a good move. White is going to double his rooks, in which case the d-pawn must be well protected. At the same time, Black creates for himself the strategic option of swapping on c3.

22.g3

Necessary. The king's knight must have a return square.

22...a5

A very good alternative was 22...♙xc3 23.bxc3 c5, which would restrict the radius of the white bishop. White will not find it easy to exploit the absence of the black king's bishop. The d6 pawn is solidly protected and penetrating via the b-file is not going to yield much. It seems to me that Black is strategically superior.

23.♖ad1

Again White allows Black to swap on c3. Stronger, it seems to me, is 23.♙d4, with roughly equal chances.

23...♖g6 24.♗g2

After 24.♗xg6 ♜xg6 Black would have strong pressure along the half-open g-file.

24...♖b8

And again Black misses his chance to swap on c4. After 24...♙xc3 25.bxc3 c5, followed by 26...♖a7, he could have faced the future with confidence. The text is not bad either. Black wants to direct his rook to the kingside via b7.

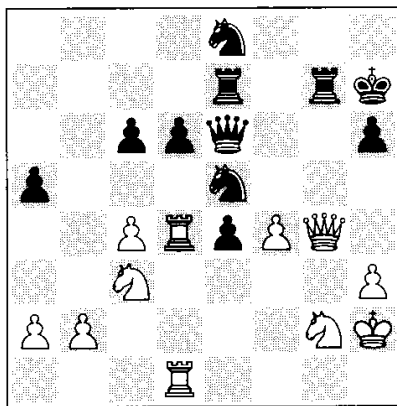
25.♙d4 ♖b7 26.g4

Practically speaking a good continuation. Black had very little time left and the complications arising from this move were hard to calculate.

26...♖e7 27.♙xg7 ♖gxg7 28.♖d4 fxg4

This swap is tactically justified. Another good option was 28...♖ef7 in order to put pressure on f4.

29.♜xg4 ♗e5!



Excellent. White is forced to swap queens. In the meantime, Black will ensconce his knight on the vital f3 square.

30.♜xe6 ♗f3+ 31.♙h1 ♖xe6

Fischer must have felt awkward here. 32.♖xe4 is met by 32...♖eg6 33.♖e3 ♖g3, with a mating attack.

32.f5!

The only move.

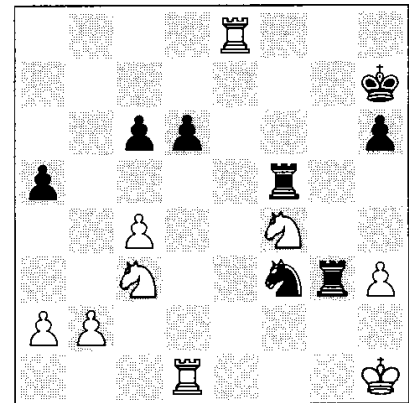
32...♖e5

Stronger than 32...♗xd4, as after 33.fxe6 ♗xe6 34.♗xe4 Black would be forced on the defensive.

33.♖xe4 ♖xf5?

Filip is in time-trouble now, and seems to start losing his way. The text looks promising, but with measured play White can parry the black threats. Strong was 33...♗f6!, and after 34.♖xe5 dxe5 Black has excellent compensation for the pawn. The white knights are dominated by their black counterparts, so despite the reduced material White will not find it easy to withstand the black attack. White's best defence is probably 35.♖f1 ♖g3 36.♗e1, when Black can win back his pawn with 36...♗d2, while retaining the initiative.

34.♖xe8 ♖g3 35.♗f4!



Again the only move. White adroitly returns the piece.

35...♖xf4 36.♗e2

The point of the previous move. The knight fork disrupts the coordination of Black's troops.

36...♖xh3+ 37.♙g2 ♖fh4

The only way to prevent material losses. But now White takes over the attack.

38.♖xd6

Suddenly White is threatening mate in two, and strangely enough there isn't much Black can do about it.

38...♖e1+ 39.♔f1 ♜h1+ 40.♔f2
 ♜4h2+ 41.♔e3 ♜h3+ 42.♔e4
 ♔g7

Here the game was adjourned and later resigned by Black without play being resumed.

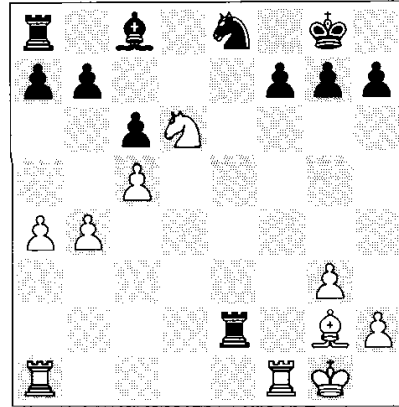
English Opening

Pal Benko
Mikhail Tal

White comes out of the opening with a slight advantage. In order to relieve the pressure, Tal temporarily sacrifices a pawn. Throughout the game he is walking a tightrope to keep the position on an even keel.

1.g3 e5 2.c4 c6 3.♘f3 e4 4.♘d4 d5
 5.d3 ♘f6 6.♙g2 ♙c5 7.♘b3 ♙b4+
 8.♙d2 ♙xd2+ 9.♚xd2 dxc4 10.dxc4

♚e7 11.♘c3 0-0 12.0-0 e3 13.♚xe3
 ♚xe3 14.fxe3 ♘g4 15.♘d1 ♜e8
 16.♘c5 ♘d7 17.♘e4 ♘df6 18.♘d6 ♜e6
 19.c5 ♘xe3 20.♘xe3 ♜xe3 21.b4 ♜xe2
 22.a4 ♘e8



23.♘xf7 ♙e6 24.♘g5 ♘c7 25.♜ae1
 ♜xe1 26.♜xe1 ♜e8 27.b5 cxb5 28.axb5
 ♙d7 29.♜xe8+ ♘xe8 30.b6 axb6
 31.cxb6 ♘d6 32.♘e4 ♘c8 33.♘c5
 ♘xb6 34.♘xd7 1/2-1/2



Tal has just lost to Filip in the 12th round and is analysing. In the background, looking sideways behind Tal, is Anton Roose, who reported on the event for Curaçao.



Petrosian analyses with the help of Tal. Keres is watching behind him.

Candidates' Tournament - Curaçao 1962

White: Fischer
Black: Geller

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1	26		
2	27		
3	28		
4	29		
5	30		
6	31		
7	32		
8	33		
9	34		
10	35		
11	36		
12	37		
13	38		
14	39		
15	40		
16	41		
17	42		
18	43		
19	44		
20	45		
21	46		
22	47		
23	48		
24	49		
25	50		

Left: Fischer's game score (against Geller) from the 9th round. After Fischer's 42nd move, this game was adjourned. Two days later, the game was resumed and he lost.

Right: The score of the 'fingerfehler' game Tal-Benko (13.Exd4) of Round 10. See page 83.

Candidates' Tournament - Curaçao 1962

White: Tal
Black: Benko

WHITE	BLACK	WHITE	BLACK
1	26		
2	27		
3	28		
4	29		
5	30		
6	31		
7	32		
8	33		
9	34		
10	35		
11	36		
12	37		
13	38		
14	39		
15	40		
16	41		
17	42		
18	43		
19	44		
20	45		
21	46		
22	47		
23	48		
24	49		
25	50		



Geller-Fischer in round 16.

Keres and Petrosian analyse in the press room. Arthur Bisguier (centre) is watching, flanked by (left to right) de Castro, Tiepen and Schöttelndreier.



Fischer and Tal, who were good friends during this tournament.





Lunching together at Fort Nassau. Of course Gorshkov, second from the left on the foreground keeps a look-out.



Frans Vlugt, a soldier stationed on Curaçao, keeps score at the Filip-Kortchnoi game.

ROUND 18

June 5

Tal - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Geller - Filip	1-0
Petrosian - Keres	1/2-1/2
Kortchnoi - Benko	1/2-1/2

Ruy Lopez

Mikhail Tal
Robert Fischer

1.e4 e5

A very rare move in Fischer's repertoire.

2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 ♙c5 4.c3

The sharpest and best way to handle the slightly dubious black system.

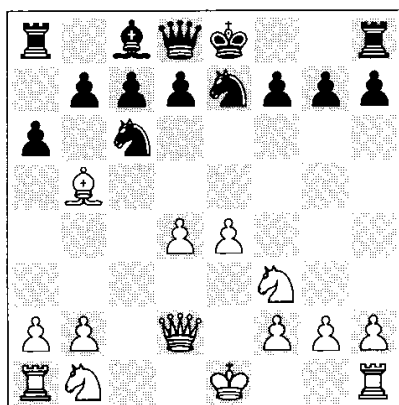
4...♘ge7 5.d4

But here castling would have offered better chances of an opening advantage.

5...exd4 6.cxd4 ♙b4+ 7.♙d2

An alternative is 7.♘c3, when Black should play 7...d5, and he is fairly OK.

7...♙xd2+ 8.♚xd2 a6!



An important finesse. The advance of the white d-pawn had to be prevented, of course, but 8...d5 9.exd5 at once is difficult for Black.

A) 9...♚xd5 10.♘c3 ♚e6+ 11.♙f1,

and the threat of 12.d5 prevents Black from castling;

B) 9...♘xd5 10.♙xc6+ bxc6 11.0-0 0-0 12.♚c1, and White has a lasting positional plus.

9.♙a4

After 9.♙xc6 the position is beginning to incline towards the Exchange variation. 9...dxc6 is the normal reply, when 10.♘c3 should yield White at least some advantage, e.g. 10...♘g6 (intending 11...♙g4) 11.h4 (or maybe even 11.0-0-0) 11...♙g4 12.h5.

9...d5 10.exd5 ♚xd5 11.♘c3

This might usefully be replaced by 11.0-0 0-0 12.♘c3. Now 12...♚a5 would be met very strongly by 13.d5 (13...♘b4 14.♙b3, with a clear advantage for White in view of 15.♚e2!). The black queen is forced to the other side of the board: 12...♚h5, and after 13.d5 ♘e5 (13...♚d8 is met by 14.♚e3 again) 14.♘xe5 ♚xe5 15.♚fe1 ♚d6 16.♚ad1 ♙f5 17.♚g5 White is slightly better. So it is better for Black to play 16...♙g4 first, when it is doubtful whether White has anything at all.

11...♚e6+ 12.♙f1 ♚c4+

This is the difference with variation A under Black's eighth move. Black removes the fork with tempo.

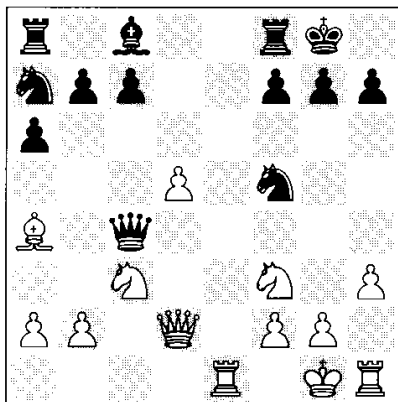
13.♙g1 0-0 14.d5

Far stronger than 14.♔b3 ♚b4 15.d5 ♘a5.

14...♘a7

Very bad is 14...♘a5 in view of 15.♖e1 ♘g6 16.♖e4, followed by 17.b4, or 15...b5 16.♖xe7 bxa4 17.♖e4. 14...♘b4 also looks bad, both after 15.♔b3 ♚d3 16.♚e1 and 15.♖e1 ♘g6 16.a3.

15.♖e1 ♘f5 16.h3



Now Tal is giving his opponent a move to catch his breath. 16.♔b3 would have been more direct. Now Black has nothing better than 16...♚b4 (16...♚c5 17.♘e4) 17.♖e4 ♚d6, after which White finally consolidates his kingside by means of 18.g3.

16...♘b5 17.♘xb5 axb5 18.♔b3

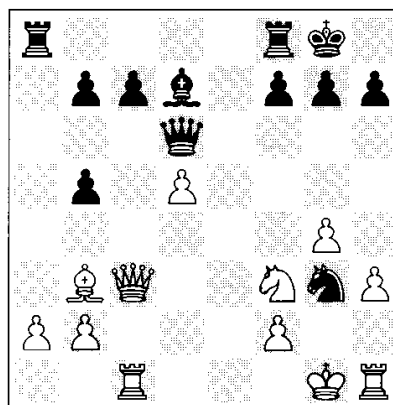
♚c5 19.♖c1 ♚d6 20.♚c3 ♘d7

Black must have seen this sly parry coming from a long way off. Capturing with 21.♚xc7 is impossible in view of 21...♖ac8, while 21.♚e5 isn't dangerous either because of the simple 21...♖ac8. 22.g4 is met by 22...♘h4, and play continues 23.♚d6 ♘f3 24.♔g2 ♘h4 25.♔g3 ♘f5 26.gf5 cd6 27.♔f4, with a difficult endgame.

21.g4

Now Tal forces his opponent to execute a fine combination.

21...♘g3!



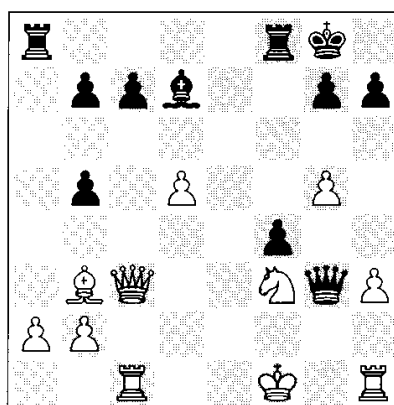
22.fxg3

The main line is 22.♚xc7 ♘e2+ 23.♔g2 ♘f4+, and now 24.♔f1 (24.♔g3 or 24.♔g1 is a draw) 24...♚xc7! (24...♚f6 25.♚xd7 ♘d3 26.♔g2 is no good for Black) 25.♖xc7 ♖ac8, and Black is positionally winning. Finally, instead of 24.♔f1, White can also play 24.♔h2, when Black has a strong attack after 24...♚h6, e.g. 25.♘g5 ♚xg5 26.♚xd7 ♚h4, and wins.

22...♚xg3+ 23.♔f1 f5 24.g5

White is more or less forced to close the position, as after 24.d6+ ♔h8 25.♘e5 fxg4+ 26.♘f7+ ♖xf7+ 27.♔xf7 ♚f4+ 28.♔g1 ♚xf7 Black has considerable compensation for the exchange.

24...f4



25.d6+

Going for a win with 25.♘g1 is extremely dangerous for White in view of 25...f3 26.♖c2 b4! 27.♚xb4 ♔f5.

**25...♖h8 26.dxc7 ♜ae8 27.♙d5
♙xh3+ 28.♞xh3 ♚xh3+ 29.♚f2**
1/2-1/2

Neither player can go for a win. If White had played 29.♚g1, he would have been mated with 29...♞e2.

Analysis from 'Fischer' (published in 1972) by Krabbé, Münninghoff and Timman.

Sicilian Defence

**Efim Geller
Miroslav Filip**

A walkover for Geller. Filip's Sicilian never gets out of the starting-blocks and he is unceremoniously strong-armed off the board.

**1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
♗f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.♙e2 e6 7.0-0 ♚c7 8.f4
♙e7 9.♙e3 ♗bd7 10.♙f3 ♗b6 11.♚e2
0-0 12.g4 ♗c4 13.g5 ♗d7 14.♗f5 ♙d8
15.♙d4 f6 16.♚h1 ♗db6 17.gxf6 ♙xf6
18.♙xf6 ♞xf6 19.♘xd6 ♞xf4 20.♘xc4
♗xc4 21.e5 ♙d7 22.♗d5** 1-0

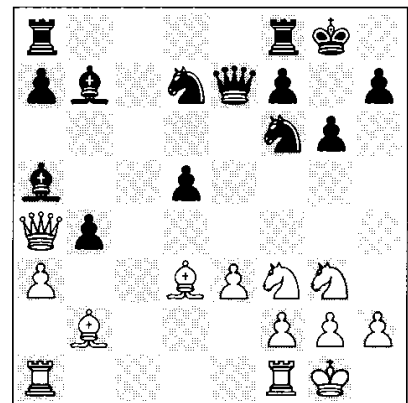
Nimzo-Indian Defence

**Tigran Petrosian
Paul Keres**

Something interesting happened in this game: Petrosian refused Keres's draw offer. How to explain this unexpected fighting spirit? I believe that the eventual tournament winner was determined only to accept draws on his own terms. At times, it is psychologically comforting for the white player to hold and cherish his advantage for a while. Besides, refusing a draw offer is also a psychological pin-prick for your

opponent in a critical phase of the tournament. Keres was a dangerous threat to Petrosian. Kortchnoi was more than likely to resign the adjourned game from the previous round without resuming play, in which case the Estonian would be half a point ahead of Petrosian. The unexpected fighting spirit of the eventual winner was a clear indication of his ambitions; he was showing his teeth.

**1.c4 ♗f6 2.d4 e6 3.♗f3 b6 4.♘c3 ♙b4
5.e3 c5 6.♙d3 d5 7.dxc5 bxc5 8.0-0
0-0 9.♗e2 ♙b7 10.b3 ♗bd7 11.♙b2
♚e7 12.♗g3 g6 13.cxd5 exd5 14.a3
♙a5 15.b4 cxb4 16.♚a4**



**16...♙b6 17.axb4 ♗g4 18.♞fe1 ♗de5
19.♗xe5 ♗xe5 20.♞ad1 ♗xd3 21.♞xd3
♞fc8 22.b5** 1/2-1/2

Grünfeld Indian Defence

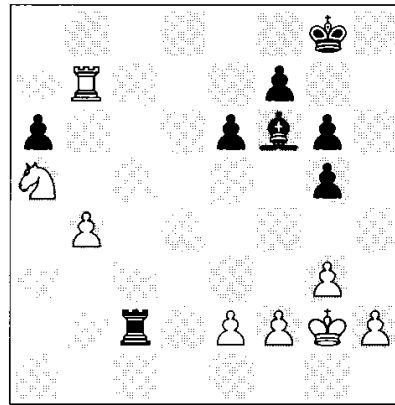
**Viktor Kortchnoi
Pal Benko**

Kortchnoi handles the opening slightly differently compared to his game against Geller, but again fails to secure any advantage. On the contrary; in the queenless middle game he is forced to jump through all kinds of hoops to stay alive. In the end he is successful, partly thanks to

Benko's perpetual time-trouble. After 41 moves the game is adjourned and later agreed drawn without play being resumed.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7 4.♙g2 d5
 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.♘f3 0-0 7.0-0 c5 8.dxc5
 ♘a6 9.♘g5 ♘db4 10.a3 ♚xd1 11.♖xd1
 ♘c6 12.♘c3 ♘xc5 13.♙d5 ♘d4 14.♙e3
 ♘cb3 15.♖a2 e6 16.♙c4 b6 17.♘ge4
 ♙b7 18.♙g5 h6 19.♘d6 hxg5 20.♘xb7
 ♖ac8 21.♙a6 ♖c7 22.a4 ♘c6 23.♘b5
 ♖e7 24.♖a3 ♘b8 25.♖xb3 ♘xa6
 26.♘d8 ♘b8 27.♘a3 ♙f6 28.a5 bxa5
 29.♖xb8 ♖ee8 30.♘c4 ♖xd8 31.♖dx8

♖xd8 32.♖b7 a6 33.♖b6 ♖a8 34.♖b7
 ♖c8 35.♘xa5 ♖c1+ 36.♙g2 ♖c2 37.b4



37...♖xe2 38.♘c6 ♖a2 39.g4 ♙g7
 40.♖a7 ♖a1 41.♘b8 1/2-1/2

ROUND 19

June 8

Fischer - Kortchnoi	0-1
Benko - Petrosian	0-1
Keres - Geller	1/2-1/2
Filip - Tal	1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

Robert Fischer
Viktor Kortchnoi

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗f6 5.♗c3 d6

Again, Kortchnoi exhibits his broad black repertoire against 1.e4. He had not yet played the Classical variation in this tournament.

6.♕c4

This used to be Fischer's usual continuation. Later, for example in his match against Spassky in Reykjavik 1972, he would start playing 6.♕g5.

6...e6 7.♕b3 ♕e7 8.0-0 0-0
9.♕e3 ♗a5

This knight move leads to sharp play. Alternatives were 9...a6, 9...♗xd4, 9...♕d7, as well as 9...♖a5, each time with a slightly different kind of game.

10.f4 b6 11.e5

This advance was first played by Geller. Other continuations would have given Black an easy game.

11...♗e8

The only way to prevent White from immediately grabbing a dangerous initiative. 11...dxe5 12.fxe5 ♗d7, for example, would be impossible in view of 13.♖xf7!, and Black is annihilated.

12.f5!

This move was also introduced by Geller.

12...dxe5

Again the only possibility. After 12...♗xb3 13.♗c6! ♖c7 14.♗xe7+ ♖xe7 15.f6! White would have a decisive attack.

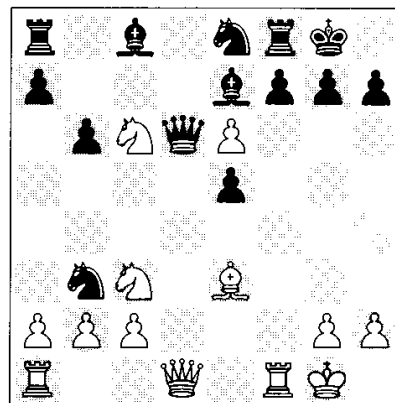
13.fxe6 ♗xb3

Geller-Vatnikov, Kiev 1950, saw 13...f6? 14.♗f5! ♗xb3 15.♗d5!, and White won in style.

14.♗c6

Even now White does not take back on b3. Black's reply is forced.

14...♖d6



15.♖xd6

The best reply for White. He swaps queens, trusting that his superiority on the queenside will carry more weight than Black's central majority. In Bilek-Petrosian, Oberhausen 1961, White quickly collapsed after 15.♗d5? ♕h4! 16.exf7+ ♖xf7 17.♖xf7 ♗xa1 18.♖f1

♙f6 19.♗xf6+ ♗xf6, and White resigned. This short game raises two questions: What caused Bilek, who was after all a fairly strong grandmaster, to go for these dangerous complications when the queen swap had been shown during the Polish championship four years earlier to be good for White? He is likely not to have known this game, but even then it is strange that he should go for such a sharp variation. But maybe I am expecting too much from the grandmasters of that era, when chess had not been professionalised to the extent that it is now. The second question is more significant: Why did Petrosian go for this line if it seemed to promise him an unfavourable endgame? Probably because he didn't know the game from the Polish championship either.

15...♙xd6 16.axb3 ♙xe6
17.♗xa7

In Part II of the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings*, John Nunn gives two alternatives:

A) 17.♖xa7. Nunn gives this move without assessing the position. If Black goes for the rook swap, White's preponderance on the queenside would become very dangerous. But he has a better option: after 17...♖c8 18.♗e7+ ♙xe7 19.♖xe7 b5! 20.♖b7 ♗d6 Black would have good play;

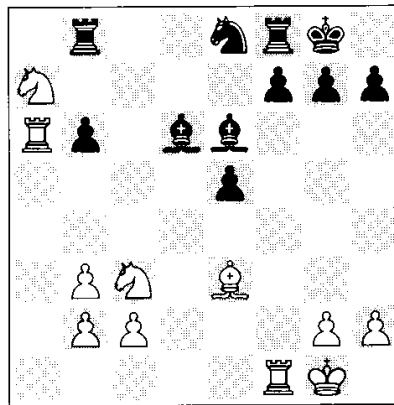
B) 17.♗b5. Nunn continues 17...♙d7 18.♗cxa7 ♙c5 19.♙xc5 bxc5 20.♖a4, with slightly better play for White. An interesting option is the pawn sacrifice 18...♙e7. After 19.♙xb6 ♗f6 Black has compensation based on the better coordination of his minor pieces.

17...♖b8

This is the first new move. In the aforementioned game from the Polish cham-

pionship, Kostro-Doda 1957, White was better after 17...♗f6 18.♙xb6 ♖fb8 19.♗c6! ♖xa1 20.♖xa1 ♖c8 21.♗a7 ♖b8 22.♗ab5. The text is more cautious. Black covers his b-pawn in anticipation of further actions by White.

18.♖a6



18...♗f6

So he decides to sacrifice the pawn after all. He will eventually win it back, but without fully solving his problems. Konstantinopolsky indicated 19.♗cb5 after the alternative 18...♙c7, and this reply was later tested in a correspondence game between Bangiev and Osterman from 1976. After 19.♗cb5 f5 20.c4 f4 Black had sufficient counterplay. I don't really understand, however, why White did not go for 20.♗xc7 ♗xc7 21.♖xb6, when he has won the weak b-pawn again and Black does not seem to have sufficient compensation.

19.♖xb6 ♖xb6 20.♙xb6 ♖b8
21.♙f2 ♗g4

Black seems to be getting dangerous counterplay, but White has the position under control.

22.♗ab5

Adroitly parried: 22...♗xf2 runs into 23.♗xd6.

22...♙b4 23.♙a7

Sharp play.

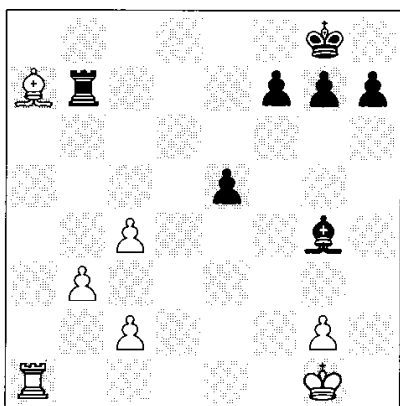
23...♖b7 24.h3

The point of the previous move.

24...♙xc3 25.bxc3

Of course. By taking back in this way White in fact sets his own queenside pawn front in motion.

**25...♖xb5 26.hxg4 ♙xg4 27.c4
♗b7 28.♖a1**



The situation is clear: Black has won his pawn back, but White's majority on the queenside is more dangerous than Black's in the centre and on the kingside. Black will have to defend himself with great accuracy.

28...♙f5

A subtle defensive move.

29.c5?

A serious miscalculation. White should have indirectly covered his hindmost c-pawn with 29.♖a2, when Black has the following possibilities:

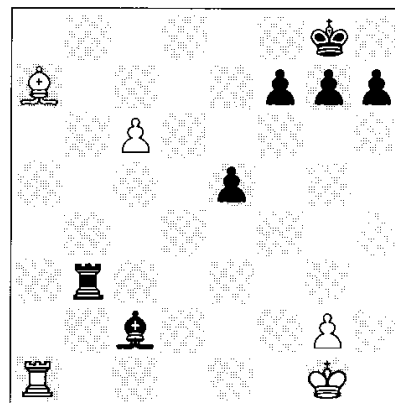
A) 29...♙f8. This was played in the correspondence game Kavtorin-Anishenko from 1965. After 30.c5 ♙e7 31.♙b6 ♙d7 32.c4 White had a clear advantage. It is difficult to stop the black pawn front.

B) 29...♙e4! This must have been Kortchnoi's idea when he decided to go for 28...♙f5. Black manages to throw up an active defence by centralising his bishop. After 30.c5 f5 31.♙b6 ♙f7 32.c4

♙e6 White will not find it easy at all to make progress.

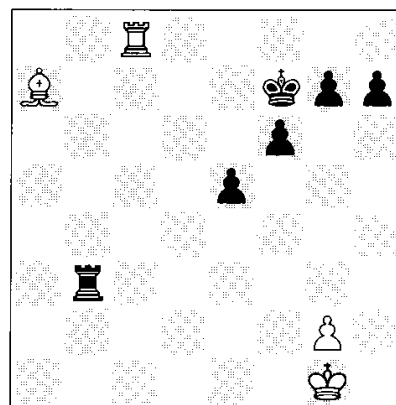
29...♙xc2 30.c6 ♖xb3

So simple. Black captures a second pawn and now prepares to give up his bishop for the remaining queenside pawn.



31.g4?

A blunder that is hard to explain. Correct was 31.c7, when 31...♖c3? would be devastatingly met by 32.♙c5!, forcing Black to play 31...♙f5. Konstantinopsky assesses the endgame after 32.♖d1 f6 33.♖d8+ ♙f7 34.c8♗ ♙xc8 35.♖xc8 as equal.



analysis diagram

In the bulletin it is also suggested that the game could have ended in a draw. Nunn reckons that Black is slightly better, which seems to me to be closer to the truth. I believe that the endgame clearly favours Black. In Amsterdam 1988 I once found myself in the position of having to defend

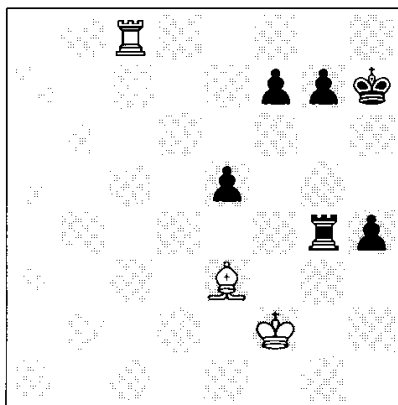
an endgame of bishop against three pawns with both rooks on the board against Karpov, which was a tough job. The pawns had advanced fractionally too far and Karpov won. It is a pity that Fischer blundered here; it would have been interesting to see how Kortchnoi would have handled the endgame.

31...♖g3+

Why not? Black wants to play the same endgame an extra pawn up.

32.♔f2 ♖xg4 33.c7 ♕f5 34.♕e3 h5 35.♖a8+ ♔h7 36.c8♚ ♕xc8 37.♖xc8 h4

White is powerless against this mighty pawn storm.



38.♔f3 f5 39.♖f8 ♔g6 40.♖h8 ♖g3+ 41.♔f2 f4 42.♕a7 h3 43.♕b8 ♔f5 44.♖f8+ ♔e4 45.♖e8 ♖g5

Adjourned and later resigned by White without play being resumed.

Réti Opening

**Pal Benko
Tigran Petrosian**

1.g3 d5 2.♖f3

This is how Botvinnik played it; after 2...♕g2 e5 Black would have an easy game.

2...c6 3.♕g2 ♕f5 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 ♖f6 6.♖bd2

The start of the 'King's Indian Attack'.

6...♖bd7

A less accurate move, as the rest of the game will show. Better was 6...♕e7.

7.♚e1

This is the problem. White is going to push his e-pawn to e5, after which the f6 knight cannot get access to square d7.

7...h6

Vacating square h7 for the bishop.

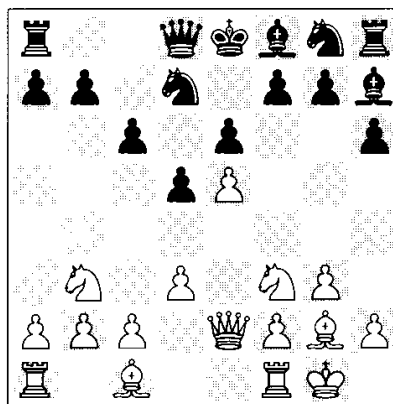
8.e4 ♕h7 9.♚e2

White postpones the further advance of his e-pawn for one more move. After 9...e5 ♖g8 Black could continue his development with 10...♖e7.

9...♕e7

Not an ideal square for the bishop, but it was hard to find a good alternative.

10.e5 ♖g8 11.♖b3 ♕f8



Amazing. After withdrawing his knight to its starting square, Black does the same with his king's bishop. This fragment is a clear foreshadowing of the later Petrosian: the Armenian usually had no objection to playing awkward positions, as long as he liked the pawn structure. Besides, Black's time-consuming manoeuvres also have a psychological advantage, as they may provoke his opponent

into trying to demonstrate a large advantage. With all the pieces on the board, this is anything but easy.

12.c4 ♖e7 **13.** ♗fd4

After this knight manoeuvre Black can free his game. A stronger move seemed to be 13. ♖d2, intending to develop the rooks to c1 and d1 respectively. White can reinforce his position with every move he plays, whereas the black pieces have precious little elbow room.

13... ♗f5

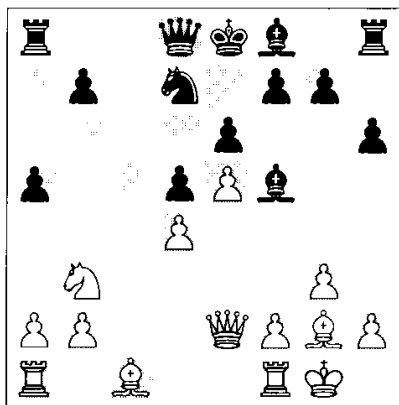
Petrosian grabs his chance with both hands. After the knight swap the black pieces are no longer so badly in each other's way.

14. ♗xf5 ♖xf5 **15.cxd5 cxd5**

16.d4

Benko is aiming for clarity. This may have had a practical reason: if you are used to getting into time-trouble, complicated positions are not so welcome.

16...a5!



This reply shows Petrosian's deep strategic insight. If he had mechanically continued his development with 16... ♖e7 White would have grabbed the initiative on the queenside with 17. ♖d2 0-0 18. ♗a5.

17. ♖e3 ♖e7 **18.** ♖fc1 0-0 **19.** ♗b5

19.a4 would have been met strongly by 19... ♗b6.

19...a4 20. ♗d2 ♖a7 **21.** ♗b1 ♗b8

Strange. The number of minor pieces being returned to their starting squares is unparalleled. But both knight moves were justified: the white knight is aiming for c3, its black counterpart for c6.

22.a3

22. ♗c3 would have been met by 22...a3 23.b3 ♗c6, when Black has a comfortable position due to his control of square b4.

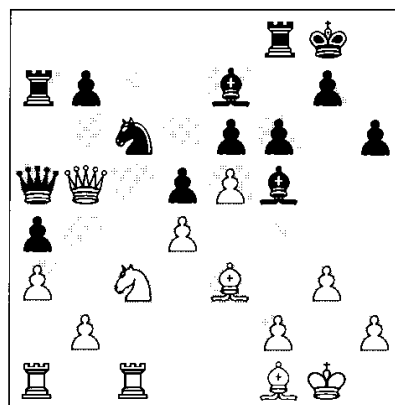
22...♗c6 23. ♗c3 ♖a5

Black covers the a-pawn while at the same time offering a queen swap.

24. ♖f1

The last piece that is taken back to its starting square. Starting from a Réti opening, a type of game has arisen that usually follows from the French or the Advance variation of the Caro-Kann. In those openings, the king's bishop's place is on the f1-a6 diagonal, so the text was in keeping with general expectations.

24...f6



Petrosian is playing on both wings, undermining the enemy centre with the eventual aim of making the white d-pawn weak.

25.f4 fxe5 26.fxe5 ♖g5

The point of Black's 24th move. White is forced to go for the bishop swap. It is

striking that Petrosian, who at times sought refuge in such passive positions, could play so actively when the situation lent itself to it.

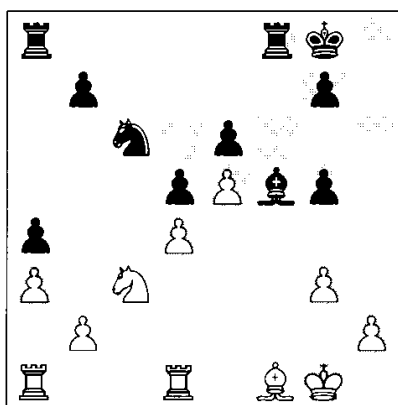
27. ♖xg5 hxg5 28. ♔xa5

Benko is playing well during this phase of the game. The fact that he inserts the queen swap shows his sense of danger. After 28. ♖d1 ♔c7! Black would have the hidden threat 29... ♗d4 30. ♖d4 ♔e5, with a very strong attack. In order to prevent this, White would have to withdraw his queen with 29. ♔e2, but then Black takes the initiative with 29... ♔b6.

28... ♖xa5

Less good was 28... ♗xa5 in view of 29. ♗b5 ♖aa8 30. ♖c7, with active play.

29. ♖d1 ♖aa8!



Now that the white rook has left the c-file, Black vacates square a5 for the knight. The text in fact constitutes a pawn sacrifice in the long term.

30. ♗b5 ♗a5 31. ♗xa4

This is the only way in which White can take the pawn. After 31. ♗xa4 ♗b3 his position would quickly collapse.

31... ♗c4

The black knight forcefully penetrates the white position.

32. b3 ♗b2 33. ♖dc1

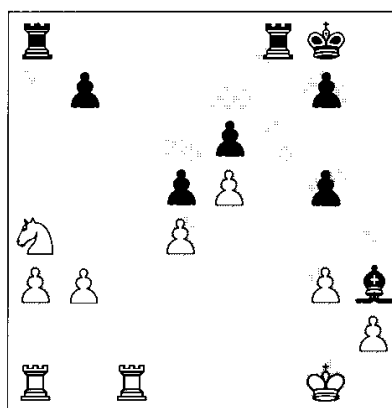
This is stronger than 33. ♖d2. It is impor-

tant for White to occupy the open file; the pawn no longer needs cover.

33... ♗xa4

A surprising move at first sight: Black swaps his active knight for the passive white bishop. But according to Tarrasch's adage, what counts after such a swap is what remains on the board. Without his king's bishop White is weak on the light squares, which will allow Black to launch a king attack despite his reduced material forces.

34. ♗xa4 ♗h3



Nailing the enemy king in the corner.

35. ♖a2?

With this passive move White lets himself in for serious problems. He should have activated his knight with 35. ♗b6, when he would be able to hold after both 35... ♖a6 36. ♗d7 and 35... ♖ad8 36. ♖c3, since he is always ready to swap a set of rooks to relieve the pressure on his position.

35... ♖f3!

Now White is forced on the defensive.

36. ♖f2

White neutralises the pressure along the f-file by returning the pawn. But the black initiative shows no sign of abating.

36... ♖xb3 37. ♗c5 ♖bx3

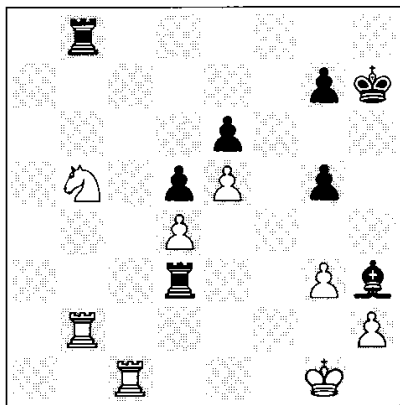
38. ♗xb7 ♖d3

38...♖a1 would also have been strong, as after 39.♖c2 ♖xc1+ 40.♖xc1 ♖a2 White would be left without adequate defensive resources.

39.♘d6 ♖h7

Accurate play. After 39...♖xd4 40.♘f7 White would get a modicum of counter-play.

40.♘b5 ♖b8 41.♖b2



Now the knight gets caught in a hopeless pin; but the white position would have been past praying for anyway. At this point the game was adjourned.

41...♖f3

The sealed move. The white king is pinned down again.

42.♖bb1 ♘f5 43.♖b2 g4

White resigns. There is no earthly remedy against 44...♘d3.

Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres
Efim Geller

A lively game with a predictable outcome. Black's eleventh move was new, but Keres found a fine drawing combination.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 ♘c6 6.♘g5 e6 7.♖d2 ♘e7

8.0-0-0 0-0 9.f4 ♘xd4 10.♖xd4 ♖a5 11.♘c4 ♘d7 12.♖he1 ♖fd8 13.♘b3 b5 14.e5 dxe5 15.fxe5 b4 16.♘xf6 gxf6 17.exf6 ♖g5+ 18.♖b1 ♖xf6 19.♖g4+ ♖g7 20.♖f3 bxc3 21.♖xd7 ♖xd7 22.♖xa8+

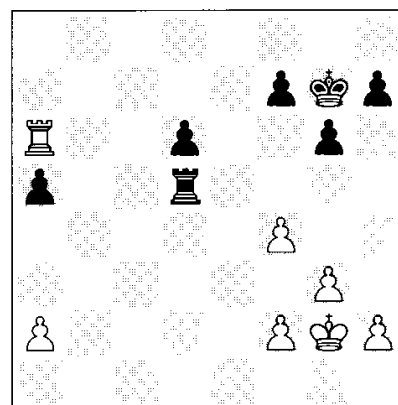
1/2-1/2

King's Indian Defence

Miroslav Filip
Mikhail Tal

White sacrifices a pawn in the early middle game in return for strong pressure. Tal is forced to return the pawn, after which he has relatively little trouble holding his own in a rook ending.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♘g7 4.♘g2 0-0 5.♘f3 d6 6.0-0 ♘c6 7.♘c3 ♘g4 8.♘e3 ♘d7 9.♖d2 e5 10.dxe5 ♘xf3 11.exf3 ♘dxe5 12.b3 ♖f6 13.f4 ♘xc4 14.bxc4 ♖xc3 15.♖xc3 ♘xc3 16.♖ab1 ♖ab8 17.c5 ♘b4 18.♖fc1 a5 19.cxd6 ♘xd6 20.♘c5 ♖g7 21.♘xc6 bxc6 22.♖xb8 ♖xb8 23.♘xd6 cxd6 24.♖xc6 ♖b1+ 25.♖g2 ♖d1 26.♖a6 ♖d5



27.♖f3 ♖f6 28.a4 ♖e6 29.♖a7 h5 30.h3 ♖c5 31.♖e3 f6 32.♖d3 ♖d5+ 33.♖e4

1/2-1/2

ROUND 20

June 9

Kortchnoi - Filip	1-0
Petrosian - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Keres - Benko	1-0
Geller - Tal	1-0

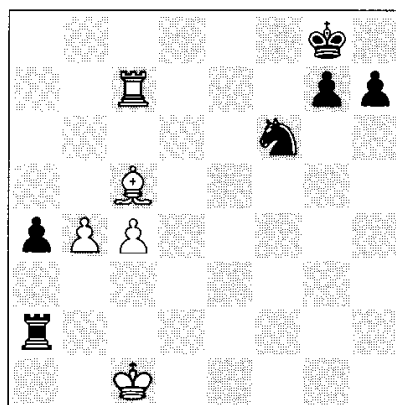
English Opening

Viktor Kortchnoi
Miroslav Filip

As in his second game as Black against Fischer, Filip gets off to a great start. Kortchnoi goes pawn-hunting at a very early stage – he would later call this ‘his bad habit of snatching pawns’ – and is forced back. With competent play, Filip manages to increase the pressure: he wins back one pawn, soon followed by a second one. Then tiredness sets in. Filip allows himself to be swept along by White’s time-trouble and starts piling one error on another. Kortchnoi makes good use of his chances and when the time-trouble period is over, he is winning. The game is adjourned, but Filip resigns without bothering to resume play.

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.g3 ♙b4 4.♙g2 0-0
5.♚b3 ♙xc3 6.♚xc3 ♚e8 7.d3 d5
8.cxd5 ♘xd5 9.♚b3 ♘b6 10.♚c2 ♘c6
11.♙xc6 bxc6 12.♚xc6 ♚b8 13.♚c2
♙b7 14.f3 ♚d7 15.♙e3 a5 16.♚d2 a4
17.h4 ♘d5 18.♙c5 f5 19.e4 ♘f6 20.♚h2
♚b5 21.♚c2 ♙a6 22.♚c4+ ♚xc4
23.dxc4 fxe4 24.♚c2 ♙b7 25.fxe4
♘xe4 26.♙a7 ♚bd8 27.♘e2 ♚f8
28.♘c3 ♘xg3 29.♚f2 ♘h5 30.♚xf8+
♚xf8 31.0-0-0 ♙c6 32.♘d5 ♚f7 33.♙c5
♙xd5 34.♚xd5 ♚f4 35.b3 ♘f6 36.♚xe5

♚xh4 37.♚e7 ♚h2 38.♚xc7 ♚xa2 39.b4



39...♘e4 40.b5 ♘xc5 41.♚xc5 a3 42.b6
♚a1+ 43.♙c2 a2 44.♚a5 ♚b1 45.c5
♚b5 46.♚xa2 ♚xc5+ 47.♙b1 1-0

Queen’s Gambit Declined

Tigran Petrosian
Robert Fischer

In his second game as White against Fischer, Petrosian takes an equally softly-softly approach. He is aiming for a small advantage, but when Black defends accurately, he quickly resigns himself to the draw.

1.c4 ♘f6 2.♘c3 e6 3.d4 d5 4.♙g5 ♙e7
5.e3 h6 6.♙h4 b6 7.cxd5 ♘xd5 8.♙xe7
♚xe7 9.♘d5 exd5 10.♘e2 0-0 11.♘f4
♙b7 12.♙e2 ♘d7 13.♚c1 ♘f6 14.♚a4
c5 15.0-0 ♚fc8 16.♚a3 ♚f8 17.dxc5

**♖xc5 18.♖xc5 ♕xc5 19.♖xc5 bxc5
20.♖c1 c4 21.♖f1 ♖b8 22.♖c2 ♗c6
23.f3** 1/2-1/2

Sicilian Defence

**Paul Keres
Pal Benko**

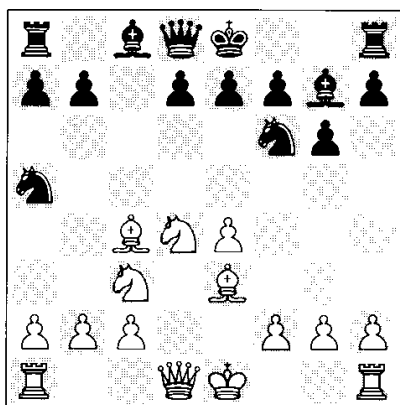
**1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 g6**

After his terrible experience in his first game as Black against Keres, Benko wisely goes for a different line of the Sicilian.

5.♗c3

Keres is aiming for a variation of the Dragon. With 5.c4 he could have thrown up the so-called 'Maroczy Wall'.

5...♗g7 6.♗e3 ♗f6 7.♗c4 ♗a5

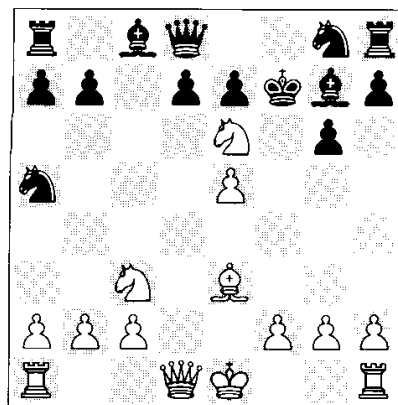


The bulletin mentions that this knight sortie is Benko's own brainchild, but Gufeld, in his book about the Dragon variation, maintains that the text was thought up by Pirc. This is no longer of any real consequence, as it became clear later in the year 1962 that White can refute this move by force.

8.♗e2

This modest retreat was played by Fischer against Bertok in the great Bled tournament a year earlier, and Stein also played it against A.Zaitsev in the Soviet champi-

onship held after the tournament on Curaçao. It was only during the Varna 1962 Olympiad that the game Ivkov-Soos showed that 8.♗xf7+ ♖xf7 9.e5 was extremely strong, the point being that both 9...♗e8 and 9...♗g8 run into the devastating reply 10.♗e6!.



analysis diagram

This game continued as follows: 9...d5 10.exf6 ♗xf6 11.♖f3 ♗c6 12.0-0-0 e6 13.♖he1, with overwhelming play for White. It is strange that great attacking players like Fischer, Keres and Stein had not stumbled on Ivkov's idea earlier.

8...0-0 9.0-0 d6

Stronger than 9...d5, as in Fischer-Bertok. After 10.e5 White was better.

10.f4 ♗d7 11.♗b3

The writers of the bulletin observe that Black would have good play after 11.♖d2 ♖c8, followed by 12...♗c4, but I wonder if this approach would not have favoured White. The text leaves Black with a very comfortable position.

11...♗c6

This is White's problem: his e-pawn will become weak. Remarkably enough, the less strong alternative 11...♗e6 would lead to a well-known theoretical position that occurred for the first time in Marco-Maroczy, Monte Carlo 1903.

12. ♕d3

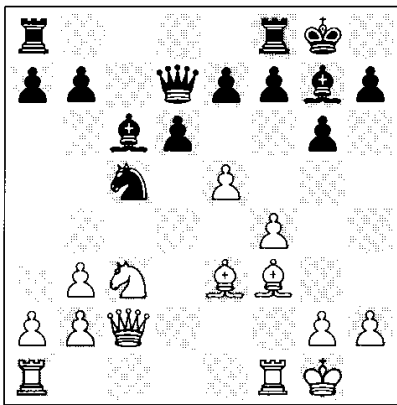
Stein played 12. ♕d4 here, and after 12... a6 13. e5 ♖e8 14. ♕d3 b5 15. ♗xa5 ♕xa5 16. ♖f3 ♖xf3 17. ♕xf3 dxe5 18. fxe5 ♗c7 19. ♕e3 b4 Black was slightly better. The text has a concrete drawback.

12... ♗d7

Now the queen turns out to be less well positioned on d3. The black king's knight is on its way to c5.

13. ♖f3 ♗xb3 14. cxb3

It is far from ideal to recapture like this, but after 14. axb3 ♗c5 White would have been forced to give up the bishop pair under unfavourable circumstances.

14... ♗c5 15. ♕c2 ♕d7 16. e5

White is forced into making further concessions, as Black was threatening the strong 16... ♕e6. However, I believe that 16. ♖xc5 dxc5 17. e5 instead of the text constituted White's best chance of keeping the balance.

16... ♖ac8

Indirectly covering the knight. If White goes 17. ♖xc5 Black has the reply 17... ♖xf3 18. ♖xf3 ♖xc5. 18. ♖xa7 ♖g4 is also good for Black, as 19. exd6? fails to 19... b5!.

17. ♖ad1 ♕e6 18. ♖xc6 ♖xc6**19. ♕f2**

Removing the queen from the vis-à-vis on the c-file and preventing Black from capturing on e5. Yet White will not be able to prevent Black from gradually building up an advantage.

19... b6

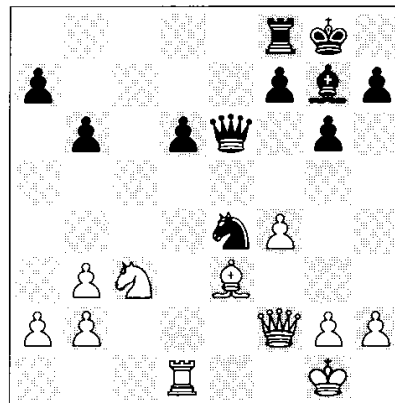
By giving the knight extra cover Black forces the swap on d6.

20. exd6 ♖xd6

Black doesn't mind his passive rook being swapped. The text is tactically justified by the variation 21. ♖xc5? bxc5 22. ♕xc5? ♖d4+! 23. ♖xd4 ♕e3+, and Black wins an exchange.

21. ♖xd6 exd6

Black's advantage is evident. His pawn structure is better and his pieces occupy more active positions.

22. ♖d1 ♗e4

A strange swap at first sight, as the black knight is far more active than its white counterpart. But the main consideration for Black is to find starting-points to help him break through the white defences. With this in mind, the text is much easier to understand. If Black had played the alternative 22... ♖e8 White would have gone 23. ♖d4, with a reasonably solid defensive line.

23. ♗xe4 ♕xe4 24. h3

The d-pawn was poisoned. After

24. ♖xd6 ♜e8 25. ♔d2 ♕f8 White would be as good as dead. This is why Keres creates an escape hatch for his king.

24... ♖c8

Sharp play. After 24... ♖e8 25. ♔d4 Black's superiority would not have been enough to carry the day.

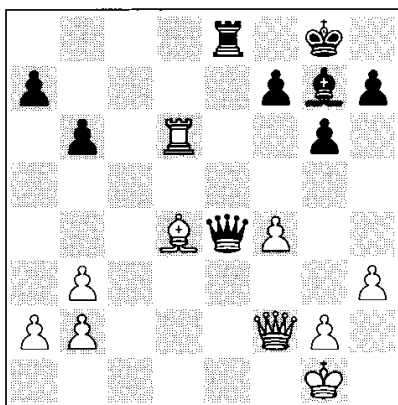
25. ♖xd6

Keres does not want to restrict himself to a passive defence. From a practical point of view, the text was certainly justified: Benko was being haunted by his time-trouble demons again, and in such a situation it is hard to see through complications. If White had opted for a passive continuation, the game would have entered the technical phase, which is a great relief in time-trouble.

25... ♜e8

Now it's OK. Black wants to show that the white rook is exposed.

26. ♔d4



26... ♕h6

This could eventually have led to a draw. Alternatives were:

A) 26... ♕f8 27. ♖d7 ♗f5. This is indicated by Keres as strong in the bulletin, but although it's true that it looks pretty dangerous for White, he will have no problem repelling the black attack. This is borne out by the variation 28. ♖xa7 ♜e4 29. ♖a8! (the only move) 29... ♗d5

30. ♖xf8+ ♔xf8 31. ♔xb6, with roughly equal chances;

B) 26... ♗e7!. This queen move is probably Black's best bet if he wants to maintain the pressure. After 27. ♖c6? ♗d7 28. ♖c4 b5! White would have to sacrifice the exchange, so 27. ♖d5 is forced. Now the best way for Black to keep up the momentum is by going 27... ♗e6 28. ♗f3 ♗e1+ 29. ♔h2 ♕xd4 30. ♖xd4 ♜e3, and despite his extra pawn, White will not find the going easy. He will even have to be careful to avoid defeat, as after 31. ♗g4 h5 32. ♗g5 h4! Black would have a mating attack. The only way is 31. ♖d1 ♜xf3 32. ♖xe1 ♜xf4, and in this rook ending White will just about manage to keep the balance with 33. ♖e7 a5 34. ♖b7 ♜f6 35. h4!.

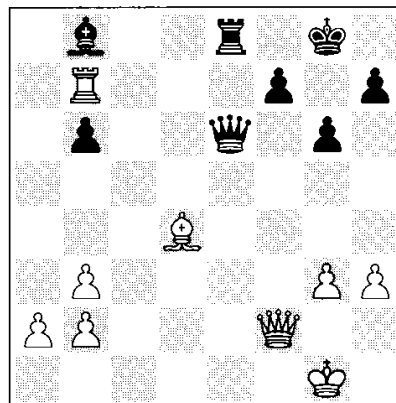
27. ♖d7 ♕xf4 28.g3

The attack on f7 yields White sufficient counterplay.

28... ♗e6 29. ♖xa7

White is playing for a win! After 29. ♗xf4 ♗xd7 30. ♗f6 ♔f8 31. ♗g7+ ♔e7 32. ♗f6+ the game would have ended in a draw through perpetual check.

29... ♕b8 30. ♖b7



30... ♕xg3?

A blunder really, but in time-trouble a move like this can be remarkably successful.

31. ♖f3?

The tension is obviously getting to Keres as well. He could safely have taken the bishop, because after 31. ♖xg3 ♖d5 32. ♖e3! Black would have shot his bolt.

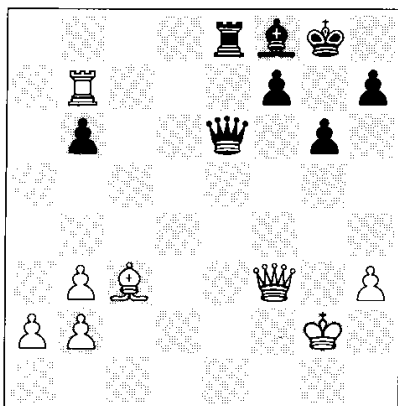
31... ♗d6

This part of the game is steeped in nervous tension. Black could have won with 31... ♖e1+ 32. ♖f1 ♗h2+ 33. ♖g2 ♖e2+ 34. ♗f2 ♖d2!, followed by the withdrawal of the bishop. The last queen move is particularly hard to see in time-trouble. After the text Black is still better, because his king is in a far safer position.

32. ♖g2 ♗c5 33. ♗c3

Objectively speaking, it would probably have been better to swap the bishop, but as before, Keres tries to keep things as complicated as possible.

33... ♗f8



A typical time-trouble move. Black wants to prevent White from playing the advance b3-b4 with tempo.

34. ♖a7

Not a very useful move. Better, it would seem, is 34. ♖c7, possibly intending to play the rook to c6. The white king, although quite exposed, is relatively safe, as the white queen and bishop cover many squares.

34...h5 35.a4

The bulletin reports that the last few moves were played so fast that the man sitting at the board to check them could no longer keep up. The text is an error that gives Black new points of departure.

35...f5

He fails to make use of them, however. He could have played the cool 35... ♖xb3, as 36. ♖f6 is met by 36... ♖c2+, and the white king is first to be mated. After the text, too, the black position remains superior.

36.b4

White was having a hard time of it. 36. ♗d4 would have been met strongly by 36... ♖d8.

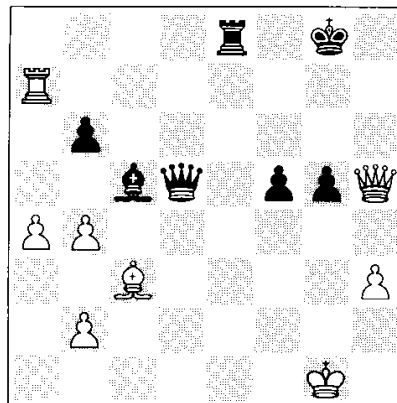
36...g5

Panic. After 36... ♖c4 White would have been in a real fix.

37. ♖xh5

Now White has such dangerous counter-threats that Black has at best a draw.

37... ♖d5+ 38. ♖g1 ♗c5+



Benko was so nervous when making this move that he knocked over a few pieces. Keres immediately pressed the clock again to force his opponent to put them back in his own time. He had no time to spare, however, because Black's flag fell. You won't find this story in the bulletin;

Benko told it 40 years later during the yearly Open tournament on Curaçao, adding that Keres's behaviour had so annoyed him that he swore to beat the Estonian in the last part of the tournament, which indeed he did. The final position, incidentally, is a draw; after 39.bxc5 ♖xc5+ the White king cannot escape the checks by the enemy queen.

Sicilian Defence

Efim Geller
Mikhail Tal

Tal had the following things to say about this game in *The Life and Games of Mikhail Tal*: 'In this game I had the advantage, but all the time I was disturbed by the question: was is right for me, when in my heart I had given up the fight for first place, to play for a win which would upset the positions of the leaders: Petrosian, Keres and Geller. At the same time it was awkward to offer a draw: after all, Geller could hope for me to blunder in the fifth hour. And so, tormented by doubts, I forgot about my clock until I noticed that I had only a few minutes remaining, whereupon I began playing at blitz speed. When the time scramble was over, it turned out that on the way I could have won White's queen in one move, but in the adjourned position it was Geller who had the advantage'.

With this comment in mind I started analysing the game.

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 e6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 ♗c6 5.♗c3 ♕c7 6.♙e3
♗f6

This is how Tal deviates from their earlier encounter in Round 6.

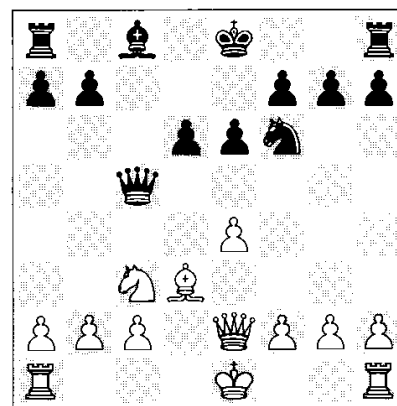
7.♙d3 ♘xd4 8.♙xd4 ♙c5

This was the idea. Black plays the variation without the move a7-a6. In this game this plan is quite successful, but later practical examples have shown that it has drawbacks as well.

9.♙xc5 ♖xc5 10.♖e2

Threatening 11.e5.

10...d6



11.♙b5+

A feeble move that puts paid to every possibility of a white opening advantage. White had two good options: In Lau-Lobron, Bundesliga 1992, play continued 11.f4 e5 12.f5 a6 13.g4, and White was better. Another four years later, a game Rytshagov-De Haan, Soest 1996, saw 11.0-0-0, and this, too, turned out to be better for White after 11...a6 12.f4 e5 13.f5. These practical examples clearly show up the weak sides of the black set-up. Since White has not yet castled, he can push his f-pawn at once and castle queenside if he wants to. Besides, Black usually can't do without the move a7-a6 anyway.

11...♙d7 12.♙xd7+ ♗xd7 13.0-0

13.0-0-0 has also been tried here. If Black then castles queenside as well, White has good chances, but a better move for Black is 13...0-0, after which the black king is safer than its white counterpart.

13...♖c8 14.♗fd1

White wants to exert pressure on d6, but he will soon change tack. 14.♗ac1 or 14.♗fc1, intending to take the knight to e3, looks like a better bet.

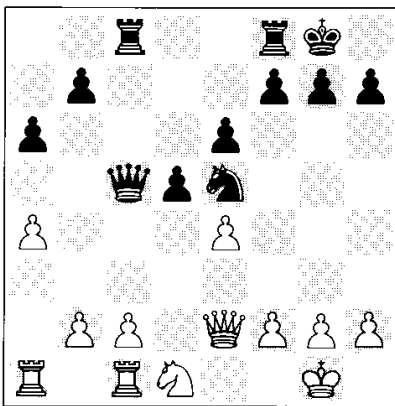
14...a6

Accurate play. After 15.♔d2 Black covers the d-pawn with 15...♗c6.

15.a4 ♘e5 16.♗dc1

There was no other option. The threat 16...♘c4 was hard to parry. It is clear that Black has the initiative.

16...0-0 17.♘d1 d5!



Even when not in the best of forms, Tal knows how to handle the initiative. With the text Black accepts an isolated pawn, mainly because he wants to open the e-file. Now he will be able to bring his lead in development fully to bear. The text is also based on an attractive tactical turn.

18.exd5 exd5 19.c3

Not 19.♔xe5? in view of 19...♗fe8 20.♗c3 ♔d4!, and in order to prevent mate White has to give his queen.

19...♗fe8 20.♘e3 ♘c4 21.♗e1

White is reduced to a forced and awkward defence.

21...♗e4

Black could also have swapped on e3 here, but at the cost of some of his advan-

tage. With the text he increases the pressure. Going back to the comment from Tal I quoted at the start of this analysis, I wonder why he found it so difficult to offer a draw. At this point – or a few moves later – there wouldn't have been the slightest chance that Geller would have refused it.

22.♗ad1 ♗ce8 23.♗d3 f5

Again Tal decides to increase the pressure.

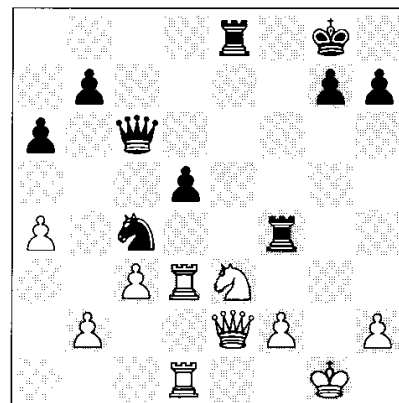
24.g3 ♖c6

After the immediate 24...f4 White would have had the possibility of 25.gxf4 ♗xf4 26.♗xd5.

25.♗ed1

White's only counter-chance: putting pressure on d5.

25...f4 26.gxf4 ♗xf4



By swapping his f-pawn against the white g-pawn Black has blown away the protective cordon around the white king. White is facing an extremely dangerous situation now.

27.♗d4

The only move. After 27.♗xd5 ♔g6+ 28.♔h1 ♗e4+ the black attack would strike home.

27...♗fe4

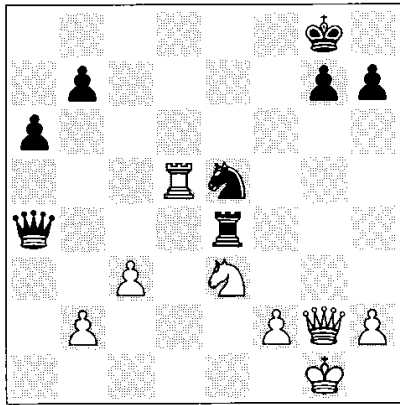
An alternative was 27...♘xe3 28.fxe3 ♗g6+ 29.♔h1 ♗fe4, but then White will probably just manage to hold. The text

shows that Tal intends to keep pressing for an attack – and his attack will soon gain considerable momentum.

28.♖xe4 ♜xe4 29.♚f3 ♘e5
30.♚g2

The queen is not an ideal defensive piece, but beggars can't be choosers.

30...♚xa4 31.♞xd5



31...h6

An understandable move; Black creates an escape hatch for his king. Yet Black had a slightly better option, because the text allows White to force a draw. Strong was 31...♚a1+, when White has two possibilities:

A) 32.♞d1 ♚xd1+! 33.♘xd1 ♜e1+ 34.♚f1 ♘f3+ 35.♚g2 ♞xf1 36.♚xf1 ♘xh2+, followed by 37...♘g4, and Black has reached a knight ending a healthy pawn up;

B) 32.♚f1 ♚xb2 33.♞d8+ ♚f7 34.♚h3. This looks alarming for Black, but with 34...♚b1+ 35.♚g2 ♞f4! he keeps the situation under control. Black has a large advantage.

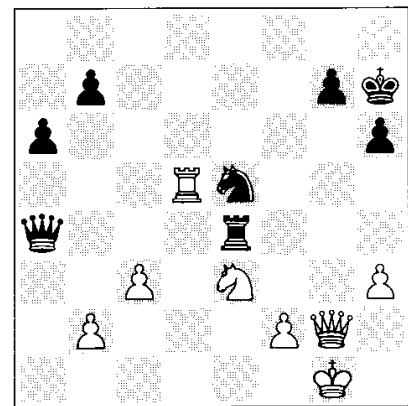
32.h3

Both players are already in raging time-trouble here, and in such situations it is always tempting to create an airhole for one's king. White had two alternatives:

A) 32.b3 ♚a1+ 33.♞d1 ♚xd1+!, and Black reaches the winning knight ending again.

B) 32.♞a5. Doubtlessly White's best bet. After the rook swap there would be little life left in the position. After 32...♚c6 White forces a draw with 33.♞d5!, and the black queen has to return to a4. Not, however, 33.♞c5? in view of 33...♞xe3! 34.♞xc6 ♜e1+, and Black remains a piece up.

32...♚h7?



An out-and-out blunder. Tal is so distracted by his acute time-trouble that he fails to see that White has created a threat. A good move was 32...♘f7, intending to meet 33.♘f5 with 33...♘g5, and Black retains his advantage.

33.♞d6?

Strangely enough, Geller doesn't see his own threat either. After 33.b3 Black would be completely stuck for a satisfactory continuation. His only chance seems to be 33...♞xe3 in order to meet 34.bxa4 with 34...♘f3+. But then White simply goes 34.fxe3, and after 34...♚a1+ 35.♚h2 ♚xc3 36.♚e4+ ♘g6 37.♞d6 ♚e5+ 38.♚xe5 ♘xe5 39.♞b6 White has reached a winning endgame.

33...♞f4

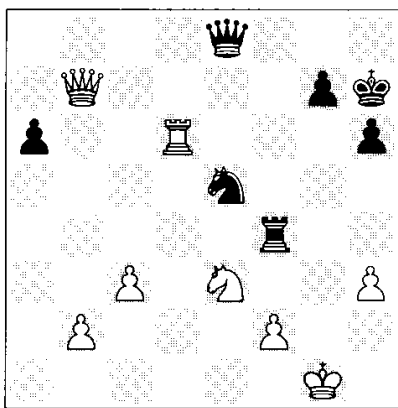
Now everything is fine again for Black.

He sacrifices his b-pawn, trusting that his attack is strong enough.

34. ♖xb7

Risky but understandable. White has hardly any constructive defensive moves left, as his pieces have all taken up their relatively best positions and there is no cure for the structural weakening of the stronghold of his king. In such circumstances, pawn-grabbing is justified.

34... ♕e8!



Despite his raging time-trouble, Tal finds the correct way to breathe new life into his attack; his queen had little left to do on a4. It is striking that despite the time-pressure, Tal's innate sense of how to handle an attack doesn't fail him. Calculating concrete variations often comes less easily to him – this would require him to be in top form.

35. ♕g2

The queen retraces its steps.

35... ♕h5 36. ♖d5 ♘f3+ 37. ♔h1

♕f7 38. ♕g3 ♖a4

Black is attacking on both wings at once.

39. ♖f5?

A serious error with his flag about to fall. His only option was 39. ♖d1, when Black keeps al his chances alive with 39... ♘g5.

39... ♖a1+ 40. ♔g2 ♘e1+?

The notorious 40th move. This is the mo-

ment Tal was referring to in the comment I quoted at the start of the game. What was simpler than 40... ♖g1+, winning the white queen? If White goes 41. ♔xf3, Black has the intermediate check 41... ♕b7+!, after which he first captures on g3 and then on b2, and he is left with a technically winning position in which the passed a-pawn will decide the outcome.

41. ♔h2 ♕b7 42. ♕f4

Now the black pieces are in each other's way. Black's attack has run out of steam and White takes over the initiative.

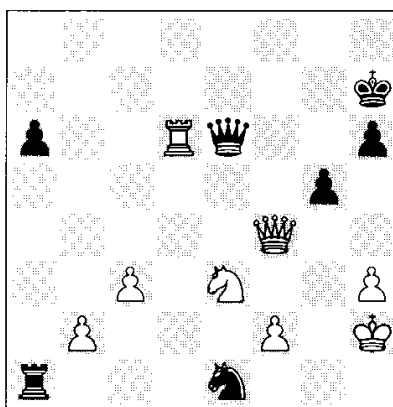
42... ♕e7 43. ♖d5 ♕e6

It was only at this point that the game was adjourned; the last few moves were still played at speed, because neither player was sure that the 40th move had been reached.

44. ♖d6

The sealed move. After the nerve-racking time-trouble phase the character of the game has changed completely. Geller is calling the shots and in this technical phase he makes no mistakes.

44... g5



After his interim analysis Tal must have decided that this was his best chance. White now enters the endgame while retaining his extra pawn.

45. ♖f5+ ♜xf5 46. ♗xf5 h5
47. ♕g3

Not 47. ♖h6+ ♕g8 48. ♖xh5 ♕f7, and the offside position of the white rook allows Black to create counterchances.

47... a5 48. ♗e3 a4 49. ♖d2

White withdraws his pieces to keep Black's counterplay in check.

49... ♕g6

49... a3 could have been met by 50. b4, e.g. 50... a2 51. c4 ♖b1 52. ♖xa2 ♖xb4 53. ♖a3!, and White has reached a technically winning position.

50. f3 ♖c1

Threatening to level the position with 51... a3.

51. ♗c4

Seeing off Black's threat.

51... ♕f5 52. ♕f2 ♗c2 53. ♖d5+ ♕f6 54. ♖d6+ ♕f5 55. ♖d5+ ♕f6 56. ♗d2

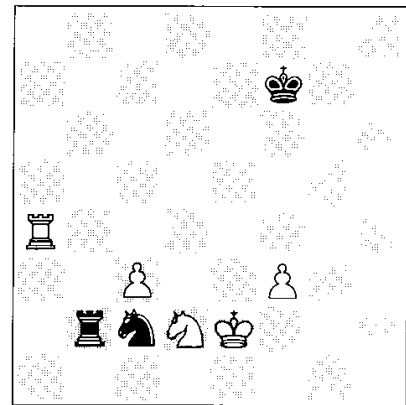
After repeating moves White has reached the second time-control. He is going to take his knight to e4 in order to harass the black kingside pawns.

56... ♕g6 57. ♗e4 ♖f1+ 58. ♕e2 ♖g1

Tal defends stubbornly, but he is facing a hopeless task.

59. ♖a5 g4 60. hxg4 hxg4

61. ♖g5+ ♕f7 62. ♖xg4 ♖b1 63. ♗d2 ♖xb2 64. ♖xa4



Now White is two healthy pawns up. His technical job is easy now, especially because the black knight is still on the sidelines.

64... ♕e6 65. ♖a5 ♕f6 66. f4 ♕f7 67. ♗c4 ♖b1 68. ♖a2 ♗a1 69. ♗d2 ♖c1 70. ♕d3 ♕e6 71. ♖a5 ♖d1 72. ♖b5 ♖h1 73. f5+ ♕f7 74. ♗e4 ♖h3+ 75. ♕d4 ♗c2+ 76. ♕e5 ♖h4 77. ♖b7+ ♕f8 78. f6

Black resigns. One could say that there were certain similarities between the game Keres-Benko and Geller-Tal from this round. Both black players started quite solidly, taking advantage of the hesitant play of the pretenders to the title, but both collapsed in time-trouble.

ROUND 21

June 13

Filip - Petrosian	0-1
Tal - Kortchnoi	1/2-1/2
Fischer - Keres	0-1
Benko - Geller	1/2-1/2

Pirc Defence

Miroslav Filip Tigran Petrosian

1.d4 g6

An early sign that Petrosian is playing for a win. It is remarkable, this tendency of his to take up a passive position in the implicit hope of countering from the defence to take the initiative and strike home. In several games in this tournament, Petrosian adopted a very peaceable approach as White which, if his opponent defended correctly, would usually lead to a draw. As Black, however, he generally found the inspiration to try and achieve more.

2.e4 ♗g7 3.♘f3 d6 4.♘c3

Filip goes for a quiet, positional line.

4...♘f6 5.♙e2 0-0 6.0-0 ♘bd7

Not the most common continuation. More usual are 6...♙g4 and 6...c6, while there is also some practical experience with 6...♘c6 and 6...b6 as well.

7.e5

This is the drawback of Black's previous move; he now has to withdraw his knight to a passive square. But it has to be said that Petrosian was never too worried about such retreats.

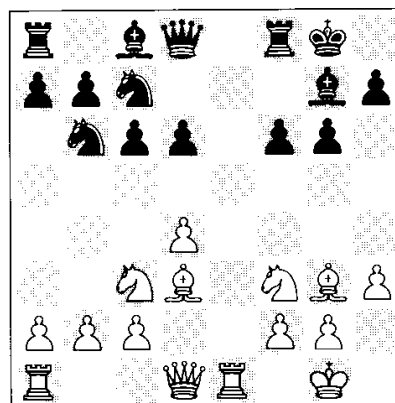
7...♘e8 8.♙f4 ♘b6 9.♖e1 c6
10.h3 ♘c7 11.♙g3

A very good alternative was 11.♙d2 in order to possibly take the bishop to h6.

11...f5

A radical attempt by Black to free himself. In this game he will be successful, but objectively speaking the text cannot really be classed as a good move. A developing move like 11...♙f5 was preferable.

12.exf6 exf6 13.♙d3



Kortchnoi calls these kinds of moves 'half-moves'. Far stronger was 13.d5!. According to the bulletin, Fischer later assessed this advance as so strong that he reckoned that White would be winning if he had played it, and the other players who looked at it that evening found nothing to refute his assessment. In the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings B*, the Yugoslav grandmaster Parma indicates that White is slightly better after 13.d5. Who is right? I believe the truth is somewhere in the middle; Black is in pretty bad trouble. Both

13...c5 and 13...cxd5, for example, would be met very strongly by 14.a4. Relatively the best move for Black seems to be 13...♘bxd5 14.♘xd5 cxd5, after which White keeps control of the position with 15.♘d4.

13...f5

Now Black has solved his opening problems, and the position is roughly equal.

14.♙h4 ♙f6 15.♙xf6 ♚xf6

16.♚d2 ♙e6 17.♚f4

From this point on, Filip's play becomes haphazard. A better move was 17.b3, intending to meet 17...♚ae8 with 18.♘e2 ♙d5 19.♘h2, and White threatens to chase the bishop away with 20.c4.

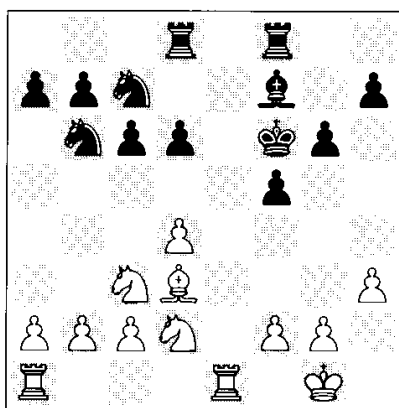
17...♚ad8 18.♚g5

If he had intended this in the first place, he should have played it on the previous move, although it doesn't make all that much difference.

18...♚g7 19.♚xf6+ ♚xf6 20.♘d2

20.♘e2 seems to be a better option.

20...♙f7



21.♙f1

There wasn't the slightest reason for this passive bishop move. It was still not too late for 21.♘e2.

21...♚fe8 22.♘f3

Retracing his footsteps with the intention of aiming for a wholesale rook swap along the e-file.

22...g5

White has wasted so much time that Black now succeeds in taking the initiative on the kingside.

23.♚xe8 ♚xe8 24.♚e1 ♚xe1

Petrosian is well aware that he will retain excellent winning chances even after the swap of the second set of rooks. His minor pieces occupy superior positions and his king is quite actively placed.

25.♘xe1 ♘e6 26.♘e2

Not a particularly beautiful move, but there was nothing else.

26...f4 27.c3 ♙g6 28.♘c1 ♘a4

All the black pieces have been deployed to their best possible positions.

29.♘ed3 c5 30.d5

A serious concession; but 30.dxc5 dxc5 didn't look too encouraging either.

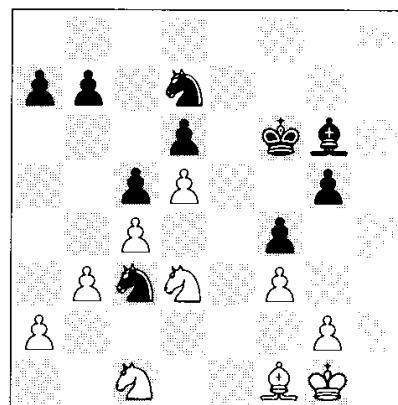
30...♘f8 31.c4 ♘d7 32.b3 ♘c3

White is being forced to put all his queenside pawns on light squares. Now Petrosian is going to give an exhibition of superior technical skill.

33.h4 h6

Keeping the kingside pawn front intact.

34.hxg5+ hxg5 35.f3



The last pawn is put on a light square as well. This is the only way to get the king involved in the play.

35...♘e5 36.♘b2 a6 37.♚f2 b5

Threatening 38...b4, followed by 39... $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{b1}$, and Black wins the a-pawn.

38.a4

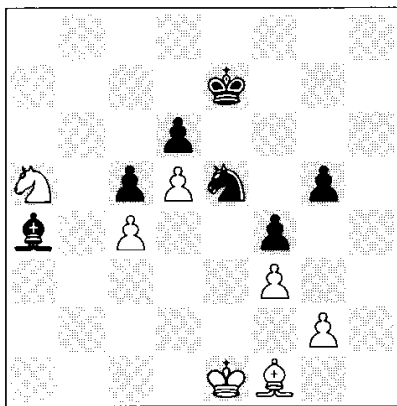
Averting the threat; but now White ends up by force in a losing endgame of knight against bad bishop.

38...bxa4 39.bxa4 a5 40. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{e1}$

$\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e8}$ 41. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{b3}$ $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{xa4}$

At this point the game was adjourned and White sealed his move.

42. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{xa4}$ $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{xa4}$ 43. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{xa5}$ $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{e7}$



The white knight is trapped. White cannot prevent it from being swapped against the black bishop, after which the cat-and-mouse game will start.

44. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{d2}$ $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{d7}$ 45. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{c3}$ $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{c7}$

46. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{b3}$ $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{xb3}$ 47. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{xb3}$ $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{b6}$

48. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{c3}$ $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{g6}$

Black is going to redeploy the knight, and now his winning plan is revealed.

49. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{d3}$ $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{a5}$ 50. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{c3}$

50. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{e4}$ would be met decisively by 50... $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{b4}$.

50... $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{h4}$

White resigns. There is no defence against the threatened 51... $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{f5}$, followed by 52... $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{e3}$. After winning the pawn Black can calmly withdraw his king to f6 in order to prepare the decisive advance g5-g4.

It is understandable that Filip threw in the

towel here. It is just too painful to continue to defend such a hopeless position against a virtuoso player like Petrosian.

Sicilian Defence

Mikhail Tal

Viktor Kortchnoi

Tal's last game in the tournament!

1.e4 c5 2. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{f3}$ $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{c6}$ 3.d4 cxd4

4. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{xd4}$ e6 5. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{c3}$ $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{c7}$ 6. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e3}$ a6

7.a3

Deviating from Keres-Kortchnoi from Round 17, in which White first went 7. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e2}$.

7... $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{f6}$ 8.f4

Sharper than 8. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e2}$.

8...d6 9. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{d3}$ $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{xd4}$

It is rather early in the game for this swap. More solid was 9... $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e7}$ in order to complete Black's development.

10. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{xd4}$ e5 11. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e3}$ $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e7}$ 12. $\text{\textcircled{W}}\text{f3}$

b5 13. $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{d5}$

After this knight sortie the game takes on a forced character. Bagirov indicates 13.0-0, with the idea of meeting 13... $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{b7}$ with the aggressive 14.g4!, as stronger.

13... $\text{\textcircled{N}}\text{xd5}$ 14.exd5 $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{f6}$ 15.0-0

exf4

Black is forced to insert this swap, as 15...0-0 16.f5 would leave him with a very passive position.

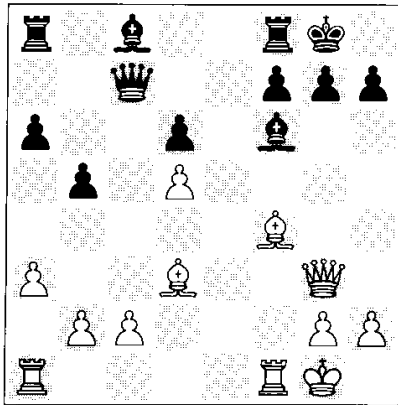
16. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{xf4}$ 0-0

Too dangerous is 16... $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{xb2}$ in view of 17. $\text{\textcircled{K}}\text{ae1}$ $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{e5}$ 18. $\text{\textcircled{R}}\text{xe5}$ dxe5 19.d6, with annihilation.

17. $\text{\textcircled{W}}\text{g3}$

Tal is aiming for a forced line which will eventually end in a draw. With 17.c3 he could have kept his winning chances

alive, although Black should find it easy enough to keep the balance.



**17...♙xb2 18.♙xd6 ♖b6+
19.♔h1 ♙xa1 20.♙xf8 ♔xf8
21.♖xa1**

Now it looks as if White has achieved a tangible result, but his advantage is strictly illusory.

**21...♙b7 22.c4 ♖c5 23.♖h4
bxc4**

Black's best bet. After 23...h6 24.♖f1 White would have attacking chances.

24.♙xc4 ♖c8 25.♖h7 ♖c4

And a draw was agreed in view of the variation 26.♖e1 f6 27.♖h8+ ♔f7 28.♖h5+, and perpetual check.

Ruy Lopez

**Robert Fischer
Paul Keres**

This game was postponed, because Keres was suffering from a stomach ache. On the day set aside for adjourned games, after Round 22, it was finally played.

**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 ♘a5
10.♙c2 c5 11.d4 ♘d7 12.d5**

Strange. Fischer deviates from his very

successful game against Keres from Round 7. The advance of the d-pawn gives the position a closed character. In some situations the advance can be effective, but here it plays into Black's hands.

12...♘b6

Not only preventing the advance a2-a4, but also preparing 13...f5, which would have undermined the white centre.

13.g4

Preventing the black advance, but weakening his king position.

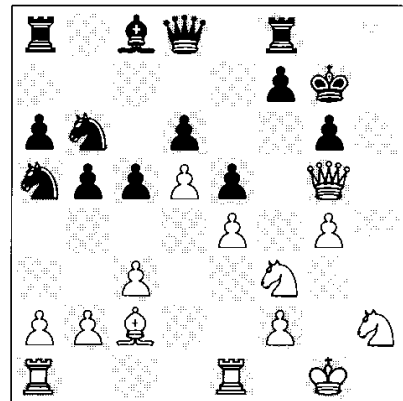
13...h5 14.♘h2

Far from ideal. White is forced to allow the black king's bishop to alight on g5.

**14...hxg4 15.hxg4 ♙g5 16.♘d2
g6**

Keres's play follows the standard patterns. He vacates square g7 for his king, after which his major pieces can take possession of the h-file.

**17.♘df3 ♙xc1 18.♖xc1 ♔g7
19.♖g5**



It is clear that Fischer is not happy with his position. Generally speaking, White does not go for a queen swap in these circumstances, but here he has to take emergency action in order to prevent the black kingside initiative from growing too strong.

19...♘b7

And Black allows the queen swap. The alternative was 19...f6, after which White would probably have played 20.♖h4, followed by 21.♖g3. The queen is not an ideal defensive piece, but it is difficult to transfer the rest of White's troops to the kingside.

20.♖xd8 ♖xd8 21.a4

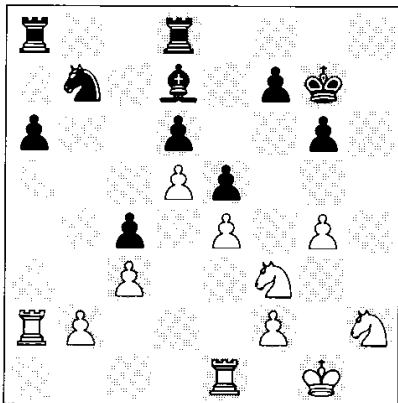
White's only chance of counterplay. Black's positional threat was 21...a5, after which he would always be able to meet a2-a4 with b5-b4.

21...bxa4

A solid reaction. Black allows the a-pawn to become isolated, trusting that he has sufficient space and controls enough squares to grab the initiative on the queenside.

22.♙xa4 ♘xa4 23.♖xa4 ♙d7

24.♖a2 c4!



Strongly played. Black fixes the c-pawn on the colour of his bishop in order to vacate square c5 for his knight. He has calculated quite shrewdly that the pawn will not become weak, as White's weakened king position will continue to tie his hands.

25.♘d2 ♙b5 26.♘hf1 ♖h8

27.♘e3 ♖h4 28.♙g2

The best way. White must not go for 28.♘exc4, as 28...♖g4+ 29.♙f1 ♖h8 would be catastrophic.

28...♖ah8 29.♘f3

The best way to counter the black kingside offensive.

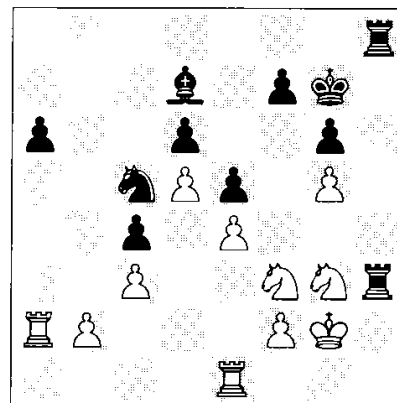
29...♖h3 30.♘f1

After his unsuccessful opening Fischer defends with all guns blazing. By constantly regrouping his knights he manages, for the moment, to keep the invasion routes blocked.

30...♘c5 31.♘g3 ♙d7

Forcing White to advance the g-pawn. The alternative was 31...f6, with the positional threat of 32...♙d7 33.g5 f5, and Black will soon have the upper hand. Then, too, White should attack with 32.g5, after which Black probably has nothing stronger than 32...♙d7.

32.g5



32...f6

32...♙g4 was tempting, but after 33.♖e3 it is not entirely clear how he should continue, e.g. 33...♘d3 34.♖xa6 ♘f4+ 35.♙g1 (certainly not 35.♙f1?? in view of 35...♙xf3 36.♖xf3 ♖h1+, and mate on the next move) 35...♘e2+ 36.♙g2!, and Black has no more than perpetual check.

By opening the play on the kingside even more, Black would create new chances. The only drawback of this strategy is that, at a later stage, square g5 will become available to a white knight.

33.gxf6+ ♔xf6 34.♖e3 ♕e7
35.♘d2 ♖h2+

A necessary intermediate check; 35...♕b5? would have run into 36.♘f5+.

36.♔g1 ♘b5 37.♖a1 ♖2h4
38.♔g2 ♖f8 39.♖f3 ♖b8

It is clear that Keres is loath to undertake anything concrete before the first time-control.

40.♔g1 ♖a8 41.♖a5 ♖c8

And here the game was adjourned. Black has successfully retained his advantage, but it is clear that the drawing margin has not been exceeded.

42.♖a3

The sealed move.

42...♖a8 43.♖a5 ♖a7 44.♔g2
♘b7

This is the only way for Black to make progress. He is going to advance his a-pawn.

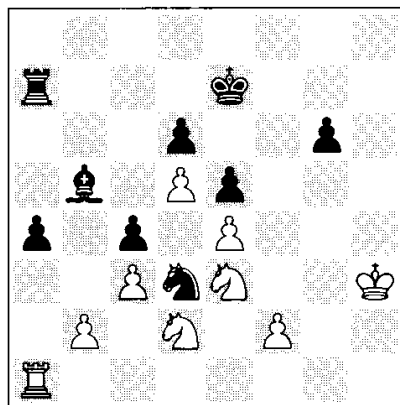
45.♖a1 a5 46.♘gf1 ♘c5

After driving back the white rook, the black knight returns to its dominant position.

47.♘e3 a4

Now White can capture on c4, but then Black wins the e-pawn. Since this is not a good swap for White in the circumstances, he aims to swap rooks first.

48.♖h3 ♖xh3 49.♔xh3 ♘d3



50.♖a2

An important alternative was 50.♔g3 in order to meet 50...♘xb2 with 51.♖a3 or 51.♘b1, followed by 52.♘a3, when it doesn't look like Black will be able to make progress, because White is keeping all the doors locked.

Fischer was probably in an optimistic mood at this stage; he had conducted a difficult defence in which he had invariably found the correct solution for the problems Keres was throwing at him.

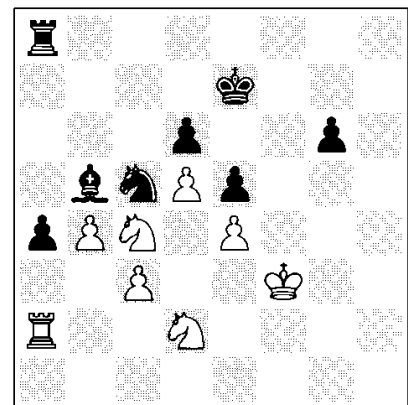
50...♘xf2+ 51.♔g3 ♘d3
52.♘exc4

It looks as if White has got excellent counterplay. His queenside structure is sound and his knight pair is quite active. Yet with patient and careful manoeuvring Black will manage to hold on to his initiative.

52...♖a8 53.♘b6 ♖a6 54.♘bc4
♘c5

Now it is becoming clear that Black is still trying to win; despite his positional trumps, White will be unable to find a way to become active.

55.♔f3 ♖a8 56.b4!



A committal but probably correct decision. Fischer exploits the fact that the black rook is uncovered and builds up a pawn front. The drawback of this approach is that Black will get a passed a-pawn that might become dangerous.

But the rest of the game shows that White will just about manage to hang on.

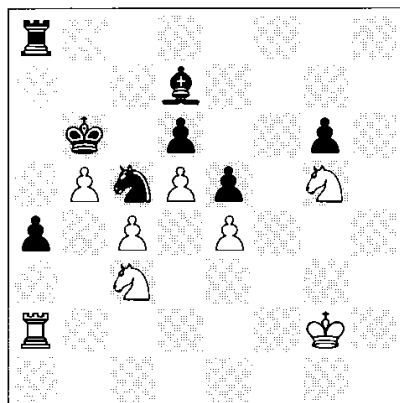
**56...♖b3 57.♘a3 ♕d7 58.♔g2
♕g4 59.♘ac4 ♜c8 60.♘e3 ♕d7
61.c4**

White sets his pawn front rolling. Although this allows Black to take control of square c5, the text is still justified, as it yields White more room on the queenside.

61...♜b8 62.b5 ♘c5 63.♘d1 ♔d8

The only way for Black to make progress. The black king is on its way to a5 to support the passed pawn and possibly force a breakthrough. White must be very alert now to make sure that he will be able to create sufficient counterplay.

**64.♘c3 ♜a8 65.♘f3 ♔c7 66.♘g5
♔b6**



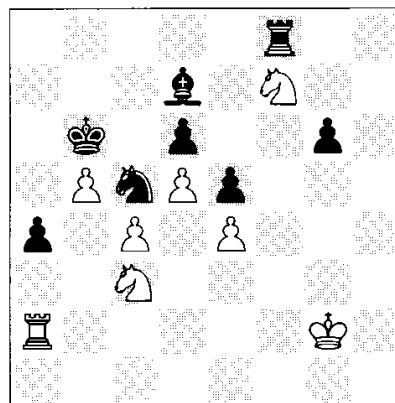
67.♘f7

A critical moment. White is attacking the d-pawn and thereby preventing Black from taking his king to a5 for the moment. The alternative was 67.♘e6 to launch an indirect attack on the black a-pawn.

This is not enough, however, as after 67...♘xe6 68.dxe6 ♕xe6 White will find it hard to prevent losing both queenside pawns, e.g. 69.♘xa4+ ♔b7 or 69.♜xa4 ♜xa4 70.♘xa4+ ♔a5 71.♘b2 ♔b4, and the black king penetrates with devastating force.

67...♜f8

A sharp parry. White cannot take on d6 now, as this would lead to his knight getting trapped.



68.♜f2

The decisive error. Correct was 68.♘g5 in order to meet 68...♔a5 with 69.♘e6!. After 69...♕xe6 70.dxe6 Black has to eliminate the foremost white e-pawn, as after 70...♔b4 71.e7 ♜e8 72.♘d5+ ♔b3 73.♜f2 he would be in danger of losing. The correct move is 70...♜e8, when the rest of the game will be forced: 71.♘d5 ♜xe6 72.b6 ♜e8 73.♜b2, and the position is equal.

68...a3 69.♜f3 ♕g4

Pushing the rook back to f2.

70.♜f2 a2

And finally Keres gives up his passed pawn in order to shatter White's defences.

**71.♘xa2 ♘xe4 72.♜f1 ♕f5 73.c5
dxc5**

White resigns.

Réti Opening

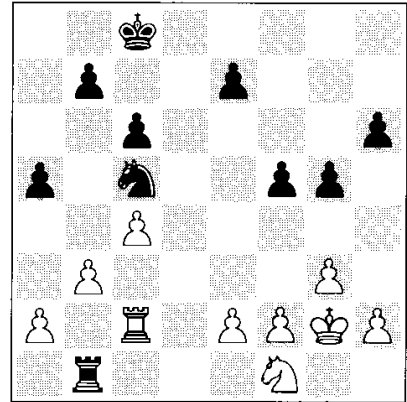
**Pal Benko
Efim Geller**

Benko allows Black to swap queens at an early stage, which results in a slightly

more compact pawn formation for Black. Remarkably enough, an identical queen swap took place in a game Kortchnoi-Karpov from the 1980s, in which Karpov eventually came out on top. Geller also takes the initiative, but fails in the end to penetrate the white fortress, which must have been something of a disappointment for him.

1.g3 d5 2.♘f3 c6 3.♙g2 ♙f5 4.0-0 ♘f6
 5.d3 h6 6.c4 dxc4 7.dxc4 ♚xd1 8.♖xd1
 ♜bd7 9.♙f4 g5 10.♙e3 ♙g7 11.♘c3
 ♜g4 12.♙d2 0-0-0 13.♖ac1 ♘de5
 14.♘xe5 ♘xe5 15.b3 ♖d7 16.♙e1
 ♗hd8 17.♙e4 ♙xe4 18.♖xd7 ♘xd7
 19.♘xe4 f5 20.♙c3 ♙e5 21.♘d2 ♘c5

22.♘f1 ♙xc3 23.♖xc3 ♗d1 24.♚g2 ♖b1
 25.♖c2 a5



26.♘d2 ♖d1 27.♘f3 ♙d7 28.♖d2+ ♖xd2
 29.♘xd2 ♙d6 30.f4 g4 31.♚f2 b5
 32.♙e3 b4 33.♙d4 ♘e6+ 34.♙d3 ♘c5+
 35.♙d4 ♘e6+ 36.♙d3 ♘c5+ 1/2-1/2

THIRD PART

Cross table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1 Keres	*	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	6
2 Geller	½	*	½	½	½	1	1	1	5
3 Petrosian	½	½	*	1	½	1	½	1	5
4 Benko	0	½	0	*	½	½	½	1	3
5 Fischer	0	½	½	½	*	0	½	1	3
6 Kortchnoi	0	0	0	½	1	*	½	1	3
7 Tal	0	0	½	½	½	½	*	½	2½
8 Filip	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	*	½

Standings

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1 Keres	*	½½½	½½½	½½1	0½1	111	1½1	½11	14½
2 Geller	½½½	*	½½½	½½1	11½	½½½	½11	½11	14
3 Petrosian	½½½	½½½	*	½½1	½1½	½½1	11½	½11	14
4 Kortchnoi	½½0	½½0	½½0	*	101	½½½	10½	111	11
5 Fischer	1½0	00½	½0½	010	*	01½	½1½	1½1	10
6 Benko	000	½½½	½½0	½½½	10½	*	10½	011	9
7 Tal	0½0	½00	00½	01½	½0½	01½	*	10½	7
8 Filip	½00	½00	½00	000	0½0	100	01½	*	4½

THE COURSE OF THE TOURNAMENT

Part IV

June 14 - June 26



he bulletin after the 22nd round opens with the question ‘Does this spell the end of grandmaster Tal’s Candidates’ tournament?’

On Friday, June 15th – the day set aside for the adjourned games – the tournament doctor decides to check Tal into hospital for observation. There are speculations that the giant from Riga has been laid low by his kidneys and will withdraw from the tournament. If that were to happen, no one would suffer, as all his remaining seven games would be declared lost.

And so it went, with Tal spending a good part of his time on the island in hospital. The only player who visited him there a few times was Fischer. One would have thought that Kortchnoi would have put in an appearance as well, since he was on very good terms with Tal at the time. But ‘Viktor the Terrible – as he would be nicknamed later – was probably too put out by his poor performance after such a flying start. The young Fischer’s affection for Tal is interesting. They had, of course, been the grimmest of rivals for years, but their rivalry must have created a bond. Fischer must have regarded it as a privilege to have been able to enjoy Tal’s scintillating and profound insight. The fact that Petrosian, Keres and Geller did not go out of their way was none too surprising, while Benko and Filip probably had no special relationship with Tal.

The tournament is getting more exciting with every round. From this point on, I will start each round with a separate introduction.

ROUND 22

June 14

Geller - Kortchnoi	1/2-1/2
Filip - Keres	1/2-1/2
Fischer - Benko	1-0
Tal - Petrosian	-

The situation at the top remains unchanged. Geller has to work hard to salvage a draw and stays in the lead with 14½ points. Both Keres and Petrosian are still in a position to catch up with him: the Estonian is trailing by half a point, but still has to play his game against Fischer. As we know, he won that particular game. Petrosian is 1½ points off the pace, but this is after 20 games. And we also know that his adjourned game against Filip would yield him victory as well.

Queen's Gambit Accepted

Efim Geller

Viktor Kortchnoi

1.♘f3

A slight surprise; maybe Geller did not want to open with the e-pawn in view of Kortchnoi's flexible repertoire after 1.e2-e4.

**1...d5 2.d4 ♘f6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3
e6 5.♙xc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.♖e2 b5
8.♙b3 ♙b7 9.♖d1 ♘bd7 10.♘c3**

According to the present state of theoretical play, this natural developing move is not enough for an opening advantage. Critical is 10.a4, after which Black will have to defend accurately.

10...♖b8

This queen move solves all Black's opening problems, as he will be able to meet 11.e4 with 11...cxd4 12.♘xd4 ♙d6.

**11.d5 ♘xd5 12.♘xd5 ♙xd5
13.♙xd5 exd5 14.a4**

A dubious experiment. White would have

done better to capture on d5 at once.

14...bxa4 15.♖xd5 ♙e7 16.e4

♖b5!

This is the problem for White. Black covers his knight with tempo.

17.♖d1

17.♖c2 would have been met strongly by 17...♖b3.

17...♘f6

Khasin recommends 17...♘b6 as stronger here, providing two variations:

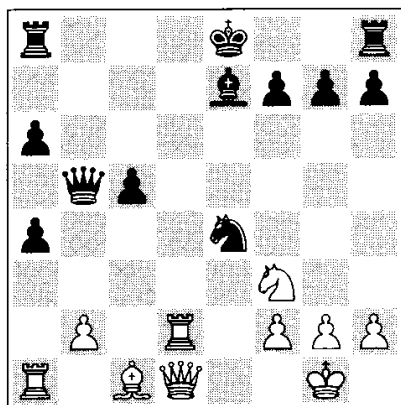
A) 18.♖d3 0-0 19.♙g5 ♖fd8 20.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21.♖c2 ♙xg5 22.♘xg5 ♖d3, and Black liquidates to a winning endgame;

B) 18.♖d2 0-0, followed by 19...♖fd8 and Black is clearly better.

It seems to me that Kortchnoi was somewhat concerned about a third rook move, viz. 18.♖h5!, when 18...♖d8 is met by 19.♖c2, and now Black's advantage is not quite so clear. A possible continuation is 19...♖b3 20.♖xb3 axb3 21.♙f1!, followed by 22.♙e2, and Black won't be

able to hang on to his extra pawn. The text has the advantage of forcing back the white rook.

18. ♖d2 ♗xe4!



This looks quite risky, but Kortchnoi has calculated the consequences of this capture extremely accurately.

19. ♖e2 f5

Now White is unable to prevent Black from castling.

20. ♗g5 ♔xg5

An interesting alternative was 20... ♖d8, when White will have to find the correct square for his queen. Both 21. ♖c2 and 21. ♖e1 can be met strongly by 21... ♖b3. Khasin indicates that 21. ♖f1! leads to equality, e.g. 21... ♖d7 22. ♗xe4 fxe4 23. ♖xe4 0-0 24. ♖exa4 ♖fd8 25. ♔e3, and we are left with a dead-drawn position.

21. ♔xg5 0-0 22. ♔h4

The correct retreat. White must not relinquish control of square d8.

22...c4

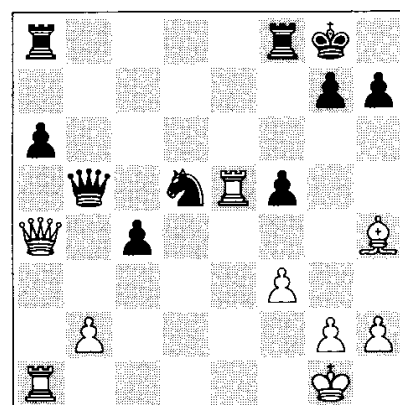
Khasin recommends 22... ♖b3 as stronger here, without providing a variation or making an assessment. It seems to me that after 23. f3 ♗f6 24. ♔xf6 ♖xf6 25. ♖d7! White will be able to hold.

23. f3 ♗f6

The best square to return to. Worse was

23... ♗c5 in view of 24. ♔e7, and White gets a dangerous initiative.

24. ♖xa4 ♗d5 25. ♖e5!



This is how White maintains the balance.

25... ♖xa4 26. ♖xa4 ♗f4 27. ♖xc4 ♗d3 28. ♖d5

Stronger than the passive 28. ♖e2, after which Black could have tried 28... ♖fc8.

28... ♗xb2 29. ♖c2 ♗a4 30. ♖a5 ♗b6

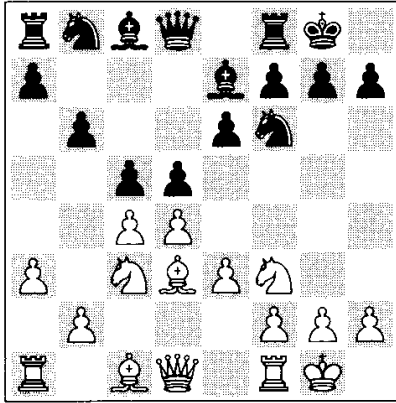
Draw.

Nimzo-Indian Defence

Miroslav Filip
Paul Keres

Keres plays an inferior move very early on in the game, viz. 5... ♔e7. Filip fails to exploit Keres's lapse with, for example, 9. dxc5 bxc5 10. cxd5 exd5 11. e4, with advantage for White. He takes up an unassuming position that makes Black look very good. The bulletin reports that the people in the press room regarded the position around move 25 as favouring Black. Keres obviously took a different view, and the game naturally ended in a draw by repetition.

1. d4 ♗f6 2. c4 e6 3. ♗c3 ♔b4 4. e3 d5 5. a3 ♔e7 6. ♗f3 0-0 7. ♔d3 c5 8. 0-0 b6



9. ♖e2 ♘c6 10. dxc5 bxc5 11. ♖d1 ♙b7
 12. ♗c2 d4 13. ♘e2 e5 14. ♘g3 ♖e8
 15. exd4 ♘xd4 16. ♘xd4 exd4 17. ♙g5
 h6 18. ♙xf6 ♙xf6 19. b4 ♗c7 20. b5 ♖e6
 21. ♖e1 ♖ae8 22. ♖xe6 ♖xe6 23. a4 ♗a5
 24. ♖f1 ♙e7 25. ♙e4 ♙xe4 26. ♘xe4
 ♗b4 27. ♖d1 g6 28. ♘g3 ♖d6 29. ♘f1
 ♙g5 30. g3 ♗c3 31. ♗d3 ♗a5 32. h4
 ♙e7 33. ♖a1 ♖e6 34. ♙g2 h5 35. ♘d2
 ♙f6 36. ♘e4 ♙e7 37. ♘d2 ♙f6 38. ♘e4
 1/2-1/2

French Defence

Robert Fischer
 Pal Benko

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. ♘c3 ♘f6 4. e5

Earlier in the tournament – against Petrosian and in his previous game against Benko – Fischer played the classical 4. ♙g5, but in neither case did he manage to create an advantage.

4... ♘fd7 5. f4

This supporting move was introduced into chess practice by Steinitz in 1885.

5... c5 6. dxc5

This is no longer played these days. The normal sequence is 6. ♘f3 ♘c6 7. ♙e3 in order to support the centre.

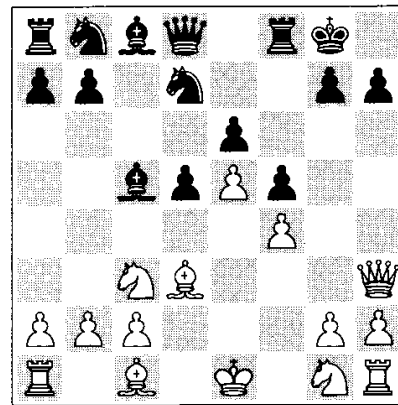
6... ♙xc5 7. ♗g4

An old move played by Tarrasch and Janowski at the start of the previous century.

7... 0-0 8. ♙d3

In Tarrasch-Marshall, 8th match game 1905, there followed 8. ♘f3 ♘c6 9. ♙d3 f5 10. ♗h3 ♘d4 11. ♙d2 a6 12. 0-0-0 ♘xf3 13. ♗xf3 ♙b4 14. g4 ♘c5 15. gxf5 ♘xd3+ 16. cxd3 ♖xf5, and according to the *Bilguer*, the chances are approximately equal. And it's true that White hasn't achieved anything, as Black will be in time to eliminate White's king's bishop by swapping it.

8... f5 9. ♗h3



9... ♙xg1

The brief commentary on this round in the bulletin contains a rather cryptic reference to the Monte Carlo tournament, and again the *Bilguer* provides an explanation: the somewhat surprising swap on g1 was first played in Janowski-Alapin, Monte Carlo 1901. Black gives up the bishop pair in exchange for very active piece play. Another option, by the way, was the alternative 9... ♘c6, after which the game starts moving into the direction of the game Tarrasch-Marshall.

10. ♖xg1 ♘c5 11. ♙d2

This quiet developing move is far stronger than Janowski's wild push 11. g4. Af-

ter 11...♘d3+ 12.cxd3 ♘c6 13.gxf5 ♗xf5 Alapin managed to get an advantage. It is likely that Fischer was familiar with this example and that he had prepared the text by way of an improvement.

11...♘c6 12.♘b5?

But this is far too optimistic. Correct was 12.0-0-0, with roughly equal chances.

12...♖b6 13.0-0-0 ♙d7 14.♘d6

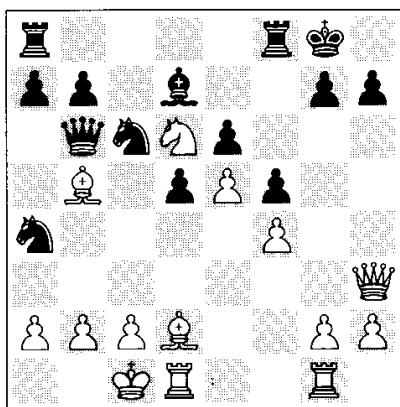
The knight has penetrated the black position, but in the present situation this has no significance. On the contrary; the fact that White has withdrawn a piece from the defence gives Black an attack that is probably already decisive.

14...♘a4!

A vicious sortie whose main point is that 15.b3 fails to 15...♖d4, and White is annihilated.

15.♙b5

The only feasible attempt to throw up a defensive wall.



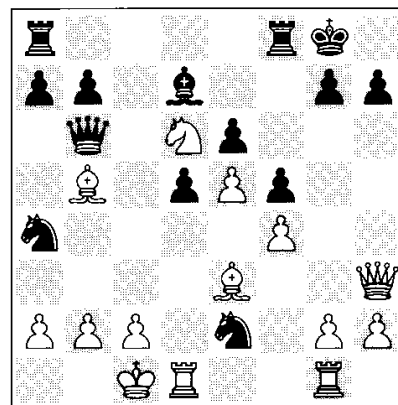
15...♘d4

Forty years later, during the second Open Tournament in Willemstad, Benko showed this game to a select audience. With 15...♘b2 16.♙xb2 ♖a6 he could have got a large advantage with very simple means. But he had opted for the text to launch an even sharper attack.

He was, in fact, playing to the gallery.

16.♙e3 ♘e2+!

The clever point of the previous move.



17.♙xe2

It would seem that White is forced to take the knight, but closer scrutiny reveals this is not the case.

The surprising 17.♙b1 is probably a better line of defence. In reply, Black can play it safe and take the exchange 17...♘xg1 18.♙xg1 ♖c7, or choose to complicate matters with 17...d4 (surprisingly, 17...♘ac3+ 18.bxc3 ♘xc3+ 19.♙b2 is not so clear, since going for mate with 19...♖a5? fails to the cool 20.♙xd7! ♖b4+ 21.♙a1 ♖a5 22.♙xe6+ ♙h8 23.♙xd5, covering a2) 18.♙xa4 (getting rid of the dangerous knight) when both 18...♘c3+ and 18...♙xa4 come into consideration. Black has a strong attack but White's chances of surviving the storm are much better than in the game.

17...♖xb2+ 18.♙d2 ♖b4+

19.♙c1 ♘c3

It goes without saying that Black is not going to settle for a draw, but practically speaking Benko would have done better to repeat moves once, because as always, an enervating time-trouble period lay ahead.

20.♖de1

The only move to prevent White from being mated at once.

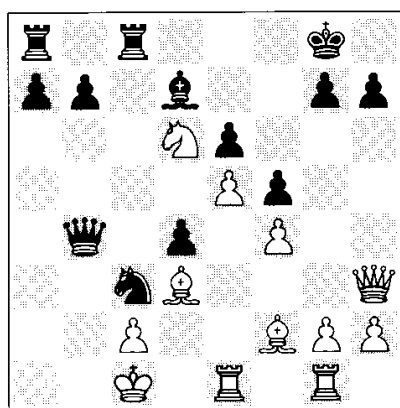
20...♖xa2+ 21.♔d1 ♘c3+

22.♔c1 d4

Vukovic gives this move a question mark and recommends 22...a5, with the intention of meeting 23.♙d3 with 23...a4, when White is powerless against the threat of 24...a3, followed by 25...d4. There is no doubt that this would give Black his win signed, sealed and delivered, yet there's nothing to be said against the text; Black is still winning.

23.♙f2 ♖fc8 24.♙d3 ♘a2+

25.♔d1 ♘c3+ 26.♔c1



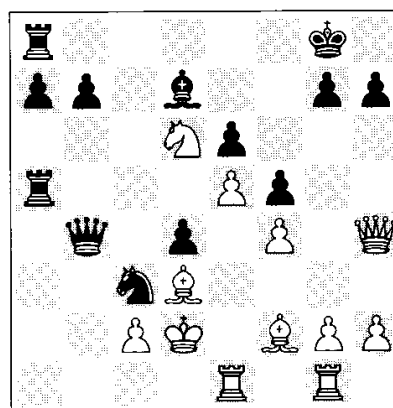
26...♖c5!

Vukovic hands out another question mark, but this time very undeservedly. It is obvious that Black can still go for the draw, but this is not his best option. With the text, Benko inventively breathes new life into his attack.

27.♙h4

Despite his awkward situation, Fischer defends as stubbornly as possible. With the text he provides extra cover for his queen's bishop, allowing him to let his king escape via d2 without running the risk of being mated at once.

27...♖a5 28.♔d2



28...h6?

A terrible move in terrible time-trouble. Black wants to play 29...♘e4 30.♔e2 g5, after which White must withdraw his cover for his queen's bishop. But as the rest of the game will show, this plan takes too much time. Very strong, and probably crushing, was the positional move 28...♙c6!, when the white king remains stuck in the middle of the board, while 29.g4 fails to 29...♘e4 30.♔e2 ♖d2 31.♔f1 ♖f4, with the threat of 32...♘d2 33.♔e2 ♙f3, and mate.

28...♖a2 was another promising way to harrass White's king successfully.

29.g4!

And suddenly White has got a counterattack after all. Now the game comes to an utterly illogical conclusion.

29...fxg4 30.♖xg4 ♔h8

Benko, who thought up so many ingenious selfmate constructions later in his career, now falls victim to such a selfmate in bitter practice. But other moves would have been equally hopeless.

31.♙xh6+

Black resigns. This was undoubtedly the most spectacular game of the tournament, and the rivalry between Fischer and Benko must have made the fight all that much sharper.

ROUND 23

June 16

Petrosian - Kortchnoi	1-0
Fischer - Geller	1-0
Benko - Filip	1/2-1/2
Keres - Tal	-

The bulletin opens with the observation that Tal is following the tournament from his hospital bed with the aid of a magnetic chess board. This enabled him to witness how Geller's hope of victory went up in smoke after his dramatic defeat at the hands of Fischer. Petrosian exploited Geller's slip-up by beating Kortchnoi with striking ease. This game has become the most famous one of all the games in this tournament. This is somewhat puzzling, as any good grandmaster would have been able to play it the way White did; Kortchnoi was unrecognisable. Keres had a day off and would catch Petrosian by winning his adjourned game against Fischer.

English Opening

Tigran Petrosian
Viktor Kortchnoi

1.c4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.d4 cxd4
4.♗xd4 g6 5.♗c3 d5

Dubious. With reversed colours this set-up is OK – since the king's bishop has already been fianchettoed – although it won't yield any advantage then. But the missing tempo makes itself painfully felt. A remarkable fact, by the way, is that Kortchnoi had already played the text 10 years earlier, viz. against Smyslov in the USSR championship.

6.♕g5

The most energetic approach, which Smyslov also opted for.

6...dxc4

Taimanov and Vasiliev suggest the alternative 6...♗e4, with the latter observing that after 7.♗xe4 dxe4 8.♖a4+ ♕d7

9.♖c2 ♗c6 10.♖xe4 ♕g7 11.♗xc6 ♕xc6 Black has sufficient compensation for the pawn. Could Black have solved his opening problem in this way? Very unlikely, I would say. 8.♗b5! (instead of 8.♖a4+) would yield White a strong initiative, e.g. 8...♗c6 9.♖xd8+ ♖xd8 10.0-0-0+ ♕d7 11.♗d6!, and Black is in insurmountable trouble.

This means that he will be forced to put his knight on the passive square a6, after which White takes control of the position.

7.e3 ♖a5

Here Kortchnoi deviates from his game against Smyslov, in which he continued his development with 7...♕g7. After 8.♕xc4 0-0 9.0-0 a6 White should, according to Smyslov, have played 10.a4 (instead of 10.♖b3).

He then gives 10...♗bd7 11.♖e2, concluding that Black will find the going

hard. And it does look as if White has a clear advantage. The text is risky, because Black is neglecting his development.

8. ♖xf6!

Of course. White gives up his bishop pair on the correct assumption that his king's bishop will grow very strong.

8...exf6 9. ♖xc4 ♖b4

This bishop development appears to be part of Black's plan.

10. ♖c1 a6

Both Taimanov and Vasiliev indicate 10...0-0 as better, but even then Black's problems would hardly be solved after 11.0-0, the threat of 12. ♖d5 being very unpleasant.

11.0-0 ♖d7 12.a3

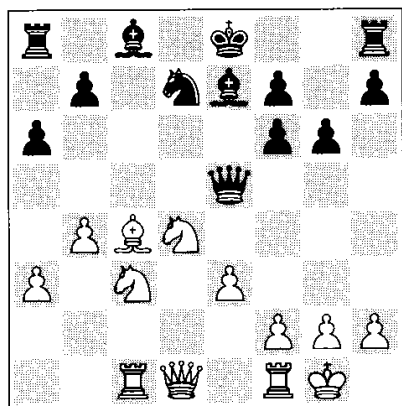
Played with extreme restraint. It seemed almost impossible not to go for 12. ♖d5, after which Black is facing roughly the same uphill struggle as in the game.

12...♖e7

Correct was 12...♖xc3 13. ♖xc3 ♖e5, although this would do nothing to solve Black's problems. After 14. ♖a2 0-0 15.f4 it is hard to see how Black will manage to throw up a proper defensive line.

13.b4 ♖e5

There were no good squares for the queen. 13...♖xa3 would have been met by 14. ♖d5, with devastating results.



14.f4

Forcing the queen back, since 14...♖xe3+ 15. ♖h1 would have immediate fatal consequences for Black.

14...♖b8 15. ♖xf7+!

An attractive move. The bishop sac yields White control of square e6.

15...♖xf7 16. ♖b3+ ♖e8

After 16...♖g7 17. ♖e6+ ♖h6 18. ♖f3 the mating net around the black king would have snapped shut.

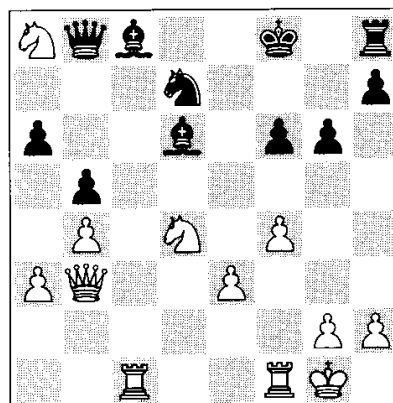
17. ♖d5 ♖d6 18. ♖e6

The white knight pair penetrates with devastating force.

18...b5 19. ♖dc7+ ♖e7 20. ♖d4!

The final blow.

20...♖f8 21. ♖xa8



Black resigns. After 21...♖xa8 22. ♖e6 his position would have collapsed like a house of cards. As I wrote earlier (in chapter Combine), people speculated that Kortchnoi had lost this game on purpose, and it is true that, at the first glance, the course of the game would justify such dark suspicions.

In reality, however, games in which one of the players has been bribed – although bribery isn't even the correct word here, as no money had changed hands – look quite different. A well-known example is Taimanov-Matulovic, Palma de Mallorca 1971. Matulovic would get 400 dollars if

he lost; he arrived late in the playing-hall, played rapidly and poorly and read the newspaper in between moves. It is an entirely different thing to be beaten so painfully and comprehensively as in this game between two rivals who, in principle, had the beating of each other.

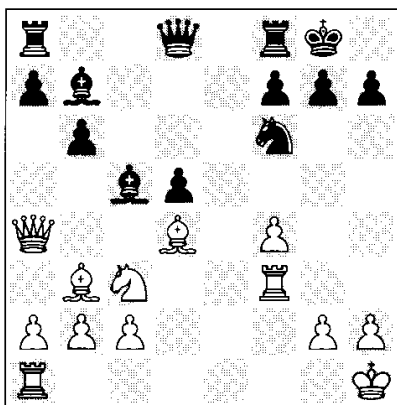
I also think that this is not the only reason why we needn't doubt Kortchnoi's words (viz. that he had not understood the opening system properly). Strangely enough, he occasionally met with similar catastrophes in his later career, for example when he lost in 18 moves against the Spanish master Ricardo Calvo during the Havana Olympiad of 1966.

Sicilian Defence

Robert Fischer
Efim Geller

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 d6 6.♙c4 e6 7.♙b3 ♙e7 8.O-O ♘xd4 9.♚xd4 O-O 10.f4 b6 11.♚h1 ♙a6 12.♞f3 d5 13.exd5 ♙c5 14.♚a4 ♙b7 15.♙e3 exd5 16.♙d4

This is a game of one position:



After a mis-managed opening White has had to go through all kinds of hoops to withstand the initiative Geller had built

up with accurate play. Yet the position is anything but easy for Black; he will have to build out his initiative if he wants to get his opponent into trouble.

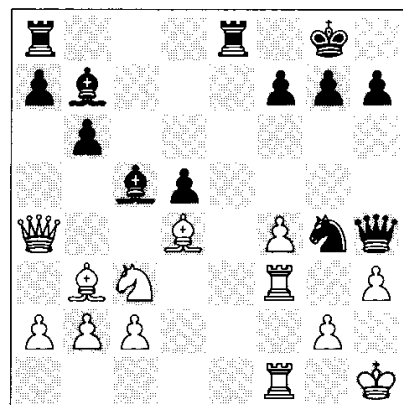
16...♞e8

A natural enough move in itself, but by no means the strongest one. With 16...a6! (Lilienthal) Black could have exploited the lack of coordination in the white camp to the full. The white queen in particular finds itself in a very awkward situation. White has nothing else against the threat 17...b5 except swapping on f6, but after 17.♙xf6 gxf6! White is in terrible trouble. Black is threatening 18...d4. Insufficient is 18.♙xd5 ♙xd5 19.♞g3+ ♚h8 20.♞d1 in view of 20...b5, and the white queen has no squares. This was a golden opportunity for Geller. After the text Fischer can consolidate his position.

17.♞d1 ♘g4

And after this premature sortie White takes control with measured play.

18.h3 ♚h4 19.♞df1!



This is how White covers all squares under threat. Black's initiative has petered out and now White is suddenly exerting irresistible pressure on the d-pawn. From this point on, Fischer rules with a iron fist.

19...♙xd4 20.♚xd4 ♞ad8 21.♘xd5 ♙xd5 22.♙xd5 ♘f6 23.c4 ♞d7 24.♞e3

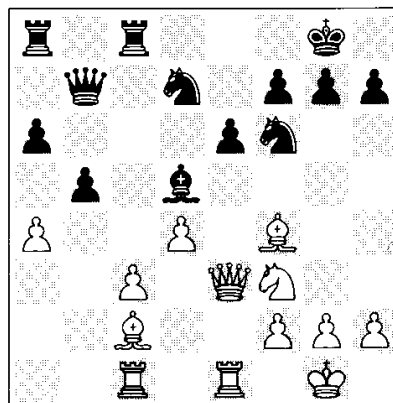
♖ed8 25.♚e5 h6 26.♙f3 ♖d2 27.b4
♜f2 28.♜ee1 ♜xf3 29.♜xf3 ♜e8
30.♚xe8+ ♘xe8 31.♜xe8+ ♔h7 32.c5
♚f6 33.♜e1 bxc5 34.bxc5 ♚b2 35.♜ff1
♚xa2 36.c6 ♚a5 37.♜c1 ♚c7 38.♜fd1
g5 39.fxg5 ♔g6 40.gxh6 ♔xh6
41.♜d6+ ♔g7 42.♜d4 ♔g6 43.♜a4 1-0

1.c4 ♘f6 2.d4 e6 3.♘f3 c5 4.e3 cxd4
5.exd4 d5 6.♘c3 ♙b4 7.♙d3 dxc4
8.♙xc4 ♚c7 9.♚d3 0-0 10.0-0 b6
11.♘b5 ♚d8 12.♙f4 a6 13.♘c3 ♙b7
14.♜ad1 ♘bd7 15.a4 ♙xc3 16.bxc3
♚c8 17.♙b3 ♙e4 18.♚e3 ♙d5 19.♙c2
♚b7 20.♜c1 ♜fc8 21.♜fe1 b5

Caro-Kann Defence

Pal Benko Miroslav Filip

For the first time in this tournament, Benko does not open with the g-pawn; it is clear that he intends to win and that this is why he is going for a classical opening. Via transposition of moves a position arises that can result from both the Panov variation of the Caro-Kann and the Nimzo-Indian. Filip plays quite adroitly in the early middle game, and the position remains perfectly balanced.



22.axb5 axb5 23.♙d6 ♘b6 24.♙e5
♘bd7 25.♙d6 ♜a6 26.♙b4 ♘b6 27.♜a1
♜xa1 28.♜xa1 ♙e4 29.♙xe4 ♚xe4
30.♚xe4 ♘xe4 31.♜a5 ♘xc3 32.♙xc3
♜xc3 33.h3 1/2-1/2



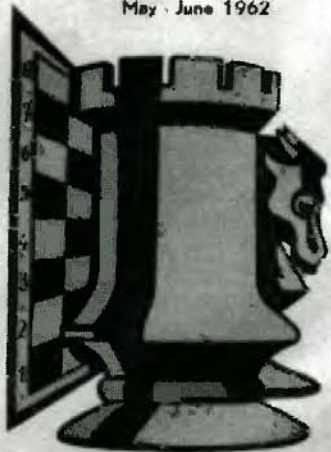
A simultaneous exhibition by Yury Averbakh.



A simultaneous exhibition for young players by Berry Withuis.

CANDIDATES CHESS TOURNAMENT

May - June 1962



of the World Championship



Jan Kees Roose
Caracasbaaiweg 273
Willemstad
Curaçao



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE ■ EERSTE DAG VAN UITGIFTE.

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MEI-JUNI 1962
CURAÇAO



INTERNATIONAAL
KANDIDATEN SCHAAKTOERNOOI
NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN

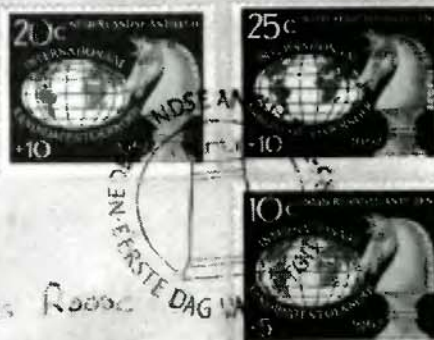


Jan Kees Roose
Caracasbaaiweg 273
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INTERNATIONAAL
KANDIDATEN SCHAAKTOERNOOI

MEI - JUNI 1962
CURAÇAO, N.A.

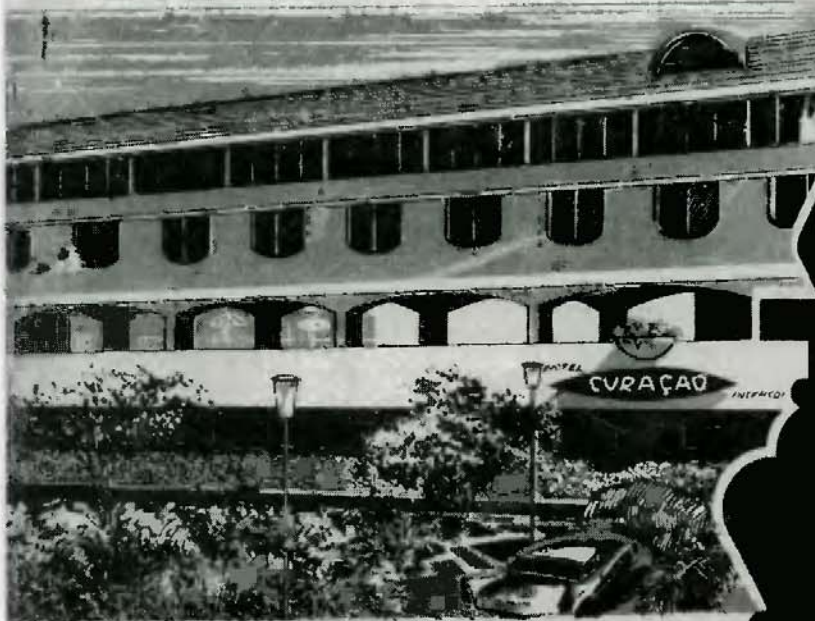


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EERSTE DAG VAN UITGIFTE - FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

PROGRAM

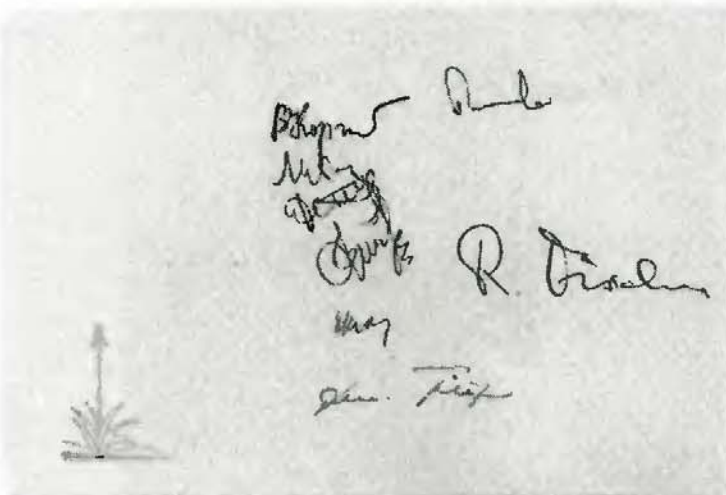


CANDIDATES' TOURNAMENT

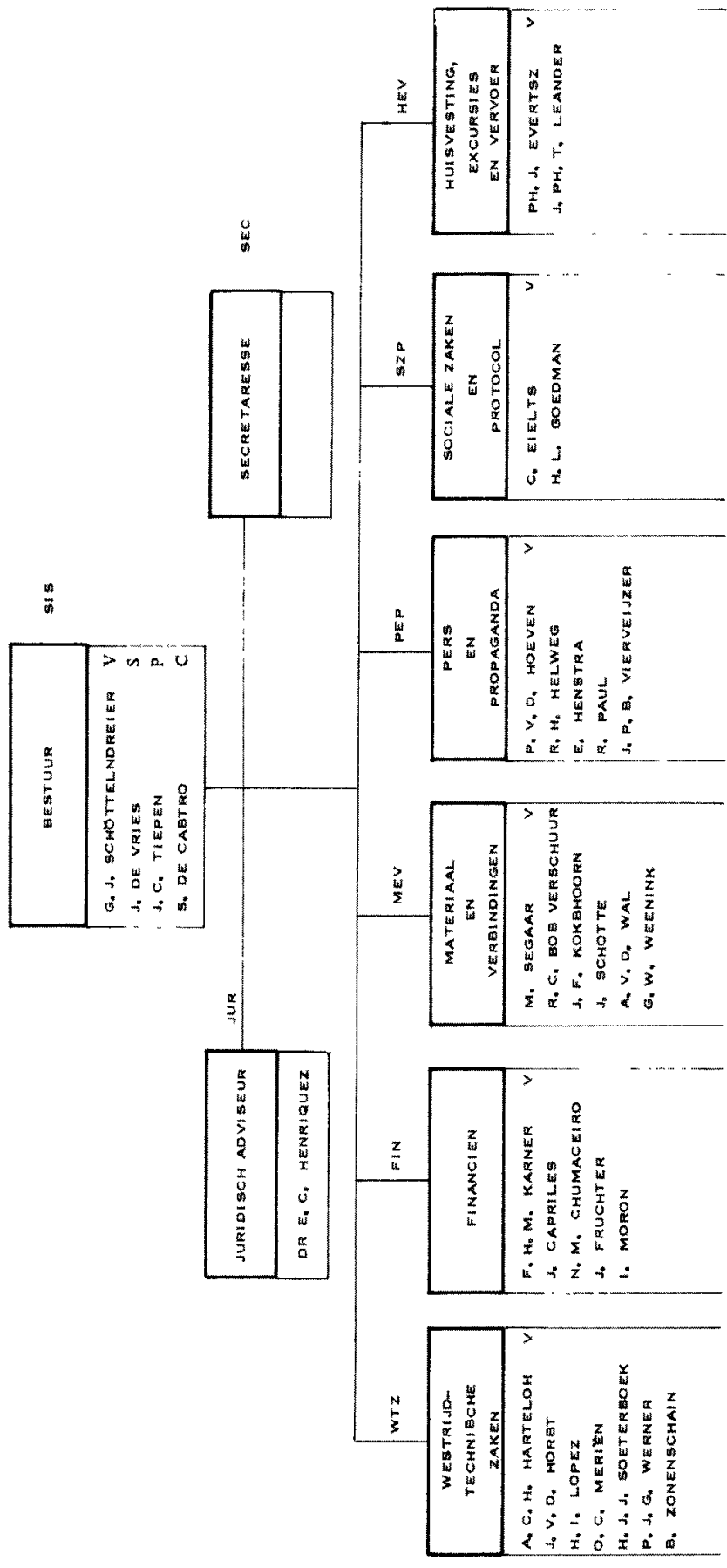
FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS

CURAÇAO MAY-JUNE 1962

Souvenir with chess stamps and signatures of all participants, including Fischer, who was only rarely willing to give his signature.



ORGANISATIE SCHEMA VAN DE "STICHTING VOOR INTERNATIONALE SCHAAKONTMOETINGEN IN DE NEDERLANDSE ANTILLEN"
 ("SISONA")



QUALITATE QUA KUNNEN BESTUURSLEDEN
 "SISONA" ZITTING NEMEN IN DE COMMISSIES.

VOOR KANTOOR- EN HUISTELEFOONNUMMERS Z. O. Z.

10 januari 1962 (herzien)

Organization scheme.

ROUND 24

June 17

Kortchnoi - Keres	1/2-1/2
Geller - Petrosian	1/2-1/2
Filip - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Tal - Benko	-

Before the start of the round there is a small ceremony: Petrosian is celebrating his 33rd birthday and tournament director Schöttelndreier presents him with a beautiful letter-opener. The bulletin reports that Petrosian was slightly apprehensive about his game as black against Geller, as he had done 'bad business' on his birthday before. But Geller did not push him very hard. Keres tried to exploit the fact that his rivals had drawn their game, but he didn't do any better himself. Fischer doesn't make any inroads against Filip, and Tal's games have now been officially declared null and void. All in all quite a tame round.

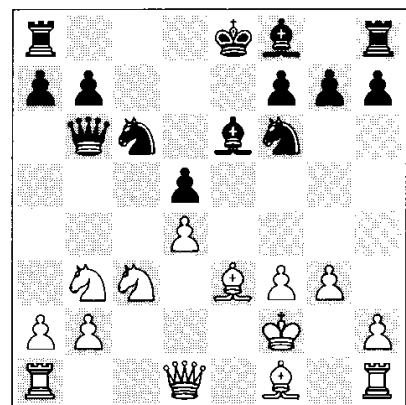
English Opening

Viktor Kortchnoi
Paul Keres

The opening phase is interesting; on move 8 Keres deviates from the ninth match game Botvinnik-Tal, Moscow 1961, in which Black went for 8...a5. In the beginning it looks as if Black will get active play, but Kortchnoi reacts adequately, and after 13 moves he seems to have a slight advantage. Both the *Encyclopedia of Chess Openings* and Bagirov's book about the English opening assess the position as favouring White (with the curious detail that both books give Moscow instead of Willemstad as the scene of the action). But it is not altogether clear how White should go about handling his seemingly superior position, because Keres almost stealthily takes over the initiative. He builds up the pressure on the white position, but despite having plenty

of time, he fails to make any concrete progress.

1.c4 e5 2.♘c3 ♘f6 3.g3 c6 4.♘f3 e4
5.♘d4 d5 6.cxd5 cxd5 7.d3 ♚b6 8.♗b3
♘g4 9.d4 ♙e6 10.f3 exf3 11.exf3 ♘f6
12.♙e3 ♘c6 13.♚f2



13...♙d6 14.♗b5 ♙b8 15.♚d2 0-0
16.♙g5 ♘d7 17.♖c1 a6 18.♘c3 ♚b4
19.♙e3 ♙a7 20.♚g2 ♖ac8 21.♙d3
♖fd8 22.♗e2 a5 23.♚xb4 ♘xb4
24.♙b1 ♘c6 25.♙f2 a4 26.♗d2 ♖e8
27.♖he1 ♙b6 28.a3 ♙a5 29.♘c3 ♘a7
30.♙d3 b5 31.♖ed1 ♖c7 32.♙e1 ♖ec8

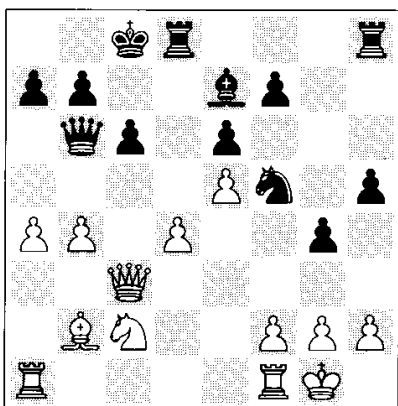
33.♘e2 ♘b6 34.♖xc7 ♜xc7 35.b4 axb3
 36.♘xb3 ♙xe1 37.♖xe1 ♘c4 38.♘f4
 1/2-1/2

Caro-Kann Defence

Efim Geller
Tigran Petrosian

A fascinating battle that suddenly ends in a draw. It seems as if the combatants did not discuss their games in too much detail, with the result that they are not always boring and trivial.

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 ♙f5 4.♙d3 ♙xd3
 5.♚xd3 e6 6.♘f3 ♚a5+ 7.♘bd2 ♚a6
 8.c4 ♘e7 9.0-0 ♘d7 10.b3 ♘f5 11.♙b2
 h5 12.a4 ♙e7 13.♚c3 g5 14.b4 g4
 15.♘e1 dxc4 16.♘xc4 ♘b6 17.♘xb6
 ♚xb6 18.♘c2 0-0-0 1/2-1/2

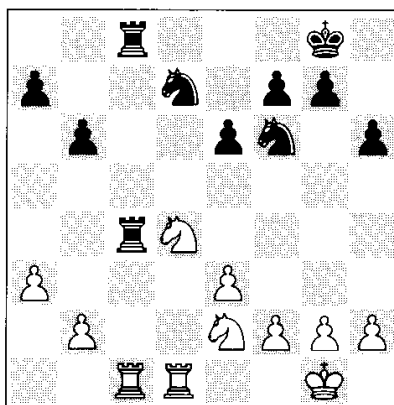


Queen's Gambit Declined

Miroslav Filip
Robert Fischer

Fischer's repertoire as Black against 1.d4 wasn't all that suitable at the time to play for a win against experienced grandmasters. Filip takes up a fairly modest but solid position and it soon becomes clear that the game will peter out in a bloodless draw.

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6 4.♙g5 ♙e7
 5.e3 0-0 6.♘f3 h6 7.♙h4 b6 8.♖c1 ♙b7
 9.cxd5 ♘xd5 10.♙xe7 ♚xe7 11.♙e2
 ♘f6 12.0-0 ♘bd7 13.♚a4 c5 14.♚a3
 ♜fc8 15.♜fd1 ♚f8 16.♙a6 ♙xa6
 17.♚xa6 cxd4 18.♘xd4 ♚b4 19.a3
 ♚c4 20.♚xc4 ♜xc4 21.♘ce2 ♜ac8



22.♜xc4 ♜xc4 23.♜c1 1/2-1/2

ROUND 25

June 20

Benko - Kortchnoi	1-0
Keres - Petrosian	1/2-1/2
Filip - Geller	1/2-1/2
Fischer - Tal	-

Keres and Petrosian remain in first place after concluding a draw that caused a great deal of controversy. The other two games are adjourned! When play is resumed, Geller, who had to win to stay in the race, barely managed to save his skin in a rook ending. Filip plays on until the second time-control, but then resigns himself to the draw. Benko adjourns in a superior position against Kortchnoi and in a lengthy second sitting converts his advantage to a win. Keres and Petrosian become joint leaders after the former is successful in his adjourned game against Fischer.

Tarrasch Defence

Pal Benko
Viktor Kortchnoi

1.d4

Again no 1.g3!

1...♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3
c5 5.cxd5 ♘xd5 6.g3

Unusual but certainly not bad. 6.e4 is still the normal move, and the alternative 6.e3 is played more often than the text. Benko's penchant for flank games comes to the fore relatively late in this game.

6...cxd4

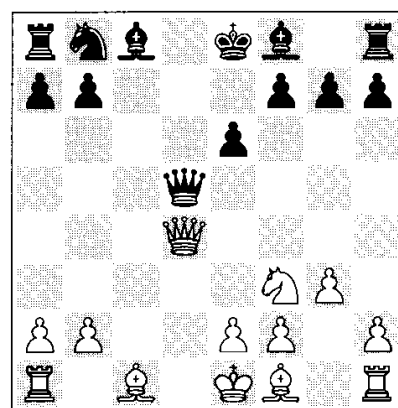
The alternatives 6...♘c6 and 6...♙e7 would lead to well-known theoretical positions. With the text, Black is aiming for immediate clarity in the centre.

7.♘xd5 ♙xd5

Two years later, Kortchnoi played it differently. In Krogius-Kortchnoi, USSR championship, Kiev 1964, Black got decent play after 7...exd5 8.♘xd4 ♙b6 9.♘b3

♘c6 10.♙g2 ♙e6 11.0-0 d4 12.♙d2 ♖d8, and he has maintained his central outpost. It seems to me that both 12.♙f4 and 12.e3 are stronger than the modest 12.♙d2, yielding White every chance of a small but lasting plus.

8.♙xd4



8...♙b5

Two years later, Darga played 8...♙xd4 against Benko in the 1964 Tel Aviv Olympiad. This immediate queen swap is not enough for equality, as had already been

shown in Alekhine-Euwe, 24th match game 1937. After 9. ♖xd4 ♙b4+ 10. ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 11. ♚xd2 Euwe continued 11... ♚e7, after which White kept up the pressure with 12. ♙g2 ♜d8 13. ♚e3. Darga tried 11... ♙d7 12. ♙g2 ♖c6, after which White was able to liquidate to a classical double rook ending with good winning chances.

**9.e4 ♚b4+ 10. ♚xb4 ♙xb4+
11. ♙d2 ♙xd2+ 12. ♚xd2 ♖c6
13. ♚e3**

Centralisation. White has a slight plus.

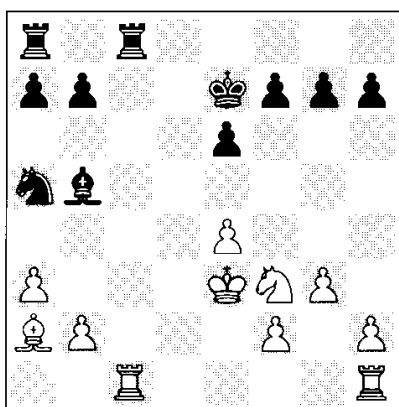
13... ♚e7 14. ♜c1 ♙d7 15.a3

The battle for space is starting. White takes away square b4 from the enemy knight, while at the same time preparing the advance b2-b4.

15... ♜hc8 16. ♙c4 ♖a5 17. ♙a2

White's 15th move now turns out to have had a third aim: square a2 has been kept open for the bishop.

17... ♙b5



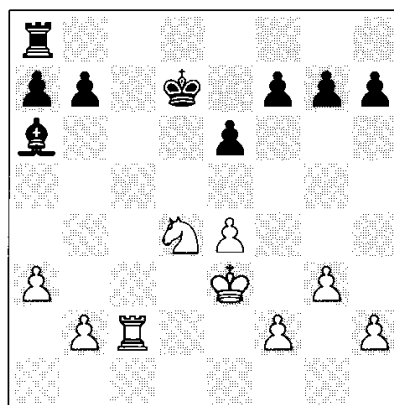
Typical for Kortchnoi in his younger years: he does not want to sit back and watch White making progress, so he decides to set things right. With the text, Black forces the swap of his knight against the white bishop.

This fails to solve Black's positional problems, however, The knight is superior in

the ensuing endgame, although the drawing margin has probably not been exceeded. The alternative was 17... ♜xc1 18. ♜xc1 ♜c8 in order to aim for a wholesale rook swap at once, but even then White retains a slight positional plus, despite the reduced material.

**18. ♖d4 ♖c4+ 19. ♙xc4 ♙xc4
20. ♜c2 ♙a6 21. ♜hc1 ♜xc2
22. ♜xc2 ♚d7**

The only move. Black keeps the enemy rook from c7 and prepares 23... ♜c8.



23.e5

In *My Life, Games and Compositions* Benko explains that with this advance he gains space in the centre.

This is correct; the text is certainly justified strategically. There was an alternative, however, which would have forced Black to defend very accurately indeed, viz. 23. ♜d2, and the black king has to retreat in order to avoid the threatened discovered check on f5. His best bet seems to be 23... ♚e7, after which White might play 24.b4, and the black bishop is cornered. After the forced 24... ♙c4 White has 25. ♜c2, against which 25... ♜c8 is the only defence. Now White has all kinds of attractive options, although he will fall just short of gaining a decisive advantage. After 26.a4 Black can play 26... ♚d7.

23...♖c8 24.♗xc8 ♕xc8 25.♘f3

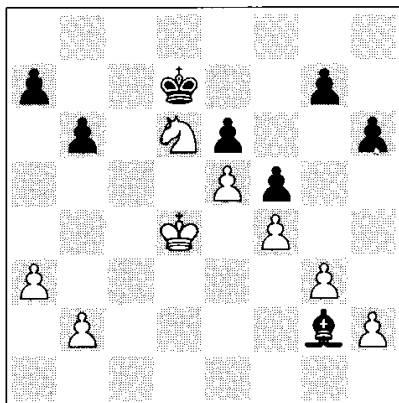
White is going to manoeuvre his knight around in order to reinforce his position bit by bit. The first threat is 26.♘g5.

25...h6 26.♘d2 ♖d7 27.♘e4 b6

28.f4 ♗f1 29.♕d4 ♗g2 30.♘d6

Forcing his opponent to advance his f-pawn.

30...f5



Black's best bet. He now has a second pawn fixed on the colour of his bishop, but he has also gained space.

The alternative 30...f6 was less good in view of 31.♘b5 a6 32.♘c3, and Black will have to play his pawn to f5 after all. Benko's comment on this moment is characteristic: 'White's position has improved, but Black has everything covered. Now starts a long game of cat and mouse: I make little jabs at his weak points and torment him endlessly', an observation that has unmistakable sadistic overtones.

31.♘b5 ♗f1 32.♘d6

The knight returns from its outpost. Insufficient for the win was 32...♕c7 33.a4 ♖b7 34.♘b5 ♗xb5 35.axb5 ♕c7, and White has nowhere to break through.

32...a5 33.b4

And finally White can make the advance he had started preparing 18 moves ago.

33...axb4 34.axb4 ♗h3

Black can only move his bishop.

35.♘c4 ♖c6 36.♘d6 ♖d7

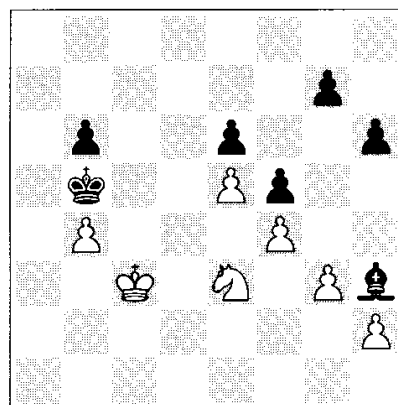
37.♘c4

In time-trouble, Benko repeats moves twice.

37...♖c6 38.♘e3

White regroups his knight again, hoping that Black will make a mistake at some stage.

38...♖b5 39.♖c3



39...g5?

Again, Kortchnoi is aiming for clarity, but all he does with this advance is create weaknesses in his own camp. Strangely enough, Benko does not reject this move, although he does indicate that Black might have considered continuing his passive approach with 39...♕c6 40.♖c4 ♗g4. He needn't be afraid of the pawn ending, and it is hard to see how White would break through his solid defensive line.

40.♘c4 gxf4 41.gxf4 ♖c6

42.♖d4 h5

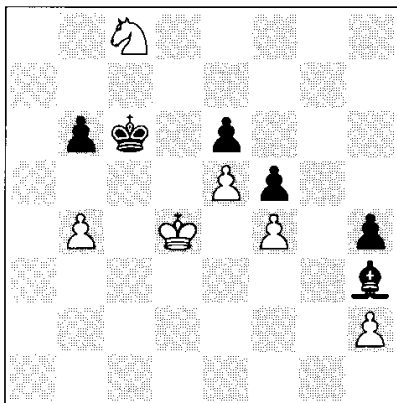
The consequence of Black's 39th move: he wants to push his pawn to h4, hoping that this will prevent White from making progress. But Benko will thwart his plans with skilful manoeuvring.

43.♘d6 h4

At this point the game was adjourned. The experts in the press room must have assessed the position as a draw, because the bulletin reports: 'Adjourned in what we think is still a drawn position'. Benko reports that Kortchnoi offered him a draw in the interim period.

Does this mean that the Russian concurred with the expert's assessment? To think so would, I believe, be missing the point entirely. Kortchnoi must have been acutely aware of the fact that his position was at best unpleasant, so I'd say we can safely regard his offer purely as a provocation. It goes without saying that Benko refused it.

44. ♖c8!



The sealed move – and it's a good one. The knight is on its way to the vital square g6.

44... ♜g2 45. ♗e7+ ♕b5 46. ♖c3 h3

Black doesn't wait for the knight to pop up on g6 and plays his h-pawn to a square of the bishop. Now the battle takes on a thematic character: Black has two weak pawns that cannot be covered by the bishop simultaneously.

47. ♗g8

New peregrinations by the knight. First it is taken to f6.

47... ♖c6 48. ♗f6 ♜f3 49. ♖d4 ♕b5 50. ♗d7 ♜d5

Alternatives for Black were:

A) 50... ♖xb4 51. ♗xb6 ♕b5 52. ♗d7 ♖c6 53. ♗f8 ♜d5 54. ♗h7 ♜g2 55. ♗g5 ♖d7 56. ♖e3, with a systematic win for White. He is going to capture the h-pawn, setting the passed pawn thus created into motion, and then walks his king back on its way to c5, leaving Black powerless.

B) 50... ♖c6 51. ♗f8 ♜d5 52. ♖c3, followed by 53. ♗h7 and 54. ♗g5, with consequences similar to those in the game.

51. ♖c3 ♜a2 52. ♗f8 ♖c6 53. ♗h7!

And again the knight is heading for f6.

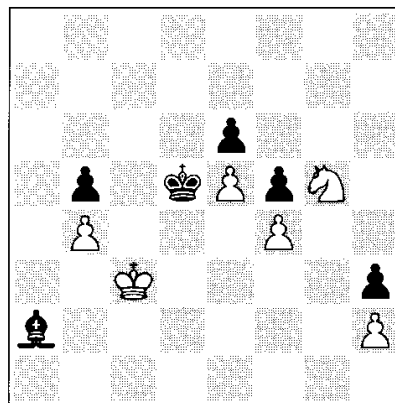
53... ♖d5 54. ♗f6+ ♖c6 55. ♖d4 ♕b5 56. ♖c3

White has made the second time-control and is now able to start thinking in concrete terms about an exact winning plan.

56... ♖c6 57. ♗h7 ♖d5 58. ♗g5

The most vital square for the knight.

58... b5



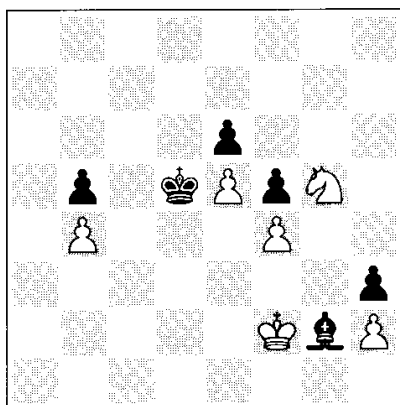
Black fixes his last pawn on the colour of his bishop, convinced that purely strategical considerations are no longer relevant in this game: there will come a point at which he will have to give up

one of his weak pawns – if not both – in order to be able to capture the white b-pawn.

59.♔d3

Now White is threatening to take on h3. 59.♖xh3 at once would not do in view of 59...♔e4, and the black king becomes very active.

59...♙c4+ 60.♔e3 ♙f1 61.♔f2
♙g2



62.♔g3?

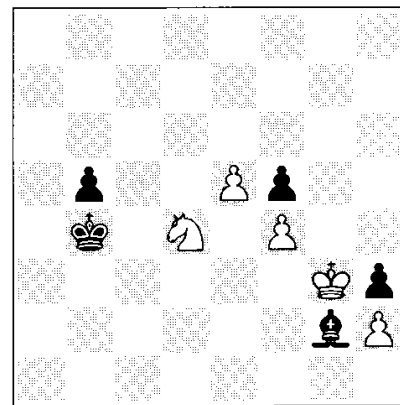
Obvious but wrong. There was no need to attack the h-pawn for a second time. White should have kept his king in the centre with 62.♔e2!. Benko gives a few deep variations to show that this would indeed leave White with a winning position:

A) 62...♙h1 63.♖xh3 ♔c4 64.♖g5 ♔xb4 65.h4 ♔c3 66.h5 b4 67.h6 b3 68.h7 b2 69.h8♚ b1♚ 70.♚c8+, and wins;

B) 62...♔c4 63.♖xe6 ♔xb4 64.♖d4 ♔c5 65.♖xf5 b4, and now 66.♔d2 is probably White's strongest option. The main line now continues as follows: 66...♙e4 67.♖e3 ♔d4 68.e6 ♙c6 69.♖c2+ ♔c5 70.f5 b3 71.f6! ♔d6 72.f7 ♔e7 73.♖b4, and wins. After 69...♔e4 70.♖xb4 ♙e8 71.♖a6!, too, Black position is hopeless. 66...♔d5 in-

stead of 66...♙e4 is insufficient as well. Benko, incidentally, does not give this move. Now White does not have an easy win, as after 67.♖e3+ ♔e4 68.e6 ♔xf4 69.e7 ♙c6 Black will just about manage to hold. The correct move is 67.♖d6! in order to keep the king away, when the position should be technically winning for White.

62...♔c4 63.♖xe6 ♔xb4 64.♖d4



64...♔c4?

The wrong square for the king. Kortchnoi must have been exhausted by the lengthy and tortuous defending he has had to keep up for so many moves. With 64...♔c5! he could have ensured the draw, e.g. 65.♖xf5 b4 66.♖e3 b3 67.♖d1 ♔d4 68.e6 ♙d5! 69.e7 ♙f7, followed by 70...♔d3 and 71...♔d2 or 71...♔c2, and the black b-pawn is strong enough to compensate for the white kingside majority.

65.♖xf5 b4 66.♖e3+ ♔d3
66...♔c5 67.f5 b3 68.f6! b2 69.f7 b1♚
70.f8♚+ ♔d4 71.♚f4+ also leads to an easy win for White.

67.♖xg2 hxg2 68.♔xg2

The rest is simple. White reaches a totally winning queen ending, although Kortchnoi continues to struggle for an inordinately long time.

68...b3 69.e6 b2 70.e7 b1♚ 71.e8♚
 ♚a2+ 72.♚g3 ♚a7 73.♚b5+ ♚e4
 74.♚e5+ ♚d3 75.f5 ♚h7 76.h4 ♚g8+
 77.♚f4 ♚c4+ 78.♚g5 ♚g8+ 79.♚h6
 ♚f8+ 80.♚g7 ♚d8 81.f6 1-0

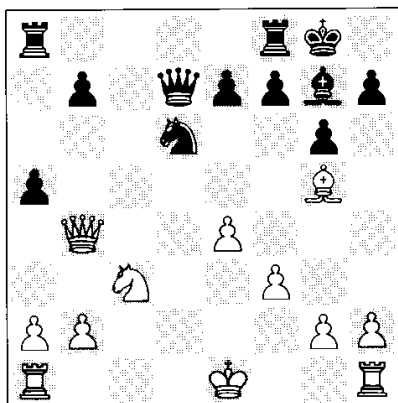
Sicilian Defence

Paul Keres

Tigran Petrosian

1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♘xd4
 g6 5.c4 ♘f6 6.♘c3 ♘xd4 7.♚xd4 d6
 8.c5 ♙g7 9.♙b5+ ♙d7 10.♙xd7+ ♚xd7
 11.cxd6 0-0 12.♙g5 ♘e8 13.♚b4 ♘xd6
 14.f3 a5

The way in which Keres landed himself into trouble is of little moment. The final position is what's important here.



Shekhtman gives the moves of this game in *The Games of Tigran Petrosian, Volume I*, but without providing any comment; nor does he deem the final position worthy of a diagram. And you would have to say that it is hard to explain why Black conceded the draw without explicitly confirming that the draw was a fix.

'The analysis afterwards showed that Black was clearly better,' the writer of the bulletin observes, after first arguing that

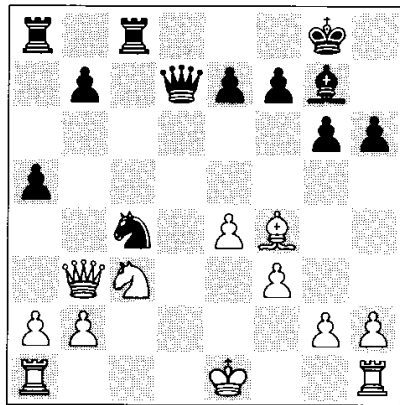
Petrosian would have been happy with a draw before he even started.

'Keres-Petrosian duel was short but fierce,' headlined a local newspaper. 'After the analysis – when the peace proposal had been accepted – the general preference strongly favoured Black,' A.H.Roose writes in the article concerned. Quite. There can be no doubt that Black has the better position. His pieces are more developed, his fianchettoed king's bishop exerts strong pressure on the white queenside and the knight is very well placed on d6 to help to press home a queenside attack.

The other question is whether the black advantage is decisive. Fischer was very categorical in his assessment: Black was winning. In both *Sports Illustrated* and *Life International* his article contains a diagram of the position in which the players agreed to call it a draw. *Sports Illustrated*, moreover, adds a kind of technical explanation under the heading 'Phony draw': 'As Fischer points out, Black has clearly won; White's king is permanently trapped in the center of the board and his queenwing is hopelessly weakened. If White's next move is ♚b3, Black answers a4 and White's position crumbles. If White tries ♚a3, Black can checkmate in five moves.' This is literally what it says.

The explanation clearly originates from someone who hasn't the foggiest about chess, but if you read between the lines, you may get some idea of what Fischer must have argued. It is, for example, true that 15.♚b3 is bad in view of 15...a4, followed by 16...a3, and the white position collapses – which means that the alternative 15.♚a3 is forced. It goes without saying that there is no forced mate for

Black then. His best option now is 15...h6 in order to force the white bishop to a worse square. After the forced sequence 16.♙f4 ♘c4 17.♚b3 ♜fc8 White has the following two possibilities:



analysis diagram

A) 18.♜d1 a4! 19.♚b4 (after 19.♜xd7 axb3 20.axb3 ♘xb2 21.♘d1 White would swap on d1 and penetrate with his rooks, causing death and destruction. The knight sortie 21.♘d5 won't do either in view of 21...♜a1+ 22.♙d2 ♜xh1 23.♘xe7+ ♙h7 24.♘xc8 ♜d1+, and wins) 19...♚e6 20.0-0 ♘xb2 21.♚xb2 ♙xc3 22.♚xb7 ♚xa2, and the passed a-pawn cannot be stopped. After 20.♘d5 (instead of 20.0-0) 20...♘xb2 21.♘xe7+ ♙h7 White is in insurmountable trouble as well.

B) 18.0-0 a4 19.♚b4 ♘xb2 20.♘d5 ♘d3! 21.♚xe7 ♜d8!, and White is in dire straits indeed. 22.♘f6+, for example, fails to 22...♙xf6 23.♚xf6 ♜a6, and wins. His best bet would seem to be 22.♙e3! ♙xa1 23.♜xa1 ♚xe7 24.♘xe7+, and now things would not be entirely clear after 24...♙f8 25.♘d5. After 24...♙h7!, however, Black should be winning.

My conclusion is that Fischer was correct in declaring that Petrosian agreed to a draw in a winning position.

King's Indian Defence

Miroslav Filip Efim Geller

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 ♙g7
4.♙g2 0-0 5.♘f3 d6 6.0-0 ♘bd7
7.♘c3 e5 8.e4 c6

Ten years earlier, Geller had swapped on d4 against Botvinnik in Budapest and scored an impressive win, but later developments showed that Black is better advised to maintain the central tension.

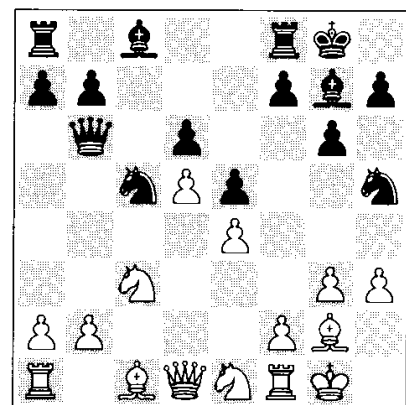
9.h3 ♚b6 10.d5

This is how play went in the famous sixth match game for the world championship, Botvinnik-Tal, Moscow 1960. These days, the alternative 10.♜e1 is regarded as the only way to aim for an advantage.

10...cxd5 11.cxd5 ♘c5 12.♘e1

Botvinnik's concept. White wants to force the active black knight into a swap, hoping it will enable White to exploit his space advantage.

12...♘h5



Remarkably enough, Geller fails to even mention this knight move in his book about the King's Indian – I have the Russian edition from 1980. He must have had bad memories of this game! Black had three alternatives: 12...a5, 12...♘fd7 and 12...♙d7. The first two were played

to little effect in the late 1950s, but developing the bishop to d7 is quite sound. This is how Tal played it against Botvinnik: after 12...♙d7 13.♘d3 ♘xd3 14.♙xd3 ♖fc8 15.♖b1 ♗h5 16.♙e3 ♙b4 Black had very active counterplay. But I must say that the text also seems quite playable to me.

**13.♙h2 ♙d7 14.♘d3 ♘xd3
15.♙xd3 f5**

The consequence of Black's 12th move.

16.exf5 gxf5 17.♙e2 ♙e8?

An artificial move that breaks the connection between the rooks. After 17...♗f6 18.♙e3 ♙b4 White could have got a slight advantage with 19.♖ad1, but no more.

18.♙g5!

A strong developing move that confronts Black with the lack of coordination in his camp.

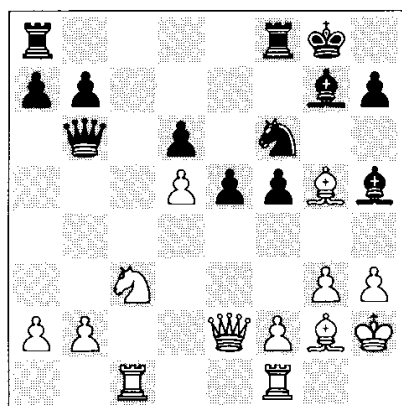
18...♗f6

What else?

19.♖ac1

The start of a strategic exchange sacrifice.

19...♙h5



Nerves and fatigue are making themselves felt. If Geller had had this position earlier in the tournament, he would probably have tackled it differently. The alternatives 19...♖c8 and 19...♙d7 were stronger

than the text. Psychologically speaking, it would have been difficult to play the bishop back to d7, as this would have meant Black acknowledging that his plan had not worked out.

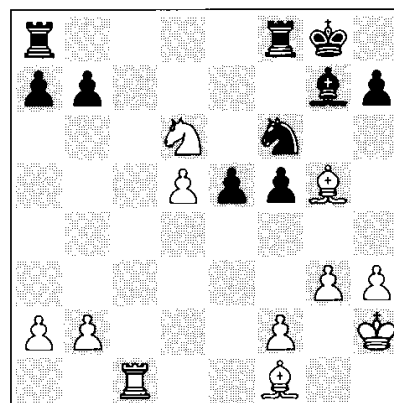
20.♙b5!

The point of the previous move.

20...♙xb5

Black continues with his plan. 20...♙e8 would have been relatively better, although White would enjoy a large advantage after the queen swap even then. And again there was the difficult option of withdrawing the bishop.

**21.♗xb5 ♙e2 22.♗xd6 ♙xf1
23.♙xf1**



Now we can take stock: Black is ahead in material, but strategically speaking he is in terrible trouble. White is threatening to capture on f5, which leaves Black no choice. He will have to try to swap the dominant white knight.

23...h6 24.♙h4

The best square for the bishop.

24...♗e8 25.♗xe8

Simple and strong. Less good was 25.♙e7 in view of 25...♗xd6 26.♙xd6 ♖fd8 27.♙e7 ♖d7, and Black can hold the position by returning the exchange.

**25...♖axe8 26.♙b5 ♖a8 27.♙e7
♖fb8**

Sad necessity, as there were no better squares available.

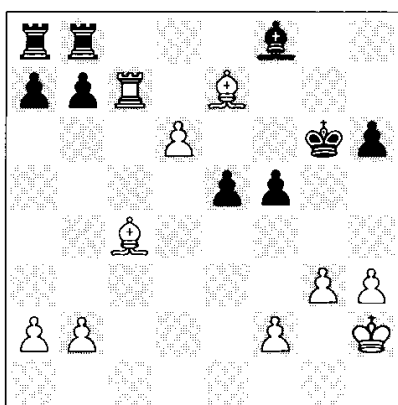
28.♖c7

A position that could have been taken from a text-book: White has a mighty bishop pair and an extremely dangerous passed pawn. As well as that, he controls the seventh rank. Geller's only hope is to watch for his chance in the time-trouble phase.

28...♗f8 29.d6 ♔f7 30.♗c4+

A strong move. The black king is driven into a mating net. The prozaic 30.♗xf8+ ♔xf8 31.♗c4, incidentally, would also have been enough for the win, since the black king has to stay on the back rank.

30...♔g6



31.♗d5?

Winning was 31.♗h4!, as indicated in the bulletin. White gives up his d-pawn in order to close the mating net around the enemy king. After 31...♗xd6 32.♖d7 ♗c5 33.♗f7+ ♔g7 34.♗h5+! ♔g8 35.♗f6 Black faces ruin. 35...♖f8 is coolly met by 36.♗xe5, and the white pieces reign supreme. The text allows Geller to reach a rook ending that he will just manage to draw.

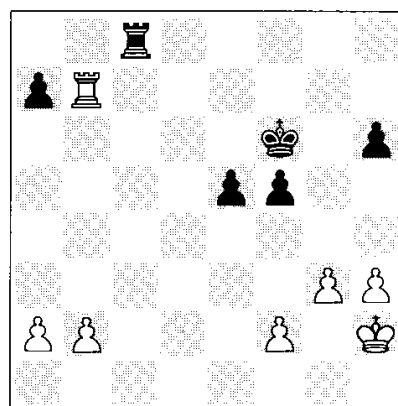
31...♗xe7 32.dxe7 ♖c8!

Accurate defending. In order to prevent the black rooks from becoming active,

White must now sacrifice his passed pawn in order to win back the exchange.

33.e8♗+ ♖xe8 34.♗f7+ ♔f6

35.♗xe8 ♖xe8 36.♖xb7 ♖c8



White cannot prevent Black from taking his rook to the second rank. Moreover, his king is awkwardly placed and the f-pawn is unprotected.

37.♖xa7

A better practical chance was 37.♔g2 in order to meet 37...♖c2 with 38.a4. But even then Black would be able to hold the draw with accurate play.

37...♖c2 38.♖a6+ ♔g7 39.♖b6

♖xf2+ 40.♔g1 ♖d2 41.a4 h5

42.h4 ♖d1+

At this point the game was adjourned.

43.♔f2 ♖a1

The customary way to draw these kinds of positions. Black keeps the connected passed pawns in check as best he can.

44.b3 ♖a2+ 45.♔e3 ♔f7 46.♖b5

♔f6 47.a5 e4 48.♖c5

After 48.♔f4 Black would have had 48...♖f2+.

48...♖g2 49.♖c6+ ♔e5 50.♖c5+

♔f6 51.a6

A last-ditch attempt.

51...♖xg3+ 52.♔f2 ♖xb3 53.♖a5

♖b8 54.a7 ♖a8 55.♔e3 ♔g7

56.♔f4 ♔g6

Draw.

ROUND 26

June 21

Kortchnoi - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Petrosian - Benko	1/2-1/2
Geller - Keres	1/2-1/2
Tal - Filip	-

A relatively quiet round in which the top positions do not change. Geller and Keres don't bite each other. Petrosian tries to gain the lead, is given some chances but in the end fails to triumph. The hard-fought battle between Kortchnoi and Fischer is important for the fight for fourth place; it finishes undecided, with the result that both players stay on the same number of points, except that Kortchnoi has played one game more than Fischer.

Queen's Pawn Opening

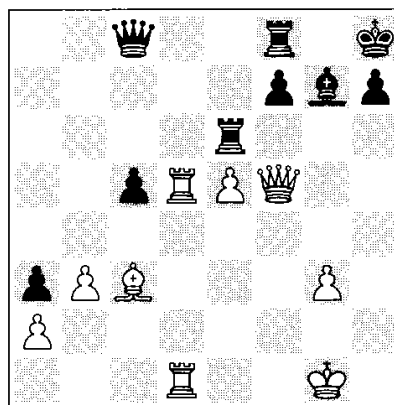
Viktor Kortchnoi
Robert Fischer

A nervous and chaotic game. Fischer come out of the opening with a reasonable position, but then starts a series of pretty aimless manoeuvres. Kortchnoi fails to exploit his opponent's lengthy meandering, but still manages to hold on to some advantage.

He could have made Black's life difficult with, for example, Panov's recommendation 36.♙a5 (instead of 36.♖d7), but even this wouldn't have tilted the balance. After 40 moves the game was adjourned and White sealed his move. Fischer then offered a draw, which Kortchnoi refused. After the resumption only one move was played when the players decided to split the point after all. This probably happened at White's instigation, although the bulletin does not enlighten us either way.

1.g3 g6 2.♘f3 ♘f6 3.♙g2 ♙g7 4.d4 c5

5.d5 d6 6.c4 b5 7.cxb5 ♖a5+ 8.♗fd2 ♖xb5 9.0-0 0-0 10.♗a3 ♖a6 11.♖e1 ♗bd7 12.e4 ♗e5 13.♙f1 ♖b7 14.h3 a5 15.f4 ♗ed7 16.♗dc4 ♗b6 17.♙d2 ♗xc4 18.♗xc4 ♖c7 19.♙c3 ♗d7 20.e5 a4 21.h4 ♗b6 22.h5 ♙a6 23.♗xb6 ♖xb6 24.♙xa6 ♖xa6 25.♙g2 dxe5 26.fxe5 a3 27.b3 ♖b7 28.♖f3 e6 29.♖ad1 exd5 30.hxg6 ♖xg6 31.♖xd5 ♖c8 32.♖ed1 ♖e6 33.♖g4 ♖fe8 34.♙g1 ♗h8 35.♖f5 ♖f8



36.♖d7 ♙g8 37.♖1d5 ♖g6 38.g4 ♖a6 39.♙f2 ♖h6 40.♖f4 ♖h1 41.♖d3 ♖b1
1/2-1/2

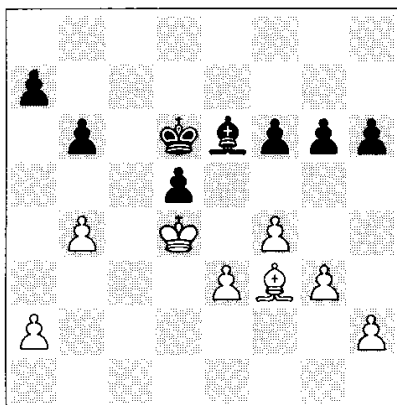
Grünfeld Indian Defence

Tigran Petrosian Pal Benko

Petrosian goes for a quiet set-up against the Grünfeld Indian, but still manages to build up a large advantage because of Benko's casual approach in the early middle game. But White lets much of his advantage slip through his fingers when he goes for a wholesale major piece swap. Averbakh correctly indicates in the bulletin that 21.♖d1 (instead of 21.♖c3) would have been very strong, as it would have enabled White to lay siege to the weak d-pawn for as long as he liked.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.♘c3 d5 4.♘f3 ♕g7
5.♕g5 ♘e4 6.cxd5 ♘xg5 7.♘xg5 e6
8.♘f3 exd5 9.e3 0-0 10.♕d3 b6 11.0-0
c5 12.♕e2 ♘c6 13.♖c1 cxd4 14.♘b5
♕b7 15.♘bxd4 ♘xd4 16.♘xd4 ♖c8
17.♗a4 ♖xc1 18.♖xc1 ♗b8 19.g3 ♕xd4
20.♗xd4 ♖c8 21.♖c3 ♖xc3 22.♗xc3
♗c8 23.♗xc8+ ♕xc8 24.♔f1 ♔f8
25.♔e1 ♔e7 26.♔d2 ♔d6 27.♔c3 ♔c5
28.b4+ ♔d6 29.♔d4 h6 30.f4 f6 31.♕f3
♕e6

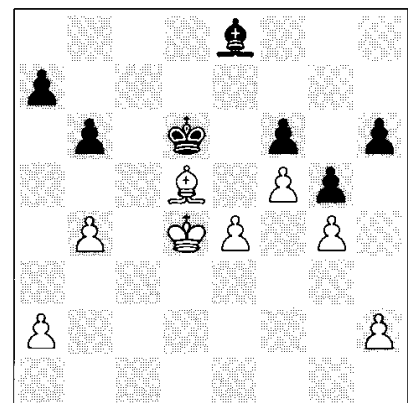
This is the one interesting moment in the bishop ending.



At this point, Petrosian played

32.♕g2

after which the game quickly petered out to a draw. Averbakh recommends 32.g4 as better, indicating the following variation: 32...g5 33.f5 ♕f7 34.♕h1 ♕g8 35.♕g2 ♕f7 36.♕f3 ♕g8 37.♕d1 ♕f7 38.♕b3 ♕g8 39.e4 ♕f7 40.♕xd5. After this, he says, Black should play 40...♕e8, as the pawn ending would be lost. About the remaining bishop ending he observes: 'It is not certain that White's position is winning, but he has all the chances.' Shekhtman quotes Averbakh's comments with a slightly different assessment, viz. that White would also have a decisive advantage in the bishop ending. It seems to me that White is indeed winning if he tries to break through at once.



analysis diagram

After 41.e5+! fxe5+ 42.♔e4 h5 43.gxh5 (not 43.h3 h4 44.a3 a5 45.bxa5 bxa5, and White is in *Zugzwang*; if he withdraws the bishop, Black plays 46...♕c6+) 43...♕xh5 44.♕c4, followed by 45.f6, the white king will eventually succeed in penetrating the enemy position. But I don't think this whole variation is particularly relevant. There is a far better defence for Black at an earlier stage, e.g. 34...h5, intending to sacrifice the d-pawn at once. This is far stronger than just sitting back and waiting for White to come

at him. After 35.gxh5 ♖xh5 36.♗xd5 ♗e2 it is not at all sure that White will be able to win. Even better for Black is to postpone playing g6-g5 until White has played h2-h4. And it would have been highly surprising if the diagrammed position had been losing for Black, since he really has only one weakness.

**32...♗f7 33.♗f1 ♗e6 34.♗d3 g5
35.♗c2 ♗g4 36.♗a4 ♗f3 37.♗b5 ♗g2
38.fxg5 fxg5 39.♗d3 ♗h3 40.♗g6 ♔e6
41.♗h7 ♔d6 42.a3** 1/2-1/2

English Opening

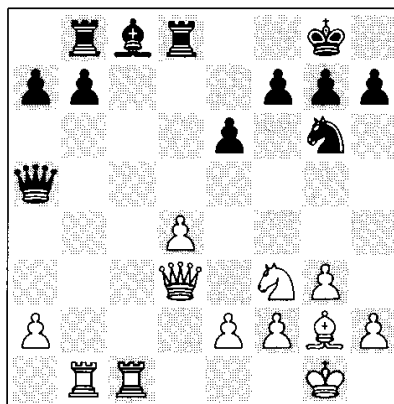
**Efim Geller
Paul Keres**

It is remarkable how often the English version of the bulletin differs from the Dutch. In the English report of this game, for example, we find this: 'Few moves, therefore few words; draw after 15 moves. Correct, of course, both satisfied.' This seems an accurate enough summary of the proceedings on the board, but the Dutch version highlights entirely different concerns: 'Geller-Keres disappointed the audience,' goes the first sentence, after which Withuis continues as follows:

'As we have already pointed out, Geller was probably thinking of the third prize; who wouldn't?'

This rhetorical question is never answered, of course. Even if Geller had lost, only a miracle would have enabled Fischer to catch up with him. You can sense from the comment that the author was anything but happy with the result, but without wanting to show this to the English-speaking public. For Geller himself not being allowed to play for a win must have been terribly frustrating, but it clearly illustrates the stringency of the agreement between the three Soviet players.

**1.♘f3 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 c5 4.g3 ♘c6
5.♗g2 d5 6.cxd5 ♘xd5 7.0-0 ♗e7 8.d4
♘xc3 9.bxc3 0-0 10.♖b1 ♔a5 11.♔d3
♖d8 12.♗g5 cxd4 13.♗xe7 ♘xe7
14.cxd4 ♗g6 15.♖fc1 ♖b8** 1/2-1/2



ROUND 27

June 23

Filip - Kortchnoi	0-1
Fischer - Petrosian	1/2-1/2
Benko - Keres	1-0
Geller - Tal	-

In the penultimate round, almost all eyes are on the game Benko-Keres. Nerves and exhaustion mark the great Estonian's play; it is a small miracle that he is still on his feet when the game is adjourned. But it is his sealed move in particular that seals his fate. Petrosian takes advantage of his rival's defeat: via a solid draw against Fischer he moves into the sole lead for the first time.

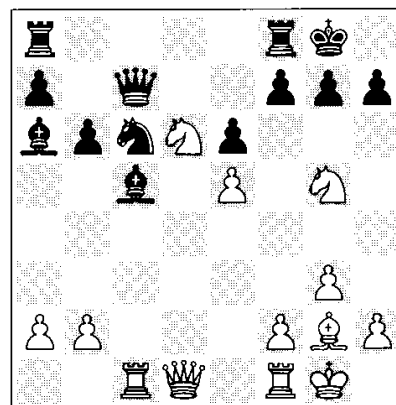
Queen's Pawn Opening

Miroslav Filip Viktor Kortchnoi

Kortchnoi's last game of the tournament. Helped by a rather fortunate win he finishes on 50 per cent, which is not enough to catch Fischer. Remarkably enough, Filip seems to have got his second breath during this last part of the tournament. Although far down the standings due to a series of losses, he continues to go all out trying to set up his games in the best possible way. He clearly has nothing to lose. As in his game against Geller, however, he fails to make his efforts count. Black gets into trouble after his passive 13th move, when he would have done better to strive for counterbalance in the centre. After this move White takes the initiative, and if he hadn't fallen for the temptation to try a combination, Kortchnoi would have had a rough time of it again. There was no cure for the straightforward 18. ♖c2!, intending to meet 18... g6 with 19. ♖fd1. As

it happened, Black adroitly manoeuvred his way to a winning position. The game is adjourned, but Filip resigned without resuming play.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.♘f3 c5 3.c3 e6 4.g3 d5
5.♙g2 ♘c6 6.0-0 ♙e7 7.dxc5 ♙xc5
8.♙g5 0-0 9.♘bd2 ♙e7 10.♙xf6 ♙xf6
11.e4 d4 12.cxd4 ♙xd4 13.♘c4 ♙c5
14.e5 ♜c7 15.♞c1 b6 16.♘g5 ♙b7
17.♘d6 ♙a6



18.♙xc6 ♜xc6 19.♜h5 h6 20.♘gf7
♜d7 21.b4 ♙xf1 22.♙xf1 ♙xb4
23.♘xh6+ gxh6 24.♜g4+ ♜g7
25.♜xb4 ♜xe5 26.♜g4+ ♜g7

27.♖xe6+ ♔h8 28.♗f5 ♖f6 29.♖xf6+
 ♗xf6 30.g4 b5 31.♖c7 b4 32.♔g2 ♖b6
 33.h4 a5 34.♗e3 a4 35.♗c4 ♖bb8
 36.♗e5 b3 37.axb3 axb3 38.g5 hxg5
 39.♗f7+ ♔g8 40.♗h6+ ♔f8 41.hxg5
 ♖b6 0-1

♖b6 24.bxc5 ♗xc5+ 25.♖xc5 ♖xb2
 26.♖c2 ♖d4+ 27.♖xd4 ♗xd4 28.♖fc1
 g5 29.♖c8+ ♖xc8 30.♖xc8+ ♔g7
 31.♖c2 g4 32.♔f2 gxf3 33.♗xf3 ♖d3
 34.♔e2 ♖a3 35.♖d2

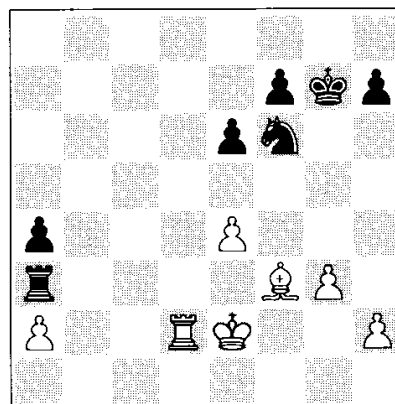
Sicilian Defence

Robert Fischer Tigran Petrosian

Petrosian goes for a different defence. Before this game he regularly opted for the Caro-Kann against the American, and in the early stages of the tournament his opening of choice was the French. Fischer fails to get anything out of the opening. In the early middle game he refuses a draw offer, a decision he may well have regretted afterwards. However that may be, Petrosian manages to build up an advantage with subtle play.

The final position gives rise to conflicting assessments. In the bulletin it is suggested that neither player will be able to undertake anything. Vasiliev takes a different view, observing: '(...) and soon the initiative passed into the hands of Petrosian, but he was so taken up with following Keres' game that he did not pay much attention to this and agreed to a draw.' Who is right? In order to answer this question I will give you the position just before the end.

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♗xd4
 e6 5.♗c3 ♖c7 6.g3 a6 7.♗g2 ♗f6 8.0-0
 ♗e7 9.b3 0-0 10.♗b2 ♗xd4 11.♖xd4
 d6 12.♖ac1 b5 13.♗d1 ♗b7 14.♗e3
 ♖fd8 15.c4 b4 16.c5 dxc5 17.♖xb4
 ♗c6 18.♖c3 ♖b7 19.f3 a5 20.♗c4 a4
 21.♗a5 ♖b6 22.♗xc6 ♖xc6 23.b4



Here Petrosian decided to go for

35...h5

after which a draw was agreed.

From a strategic point of view, advancing the h-pawn looks good: Black is threatening to take his knight to g4, as the ensuing rook ending is winning for him. If White reacts passively with 36.h3, Black can reinforce his position even further with 36...e5. But White has a stronger defence, viz. 36.e5!. The point of this advance is that the rook ending after 36...♗g4 37.♗xg4 hxg4 38.♖d4! is just about tenable. It is slightly surprising that White allows his a-pawn to be taken with check, but after 38...♖xa2+ 39.♔e3 Black will find it hard to make his extra pawn count, e.g. 39...♔g6 40.♖xg4+ ♔f5 41.♖f4+ ♔xe5 42.♖xf7 ♖xh2 43.♖a7, and White is saved by the fact that he has a passed pawn as well. This would at least have forced Petrosian to prove himself. This situation is reminiscent of the 10th match game Smyslov-Kasparov, Vilnius 1984, in which Black also accepted a draw in a po-

sition that offered him at least practical chances and not the slightest bit of risk.

In the diagrammed position, incidentally, Petrosian had a stronger option in 35...e5!, when the white e-pawn is fixed on the colour of his bishop, allowing Black to reinforce his position at his leisure. He can take his rook to c3, advance the a-pawn and aim to manoeuvre his rook to b2. He could also advance his h-pawn after all and take his king to g6 and his knight to e6. White, meanwhile, is reduced to passively awaiting developments.

I find it strange that Petrosian missed this chance. It reminds me of the first match game Spassky-Petrosian, Moscow 1966, when after a quiet enough game a roughly equal queen ending had arisen. Around move 30, however, Spassky made a serious error, allowing Petrosian to win a pawn.

Vasiliev describes what happened next: 'He saw this opportunity immediately and... then it turned out that he himself was hardly as calm as he had at first thought. Realizing that he had chances of victory, Petrosian – or his evil genius “the desire-for-strengthening-the-position” – decided to try and see if there were another, quicker way of winning the pawn. He thought that there was, but overlooked a very obvious retort, and after a few moves a draw was agreed. Making his incorrect move, Tigran, unnoticed, felt his pulse beneath the table. Instead of his normal 65-70, it was 140!'

Against Fischer, this 'evil genius' may also have been active in Petrosian, and maybe his pulse quickened under the tension. But it seems to me that any true-born chess player knows the feeling when

you're suddenly looking at a superior or even winning position: suddenly you have this sensation in body and mind that you really need to suppress.

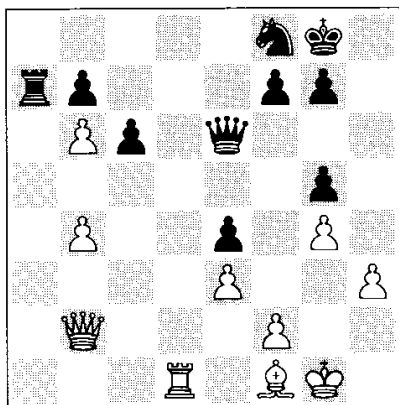
Réti Opening

Pal Benko Paul Keres

This is the game that Petrosian was following so avidly. Keres was glued to the board after getting into trouble in the opening. His 10th move is bad, and initially Benko exploits this lapse to the full. Then there follows a chaotic interlude: on move twenty, White has a chance to win a pawn by making a few swaps without risking to lose the initiative. He fails to make use of it, but manages to continue to put pressure on the black position.

Then Keres blunders on move 31, leaving his e-pawn *en prise*. Benko, in the throes of his usual time-trouble, fails to seize the opportunity, but again continues to keep a tight grip on the position till the adjournment.

1.♘f3 d5 2.g3 ♘g4 3.♙g2 ♘d7 4.0-0 c6
5.d3 e5 6.h3 ♙h5 7.c4 dxc4 8.dxc4
♘gf6 9.♙e3 ♚c7 10.♘c3 ♙b4 11.♚b3
a5 12.♘h4 ♙e7 13.♘a4 0-0 14.g4 ♙g6
15.♘xg6 hxg6 16.♖fd1 ♖ab8 17.c5
♘h7 18.♘b6 ♖fd8 19.♚c3 ♙g5 20.♘c4
♙xe3 21.♚xe3 ♖e8 22.♚a3 ♖a8
23.♖d2 ♘hf8 24.♖ad1 ♖ed8 25.♚e3
♖e8 26.b3 ♖ab8 27.a3 ♖a8 28.b4 axb4
29.axb4 ♖a4 30.♚c3 ♖a6 31.♖d6 ♘f6
32.♘b6 e4 33.e3 g5 34.♚d2 ♚e7
35.♖d8 ♖a3 36.♖xe8 ♚xe8 37.♚b2
♖a7 38.♘c4 ♚e6 39.♙f1 ♘d5 40.♘b6
♘xb6 41.cxb6



42...♖a2

Panic. Black's only chance was 42...cxb5 43.♙xb5 ♖a8, although even then White will retain a large advantage after 44.♘c4.

43.♙b1

Now Black cannot prevent the white rook from penetrating on d8, as 43...♖a8 is met with crushing force by 44.bxc6 ♙xc6 45.♖c1, followed by 46.♖c7.

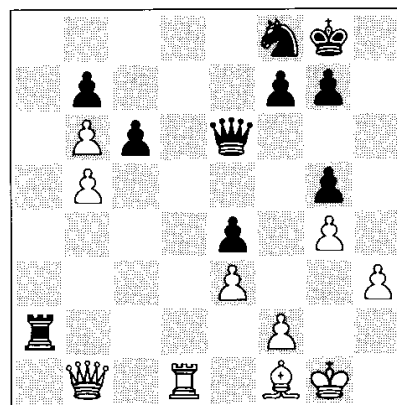
Before the arbiter arrived at the board with the envelope for the sealed move, Benko had quickly recaptured on b6, which meant that that it was Keres now who would have to seal his move.

41...♖a4?

The great Estonian was clearly a mere shadow of his former self in this decisive phase of the tournament. There was no reason at all to suddenly become active. The correct move was 41...♖a8. 'White still retains the advantage, though it's not nearly as large as it was earlier in the game,' Benko observes. I believe that Black should have little enough trouble holding his position.

42.b5!

A strong move. After 42...c5 White has 43.♙c2, winning the c-pawn.



43...cxb5

This loses at once, but as Benko indicates, Black would also have been lost after 43...c5 44.♖d8 ♖a5 45.♖b8.

44.♖d8

With the devastating threat of 45.♙b4.

44...f5 45.gxf5 ♙f7 46.♘xb5 g6

47.♖c8

Black resigns.

ROUND 28

June 26

Petrosian - Filip	1/2-1/2
Keres - Fischer	1/2-1/2
Geller - Benko	1-0
Tal - Kortchnoi	-

At the outset of this round Petrosian is master of his own fate. ‘Tigran had to play his most accommodating opponent – peace-loving Filip,’ as Vasiliev put it. You’d expect he would try a few cautious winning attempts after a quiet opening, but things panned out very differently: after Filip’s 14th move Petrosian thought for 40 minutes and then offered a draw without playing another move. Keres, meanwhile, had built up a promising position against Fischer. Filip shot his opponent a surprised look and then, with a shrug, accepted his offer – he’d simply had to swallow too many disappointments already. It is quite remarkable to see how many games Petrosian had won as Black, attacking from a defensive position. Against Filip he ought to have exploited his initiative, but he just didn’t seem to be in the mood. Another possibility is that he did not really mind Keres drawing level with him, since as the younger man he would probably be the favourite in any decider. However this may be, what everyone was waiting for now was the outcome of Keres-Fischer. The American must have had some scary moments, because White had a strong attack. In normal circumstances, Keres would have been in his element, but the great Estonian’s concentration started to flag and he allowed Fischer to take refuge in a slightly inferior endgame. There was, however, little White could do and Keres soon agreed to split the point. How could it happen that he had lost so much confidence towards the end of the tournament? Withuis, who was on friendly terms with Keres, later said that the Estonian ‘had not been too pushed’. He had not been looking forward to an exhausting duel against Botvinnik; the Candidates’ tournament had been tiring enough.

Now suddenly Keres was caught by Geller. In the earlier stages of the game this had not looked very likely. During the time-trouble phase Geller had made an unwarranted winning attempt, with the result that Benko went into the adjournment with a winning queen ending – right up his alley, you would think. In the second session, however, he played so hesitantly that in the end he overstepped the time. Having held Keres to a draw, Fischer secured fourth place for himself, while Filip’s half-point against Petrosian allowed him to draw level with Tal, except that Filip had played six more games!

Queen's Gambit Declined

Tigran Petrosian
Miroslav Filip

Filip deviates from his earlier game as Black against Petrosian and goes for a sideline with a rather doubtful reputation. An interesting detail is that Petrosian later used this variation as well, viz. in his fifth match game against Kortchnoi, Velden 1980. When, on move 10, Petrosian fails to play the most direct continuation – 10. ♘e5, followed by 11. ♖f3 – Black gets out of the starting-blocks. In the final position they are fighting an interesting strategic battle. If White plays 15.e4, Black can play either 15...dxe4 or 15...b4, in both cases with reasonable play. White should probably have played something like 15. ♖h1 or 15.g4 at once in order to launch an offensive on the kingside.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♘f3 d5 4.♘c3 ♙e7
5.♙f4 0-0 6.e3 b6 7.cxd5 exd5 8.♙d3
c5 9.0-0 ♙b7 10.♖c1 ♘bd7 11.♘e5
♘xe5 12.♙xe5 c4 13.♙b1 ♙c6 14.f3 b5
1/2-1/2

Queen's Gambit Declined

Paul Keres
Robert Fischer

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.♘c3 ♘f6
4.♘f3 ♙e7 5.cxd5

Remarkable. If White had wanted to play the exchange variation, he would have been better off swapping on d5 one move earlier. The text leads to quiet positions in which Black usually finds it relatively easy to equalise.

5...exd5 6.♙f4 c6

Black is preparing to develop his bishop to f5.

7.♖c2 g6 8.e3 ♙f5 9.♙d3 ♙xd3
10.♖xd3 ♘bd7 11.0-0 0-0 12.h3

Keres clearly has no ambitions in this game.

12...♘h5

But this is a dubious move that hands White the advantage. Reliable alternatives were:

A) 12...♘b6 13.♘d2 ♖e8 14.♖fe1 ♖d7 15.♖ac1 ♙f8 16.♖c2 ♖e6 17.♖b3 ♘e4, with equality, Lilienthal-Makogonov, Soviet championship, Leningrad 1947;

B) 12...♖e8 13.♖ab1 a5 14.a3 a4 15.♖c2 ♖a5 16.♖fd1 ♙f8 17.♘e5. Thus far Larsen-Spassky, Montreal 1979. According to Larsen, Black could now have equalised with 17...♖a6! (instead of 17...♖e7, as in the game).

13.♙h6 ♖e8 14.♖ab1

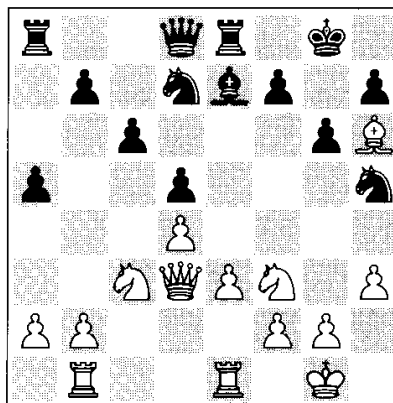
White is following the standard plan.

14...a5

Black, for his part, also sticks to what is generally accepted wisdom in this type of position: he prevents the advance of the white b-pawn.

15.♖fe1

A modest enough move, but one with a massive effect.



15...f5?

Fischer apparently wants to prevent the advance of the white e-pawn, but the text entails a serious weakening of his kingside, which White is able to exploit at once. Correct was 15...♘hf6, after which White's advantage would have remained limited.

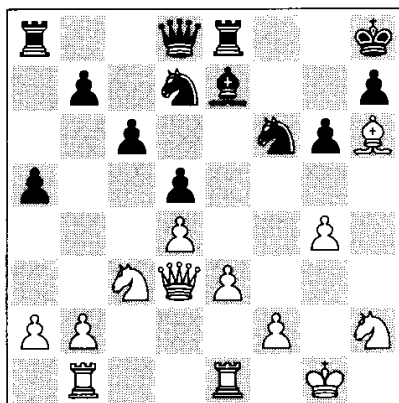
16.g4!

Keres pounces at once. With this advance he not only gains space on the kingside, but the opening of the h-file also yields him a strong attack that is probably already decisive.

16...fxg4 17.hxg4 ♘hf6 18.♘h2

A passive move to cover the g-pawn that Black is not able to exploit, as 18...♙d6 is followed by 19.f3 ♖c7 20.♗e2, and White keeps control of the position.

18...♙h8



Based on a deep trap.

19.♙f4!

Keres is alert. After the obvious 19.♙g2 Black had the possibility of 19...♙d6, and now 20.f3 fails to 20...♙xh2 21.♙xh2 ♘xg4+! 22.fxg4 ♖h4+, winning a pawn. With the text, White takes control of the h2-b8 diagonal.

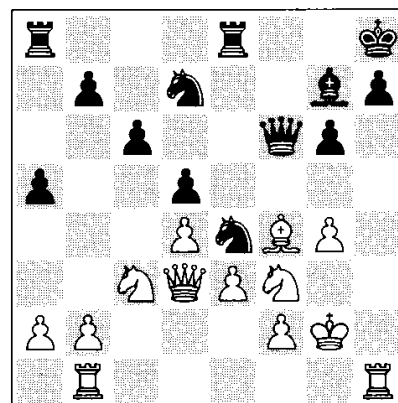
19...♙f8 20.♙g2

Now it's OK. The half-open h-file is vacated for the white rooks.

20...♘e4 21.♘f3

White calmly continues to build up his attack.

21...♙g7 22.♗h1 ♖f6



23.♖c2

A passive move that allows some of White's pressure on the enemy position to melt away. Correct was 23.♗h4, as indicated by Salo Flohr. The Russian grandmaster adds the assessment that White is winning, and it's true that it is hard to see how Black would build up anything in the way of a successful defence. 23...♘f8 would be met very strongly by 24.♙e5.

23...♙g8 24.♙e5 ♖e6

This is how Black forces a liquidation to the endgame.

25.♘xe4 dxe4 26.♖xe4 ♙xe5

27.dxe5 ♘f6

A queen swap has become inevitable.

28.♖f4 ♖xg4+ 29.♖xg4 ♘xg4

30.♗bd1 ♘xe5

Draw.

King's Indian Defence

Efim Geller
Pal Benko

The last game of the tournament, and a very dramatic one to boot.

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 g6 3.g3 c5 4.d5

d6 5.♙g2 ♙g7 6.♘c3 a6

Interesting. Benko prepares to advance the b-pawn. Many years later he would introduce this idea into practice through a gambit (1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5). The Benko gambit is still regarded as a reliable defence.

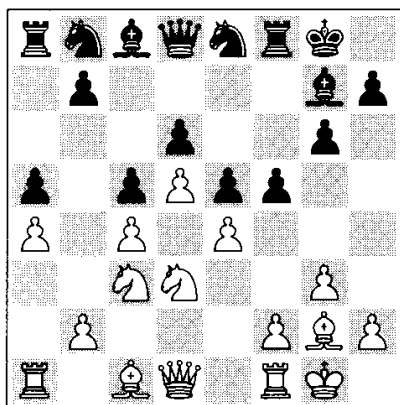
7.a4 0-0 8.♘f3 e5 9.0-0

According to Réti's adage, you should always think twice before castling, as the position might contain a stronger move, and his warning certainly applies here: a very good move for White was 9.a5 in order to gain space on the queenside.

9...a5

A good offensive move. The queenside is locked, so White is reduced to trying to exploit his space advantage via the kingside.

10.e4 ♘e8 11.♘e1 f5 12.♘d3



Preventing the further advance of the enemy f-pawn, while at the same time preparing to push his own.

12...♘a6 13.f4 ♘b4

Just in time. Black has almost equalised.

14.fxg5 ♘xd3 15.♙xd3 ♘xe5

16.♘h6 ♘g7 17.♙d2 ♘d7

18.♙ae1 fxe4 19.♙xf8+ ♙xf8

20.♘xe4 ♘d4+

An important intermediate check. 20...♘f5 at once would fail to 21.♘xc5.

21.♙h1 ♘f5 22.♘g5

Geller is following an ambitious plan: he is going to take his knight to e6 in order to continue to exert pressure on the enemy position. This is his only chance to play for an advantage.

22...♙e8 23.♘e6 ♙e7 24.h3

After this little move all life quickly drains out of the position. Sharper was 24.♙xa5 in order to return with 25.♙d2 after 24...♘xb2, when Black has the following possibilities:

A) 25...♘e5? 26.♙xe5! dxe5 27.d6!, followed by 28.♘xc5, and White gets very good compensation for the exchange.

B) 25...♙f6 26.♙f1 ♙c3 27.♙xc3 ♘xc3 28.♙b1, and White retains some initiative. The strategic reason for capturing on a5 is that it may yield White a passed a-pawn if Black were to swap on e6.

24...♘xe6 25.dxe6 ♘e5 26.♘f4 ♙c7

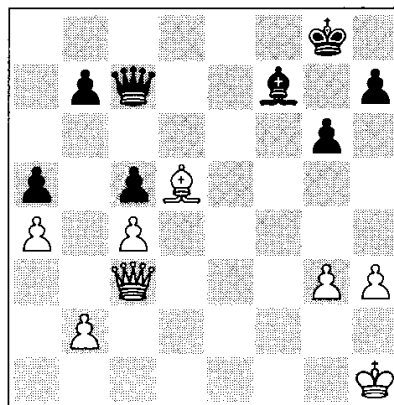
Black has a sound defence, but wholesale swapping actions have now become inevitable.

27.♘xe5 dxe5 28.♙c3 ♘xe6

29.♙xe5 ♘f7 30.♙xe8+ ♘xe8

31.♘d5+ ♘f7

The draw seems to be within reach, but Geller continues to harbour ambitions that turn out to be unwarranted.



32.♔g2?

White should have swapped on f7.

32...♙xd5+ 33.cxd5 ♖d6

Now White is left with a weak d-pawn that will eventually be lost. These kinds of queen endings are treacherous: it looks as if Black is already winning here.

34.♖d3 ♕f7 35.h4 ♖e5

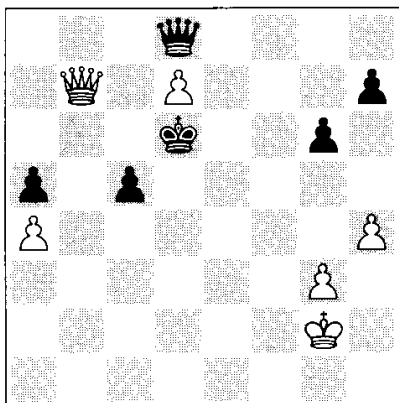
With the king brought into close proximity, Black can centralise his queen. If White plays 36.b3, he has 36...♕e7, followed by 37...♕d6 ready.

36.d6 ♖xb2+ 37.♕f3

37.♕h3 would have been met by 37...♖f6, with consequences similar to those in the game.

37...♕e6 38.d7 ♖f6+ 39.♕g2**♖d8 40.♖b3+ ♕d6**

And in this position the game was adjourned.

41.♖xb7

The sealed move. The interim analysis must have shown Geller that his situation was hopeless. During the rest of the game White does all he can to make Black's technical job more difficult.

41...♖xd7 42.♖b8+ ♖c7**43.♖h8 ♕d5 44.♖c3 c4 45.g4****♖c6 46.h5**

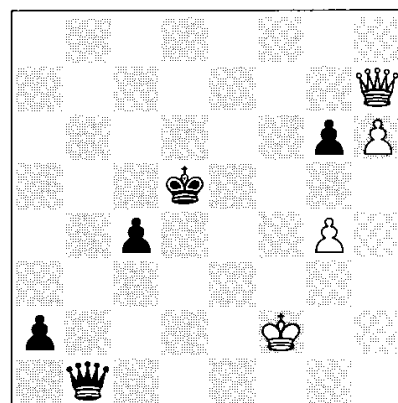
After 46.♖xa5+ ♕d4+, followed by 47...c3, Black would have had an easy win. By advancing his kingside pawns White tries to muddy the waters.

46...♖xa4 47.h6 ♖a2+ 48.♕f1**a4**

After this move the win becomes problematic. With 48...g5! Black could have put a definite end to White's counterplay. 49.♖g7 is met by 49...♖b1+, followed by 50...♖c2+ and 51...c3, after which the black c-pawn decides the outcome.

49.♖g7

And suddenly White has counterplay.

49...a3 50.♖xh7 ♖b1+ 51.♕f2**a2**

Does Black have anything better? It does not look like it, since White now has a dangerous passed pawn.

52.♖f7+ ♕c5 53.♖c7+ ♕d5**54.♖f7+ ♕d6**

After making this move Black lost by exceeding his time – a fitting symbolic end for Benko in a way: he had been plagued by time-trouble during the whole length of the tournament and in the end it finally got the better of him.



Fischer visits Tal in hospital. Tal's doctor, the internist Wim Statius van Eps, is an amused spectator. (photo Richard C. Cantwell)



The winner of the Candidates' Tournament and challenger of World Champion Botvinnik: Tigran Petrosian.

FOURTH PART

Cross table

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Total
1 Fischer	*	½	1	1	½	½	½	4
2 Petrosian	½	*	½	½	½	½	1	3½
3 Benko	0	½	*	0	½	1	1	3
4 Geller	0	½	1	*	½	½	½	3
5 Filip	½	½	½	½	*	½	0	2½
6 Keres	½	½	0	½	½	*	½	2½
7 Kortchnoi	½	0	0	½	1	½	*	2½

Final standings

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Total
1 Petrosian	*	½½½½	½½½½	½1½½	½½11	½½1½	11½-	½11½	17½
2 Geller	½½½½	*	½½½½	11½0	½½1½	½½½1	½11-	½11½	17
3 Keres	½½½½	½½½½	*	0½1½	½½1½	1110	1½1-	½11½	17
4 Fischer	½0½½	00½1	1½0½	*	010½	01½1	½1½-	1½1½	14
5 Kortchnoi	½½00	½½0½	½½0½	101½	*	½½½0	10½-	1111	13½
6 Benko	½½0½	½½½0	0001	10½0	½½½1	*	10½-	011½	12
7 Tal	00½-	½00-	0½0-	½0½-	01½-	01½-	*	10½-	7
8 Filip	½00½	½00½	½00½	0½0½	0000	100½	01½-	*	7

EPILOGUE

Petrosian's victory had come about through a combination of accuracy and strategic superiority. Accuracy was also the word that comes to mind when you look at the way he planned his progress through the tournament. Only once did he have a demonstrably lost position: in his endgame against Benko in Round 5. In all his other games he either called the shots or built up a solid and reliable defence.

Keres and Geller ended up trailing the winner by just half a point, which is very little in such a long tournament. Yet both of them were clearly more vulnerable than Petrosian, sometimes hauling in their win after nerve-racking time-trouble duels. With Petrosian one had the impression that he sometimes held back, that he still had reserves from which he could have drawn on if the worst had come to the worst.

After the tournament Petrosian gave an interview to the Polish magazine *Sport-press International* that stirred up bad feelings in Curaçao. The passage people objected to read as follows: 'The climatic conditions there were terrible and the hall where we played was so poorly prepared for the two-month tournament that I am deeply convinced none of those who authored the new regulation would have been able to sit and watch there. And we had to play there!'

A local newspaper cried shame about these words. Under the headline 'Petrosian reveals himself as a wolf in sheep's clothing' it published the following comments, among others: 'This Russian, so adulated and applauded on Curaçao, who made such a pleasant impression on all and sundry, turns out, as a Communist, to have romped all over our island as a wolf in chess sheep's clothes.'

It's interesting that the paper calls Petrosian a 'Russian' rather than an Armenian. But this is really neither here nor there; people just didn't differentiate so clearly in those days as we are accustomed to doing since the fall of the Soviet empire. The newspaper's reaction is clearly one of injured pride and indignation. It is lashing out instinctively: the Curaçao tournament had been organised with the best possible intentions.

From my own personal experience I know that Willemstad is a heavenly place to stay. I have played three open tournaments there to date, and its people invariably were as friendly as its beaches were beautiful, while both the hotel and the playing hall always offered every conceivable comfort. I will always cherish fond memories of the island.

But things are very different when you are having to play 28 rounds instead of nine, especially with the stakes so much higher. Under such circumstances the tropical heat can be murderous. Taking this into account, the sojourn in St. Martin was badly suited to give the players their desired rest. On Curaçao itself, the prevailing winds provide some measure of coolness, but on the Windward Islands, of which St. Martin is one, there is no such relieve to be got.

However this may be, it seems unlikely that Petrosian had realised that his comments to the Polish journal would filter all the way down to Curaçao.

It is much more likely that it was a veiled hint from the Soviet authorities, as Petrosian clearly indicated that he would not play in such difficult climatic conditions again. It is also possible that he made his comments on behalf of the other Soviet participants.

Petrosian barely had nine months in which to prepare for his titanic clash with Botvinnik. He starts by losing the first game in the Estrada theatre in Moscow – a sensation of the first order, especially since he was White. What none of his seven opponents had managed to do in two months in Willemstad, Botvinnik did on the very first day. ‘Petrosian must have suffered from stage fright throughout the game,’ Bob Wade observes in the match book he authored.

But our Armenian hero gradually succeeds in pulling himself together. After a fierce battle lasting two months he has conquered the world title. The Willemstad tournament heralded the Petrosian era, which would last for six years.

‘He set himself the aim of becoming World Champion and he achieved it.’ Thus Boris Spassky, the man who was to take over his crown.

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The 1962 Candidates' Tournament in Curaçao was one of the fiercest chess battles of all time. At the height of the Cold War, eight players contested the right to challenge World Champion Mikhail Botvinnik. The format of the tournament was a gruelling quadruple round-robin. Twenty-eight games were to be played on the tropical island, in a contest that lasted two months. The air trembled with drama and intrigue. One of the favourites, the brilliant Mikhail Tal, was taken to hospital after 21 rounds and had to withdraw. Three other players from the Soviet Union, Keres, Petrosian, and Geller, were making suspiciously short draws when playing each other. The two American players came to blows over the services of the second they were supposed to share. Bella Kortchnoi, whose husband took an early lead in the tournament, was a puppet in the hands of the scheming Rona Petrosian, the wife of the later winner. And one of the favourites was a lanky 19-year-old boy from Brooklyn, Bobby Fischer, who openly accused the Soviets of collusion and was later proven right. In the end, Tigran Petrosian was the winner and went on to become the new World Champion the following year. But such was the impact of Fischer's accusations that this was the last time such a battle was organised. Henceforth the challenger to the highest crown was determined in a series of matches. Curaçao 1962 was the last Candidates' Tournament.

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