



GRIVAS CHESS INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY

FISCHER VS. GREECE CLOCK SIMUL 1968

EFSTRATIOS GRIVAS

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Symbols

+	Check	=	equal position
++	double check	oo	unclear position
#	Checkmate	oo/=	with compensation
!!	brilliant move	=+	Black is slightly better
!	good move	-/+	Black has a large advantage
!?	interesting move	--+	Black is winning
?!	dubious move	1-0	the game ends in a win for White
?	bad move	½-½	the game ends in a draw
??	Blunder	0-1	the game ends in a win for Black
+-	White is winning	(D)	see next diagram
+/-	White has a large advantage	○	White to play
+=	White is slightly better	●	Black to play

Contents

<i>Title-Description</i>	1
<i>Colophon</i>	2
<i>Symbols</i>	2
<i>Contents</i>	3
<i>Chess Exhibition with Clocks</i>	3
<i>Curriculum Vitae - Efstratios Grivas</i>	4
<i>Chess in Greece</i>	5
<i>Greek Chess Federation Logos</i>	6
<i>The Event</i>	7
<i>A Match Recap - Spiros Ilandzis</i>	9
<i>Photo Gallery</i>	11
<i>Game 1 - Fischer-Trikaliotis</i>	13
<i>Game 2 - Vizantiadis-Fischer</i>	21
<i>Game 3 - Fischer-Ornithopoulos</i>	27
<i>Game 4 - Kokkoris-Fischer</i>	33
<i>Game 5 - Fischer-Anastasopoulos</i>	37

Chess Exhibition with Clocks (Clock Simul)

In clock simul, all games are played on a time constraint, measured by a chess clock.

Usually, the number of participants is lower in clock simul (than in the normal

Simul), as the host (the strong player) has a significant time disadvantage, with his clock ticking on all boards at the same time.

It is usually played on 4-5 boards.

Curriculum Vitae Efstratios Grivas



Efstratios Grivas (30.03.1966) is a highly experienced chess trainer and chess author. He has been awarded by the International Chess Federation (FIDE) the titles of International Chess Grandmaster, FIDE Senior Trainer, International Chess Arbiter, International Chess Organiser and ECU Senior Coach.

His main successes over the board are the Silver Medal Olympiad 1998 (3rd Board), the Gold Medal European Team Championship 1989 (3rd Board) and the 4th Position World Junior Championship U.20 1985. He has also won 5 Balkan Medals (2 Gold - 1 Silver - 2 Bronze) and he was 3 times Winner of the International 'Acropolis' Tournament. He has also in his credit the 28 times first position in Greek Individual

& Team Championships and he has won various international tournaments as well. Finally, in 2022, he won 3 Championships of the United Arab Emirates (2 Individual and 1 Team).

He was also been awarded six FIDE Medals in the Annual FIDE Awards (Winner of the FIDE Boleslavsky Medal 2009 & 2015 (best author) - Winner of the FIDE Euwe Medal 2011 & 2012 & 2017 (best junior trainer) - Winner of the FIDE Razuvaev Medal 2014 (Trainers' education) and has been a professional Lecturer at FIDE Seminars for Training & Certifying Trainers. In the period 2009-2018 he served as the Secretary of the FIDE Trainers' Commission. Since 2022 he is the Secretary of the ECU Trainers' Commission and during 2019-2024 he was the Technical Director of the Sharjah International Chess Academy (Sharjah).

He has published a large number of Books & DVDs (150) in Arabic, English, French, Greek, Iranian, Italian, Mongolian, Spanish & Turkish languages. His publishers & languages are: Apollon Ektipotiki (Greek), Chess Evolution (English), ChessBase (English), ChessCastle (English), Chess Lab (English), Everyman Chess (English), FIDE (English & French), Gambit Publications (English), Grivas Chess International Academy (English & Greek), IChess (English), Kaissa Chess Center (Greek), Kedros Publishers (Greek), Klitharimos Publishers (Greek), La Casa del Ajedrez (Spanish), Mongolian Chess Federation (Mongolian), New In Chess (English), Prisma (Italian), Russell Enterprises (English), Sabah Chess Academy (English), Sharjah Cultural & Chess Club (Arabic & English), Skyfos Ekdotiki (Greek), Soheil Hooshdaran Chess Academy (Iranian), Thinkers Publishing (English) and Turkiye Santranc Federasyonu (Turkish).



Scan the QR-Code
for detailed
Curriculum Vitae



Chess in Greece

The Greek Chess Federation was founded in 1948 and it was officially recognised by the Greek Ministry of Sports in 1967.

Greece has organised some of the most important FIDE championships, such as the 1984 & 1988 Chess Olympiads, the 1990 & 1998 1.5 Zonal Tournaments for the World Championship, the 1999 & 2000 European Youth Championships, the 2001 & 2012 World Junior Championship, the 2002 & 2003 European Club Championships, the 2003 & 2004 World Youth Championships, the 2007 European Team Championships, etc.

According to recent statistics, members of the Greek Chess Federation are 41.000 chess players of 6 up to 85 years of age, 277 officially recognised chess clubs and 11 officially recognised local chess unions & committees.

Chess has been developing rapidly in the last 40 years, especially among the younger generation. An estimated number of more than 1,000,000 people play or follow chess regularly in Greece.

Major Greek newspapers have regular chess columns covering domestic and international chess news, while all major developments or successes of Greek chess receive nationwide coverage even in TV and mass media.

The military junta, known simply as the Junta in Greece, was imposed on April 21st, 1967 when army officers, led by Colonel George Papadopoulos, Brigadier Stylianos Pattakos and Colonel Nikolaos Makarezos seized power in a coup d'état.

Having positioned about 100 tanks in the

Athens area, the coup leaders made their move at dawn on the 21st of April and first occupied the Ministry of Defence.

They then set the 'Operation Prometheus' in action, mobilising all the military units in Attica.

The NATO emergency plan was originally intended to impose military rule in the case of a Communist uprising if Soviet forces invaded Greece.

The Greek Junta lasted seven years (1967-1974), during which the military dictatorship abolished all political freedoms, and imprisonments, torture and exile became an everyday phenomenon for every Greek.

But during these dark times, something good happened for the Greek Chess. Mr. Konstantinos Aslanidis was a Lieutenant Colonel and became the Secretary General of Greek Sports during the rule of the Greek military junta of 1967-1974.

Konstantinos Aslanidis was a controversial figure throughout his tenure as Secretary General.

But at the same time he was a great admirer of chess, so he recognised chess as a sport (equal to all other sports) and high amounts of money start flowing in the sport.

So, the Greek Chess Federation had enough resources to organise top World and European events and among others, to publish a great magazine, which was called 'Ellinika Skakistika Chronika', probably the best and more costly magazine in the world, of those times!

One of these events was a Clock Simul by GM Robert James Fischer against five selected top Greek players, in 1968.



**Ελληνική Σκακιστική
Ομοσπονδία**



**Greek Chess
Federation**

The Event

On July 31st, 1968, the 25-year-old American Grandmaster and later the 11th World Champion, Bobby Fischer, faced five Greek members/masters of the Greek National Team in Athens, in a Clock Simul match.

He defeated four of them, drawing only to Georgios Trikaliotis. The lots have been posted here and of course in the invaluable chess treasury of Sotiris Delavekouras, with analyses of Efstratios Grivas, Iraklis Georgiou and Georgios Trikaliotis.

On Sunday, March 22, 2015, at 18:30, there was a relevant tribute in the chess Square Chess Club (3rd Makrinitza str., Ampelokipi, Athens, tel. +302106451538, email: chesssquareclub@gmail.com).

The main host of this event was the Greek FM Spiros Ilandzis.

The three of the protagonists of that event, Christos Kokkoris, Nikos Ornithopoulos and George Trikaliotis, were present and spoke about this event. The relative video can be found in YouTube, in the link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y9H2rxk2StQ>.

In many unknown details of the before and after the Clock Simul, the ex-President of the Greek Chess Federation Achilleas Mitsakos (before the dictatorship in 1966), has given important data on the event.

The Chess Wall Magnetic Boards handling was made by Ilias Diatsintos & Mitsakos Junior (son of Achilleas Mitsakos).

There is also good information about the

event in a special post by Dimitris Sotiropoulos on the internet.

In addition, there is the rare video of R.Fischer's visit to Athens, as played in the local Greek news of the time.

Robert James Fisher was born on March 9, 1943 in Chicago, grew up in Brooklyn and died on January 17, 2008 in Reykjavik.

He learned chess at the age of 6 and after 9 years he was the youngest champion in USA history, the youngest holder of the Grandmaster title, and the youngest contender for the World Championship.

In 1972 he became the 11th World Champion, beating the Soviet B.Spasky in Reykjavik. In 1975 he refused to defend his title in a match against the Soviet A.Karpov, because the International Chess Federation (FIDE) didn't satisfy his terms.

In 1992 he played again with B.Spasky in Belgrade, violating the USA embargo on Yugoslavia at the time and never returned to his home country. In 2004 he was arrested at Narita Airport and Japan intended to issue him to the USA.

Iceland's parliament, with a brave gesture, gave him the Icelandic nationality and he arrived in Reykjavik in 2005 to live the last years of his life.

But before we see the entire story, I would like to thank Spiros Ilandzis, Kosmas Kefalos and Ilias Diatsintos, for their contributions in this edition.

GM Efstratios Grivas

Athens, October 2024

Fischer vs. Greece 1968					
Venue: Greek Chess Federation Headquarters Akadimias 72, Athens, Greece					
Date: 31.07.1968					
Time Control: 2½ hours for 40 moves & 1 hour for the rest of the game					
B	White	Result	Black	ECO	Moves
1	Fischer R.J	½-½	Trikaliotis G.	B30	50-50
2	Fischer R.J	1-0	Vizantiadis L.	D50	36-36
3	Fischer R.J	1-0	Ornithopoulos N.	B45	48-47
4	Fischer R.J	1-0	Kokkoris H.	B95	45-45
5	Fischer R.J	1-0	Anastasopoulos A.	C69	30-29
		4½-½			209-207

A Match Recap

Spiros Ilandzis

It seems that B.Fischer was a bit bored or underestimated the Greek players. He probably expected a different line-up, it is said that for personal reasons some stronger players didn't take part, e.g. the young then - and later powerful IM and member of the National Team, Nikolaos Skalkotas or even the strong IM Triantafyllos Siaperas.

The fact is that the famous Bobby Fischer could have been limited to a draw or even lost the match, 2-3.

Of course, his experience, his passion on the chessboard, his determination, his combativeness, protected him. And finally, he prevailed with a score of $4\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$ (+ 4 = 1).

Let's recap the games:

Game 1: In the game vs. G.Trikaliotis, B.Fischer tests 3.Bb5 – ‘the only occasion B.Fischer adopted this variation in an official game is against GM M.Matulovic, at Palma de Mallorca 1970’, according to G.Trikaliotis.

After the rather dubious 3...a6?! and 6...Bg4?!, B.Fischer emerged better after the opening and with 14.Qg3!, not only ‘eyes’ towards the g7-square, but also sets a trap, 14...Nb6? 15.Qc7 +-, according to G.Trikaliotis - although there is the defence 15...Bd8, but then 16.Qxc6.

The moves 15.f4! and re-direction of the bishop with 16.Bb2!, and 18.Bc1! increased white's plus, but the game still needs work. 26.c4 (instead of 26.cxd4?!), with a long-term advantage, was not a difficult move for B.Bobby to find, as was 29.h4! (instead of the hasty 29.g5?!).

Then the game got complicated, and despite White tripling the heavy pieces in the -g- column, Black's defence with ...Bf8 holding the g7 seemed adequate.

Under time pressure, B.Fischer sacrificed the exchange with 37.Bxf8? (better was 37.Rg6!, keeping the pressure), but after 37... hxc5 38.Bb4 Rh6!, Black reached an endgame where he was material up; he had rook for bishop and pawn (but also double

g-pawns) and pressure on the backward pawn d3, so he kept the upper hand. Had he played 43... Kf7! -instead of the hasty 43...Rxa2+ ?, Black would have had realistic chances of winning, but B.Fischer found 45.h4!, 47.Rg2! and 49.Rb5!, and thus secured the draw.

Game 2: Playing Black vs. L.Vizantiadis, B.Fischer opted for the ‘Queen's Gambit Declined’. White avoided the Semi-Tarrasch Defence, yet 6.Nxd4?! and 7.Nf3?!, permitted Black to assume the initiative. 16...exf4?!, was inaccurate (16...Be6, would have kept a plus) and a double-edged position appeared, where white had a strong knight on d5, to compensate for Black's bishop pair.

Later in the game, B.Bobby probably missed 27...Qc8, and being aware of the power of the white knights, decided to sacrifice an exchange in order to free his play. Yet, after 31.Qc5!, White emerged better.

In the ensuing moves, both players made errors and L.Vizantiadis could have reached a distinct advantage with 35.Rd3.

Finally, under heavy time pressure, White blundered with 36.Rxe8?, which allowed 36...Qxd1+, and he instantly resigned. Instead, 36.R8d3!, would have led to a complex position, with the Greek player having the better chances.

Game 3: Against N.Ornithopoulos, it was probably the most ‘rational’ game of the event. It started as a ‘Four Knights’ Sicilian Defence’, where White obtained a small plus, due to the bishop pair advantage. Black got passive after 17.b4! and later, after 24.Rc3! and 27.Bb6!, B.Fischer won a pawn.

Yet, converting it was not easy, in the opposite-coloured bishops endgame that consequently appeared on the board.

In the end, Black resigned after the famous opponent's 48th move, believing he was lost in the position.

Analysis proved that he could still fight, though.

Game 4: Playing Black vs. former Greek Champion H.Kokkoris, B.Fischer went for his beloved 'Sicilian Najdorf Defence'. His opponent somehow mixed variations (6.Bg5, 7.Bc4), yet the American GM continued optimistically (9...g5?!) and with the unsuspecting 13...Nd7?!, gave a big opportunity to his opponent: The knight sac 14.Nxe6! fxe6 15.Bxe6, could have given a strong attack for White, e.g. after 15...Qf6 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.Nc5+! (17...Nxc5? 18.Qxf6) or 15...Qc7 16.Rhe1 +.

Also, in the next move, after 14.Rhe1?! g4!, H.Kokkoris should have tried 15.Qd3, with initiative, instead of 15.Qxg4?!, which allowed 15...Qg5+, returning the pawn, exchanging the queens and going into a favourable endgame for Black.

It is rather strange that H.Kokkoris, a well-known attacking and enterprising player shied away from the complications after the knight sac 14.Nxe6!, and also acquiesced to exchange queens with 15.Qxg4?!, and not keep on with the fight by preferring a braver move like 15.Qd3.

After the 20th move, Black was better, due to his bishop pair and better pawn structure. A few moves later, B.Fischer won two pawns and easily converted to a win.

Game 5: The 5th and last game of the display was B.Fischer's white game vs. The Greek Champion of that year, A.Anastasopoulos.

This was the game that received most publicity, as it later appeared in many international magazines and collections of B.Fischer's games.

It started as a 'Ruy Lopez - Spanish Opening - Exchange Variation', a pet-line of Bobby's. The queens left the board as early as move 9, yet by the next move the two players had already castled on different wings, preparing for sharp play.

And indeed, already on his 14th move the American decided to sac a piece with 14.axb6?, an uncompromising, bold try that was not objectively substantiated. Instead of the feared 19...Bc8?, the Greek player should have proceeded with 19...bxc2, and if 20.Rda1 c5, e.g. 21.Ra8+ Kb7 22.R8a7+ Kxb6, with a clear advantage!

A.Anastasopoulos got another chance after 25.Rab5?! (the correct way was 25.Kf1 f5 26.g3) when he could try 25...f5, or 25...Re8, again with a decent game. But after 26.g3?! (26.c5!, was the way) Re8? (26...Bd6!) 27.c5!, the three white pawns on the queenside proved decisive and black resigned on the 30th move.

To conclude, it may sound strange, yet B.Fischer's play was far from convincing, that day and he could even lose two or three games and drawing the rest!!

Probably he was a bit complacent or just did not pay much attention to the Greek players' efforts...

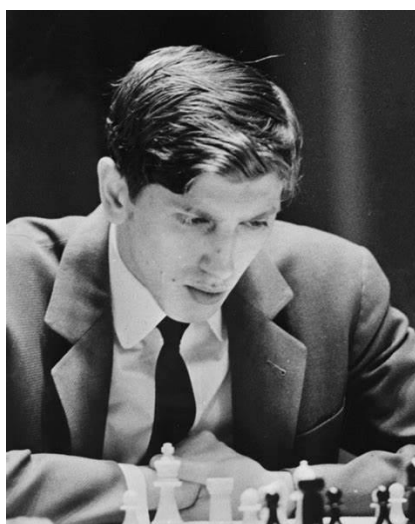
Maybe the famous Greek summer weather helped as well...



Greek Chess Federation Stamp

Photo Gallery

Unfortunately, most of the event's photos are lost in time. The only photo I could find is coming from the walls of the respected Greek Chess Club 'Skakistikos Omilos Ampelokipon'. The other two Fischer's photos aren't related to the event, but there are from 1968.





Game 1

Robert J. Fischer - Georgios Trikaliotis



1943-2008



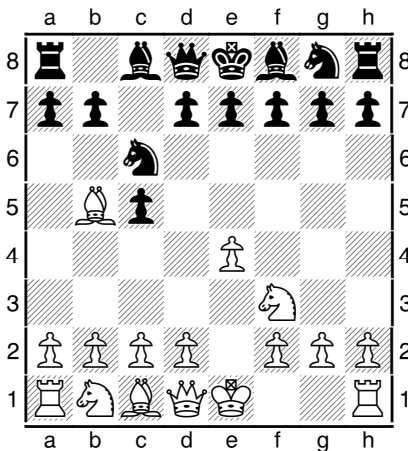
1939-2018

□ Fischer Robert James

■ Trikaliotis Georgios

B30 Athens 1968

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 (D)



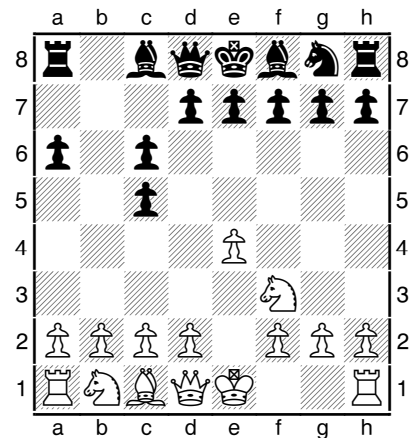
The 'Spanish-Sicilian' or the Rossolimo Variation' of the 'Sicilian Defence'; a very popular variation nowadays.

3...a6?!

Nowadays this continuation is considered dubious, as it's mainly 'losing' a tempo. Continuations as 3...g6, or 3...d6, are the main options for Black.

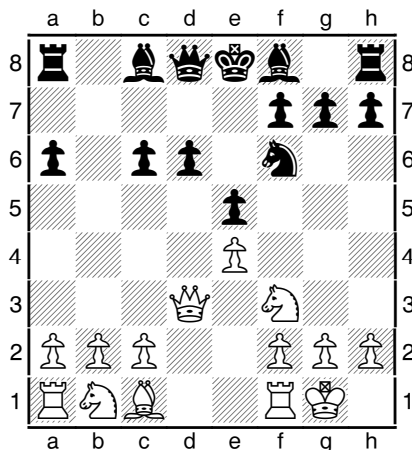
4.Bxc6 bxc6 (D)

A fighting continuation, but White can hold a pleasant advantage. Possible is 4...dxc6 5.d3 Qc7 6.a4 a5 7.Na3 e5 8.Nc4 Bd6 9.0-0 Ne7 10.Nh4 += Stojanovic,D-Kozul,Z Neum 2004.

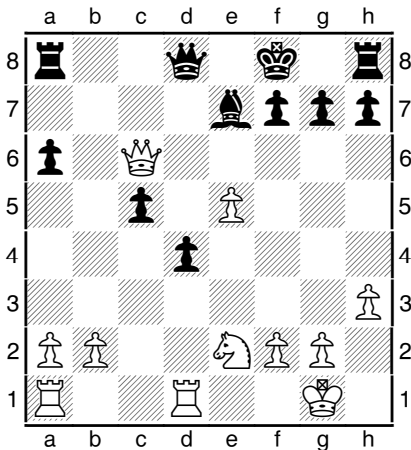


5.Nc3

Not much is 5.d4 cxd4 6.Qxd4 d6 7.0-0 e5 8.Qd3 Nf6 (D)



Which is more or less OK for Black, although White won quite quickly: 9.c4 Bg4 10.Nc3 Nd7 11.h3 Nc5 12.Qe3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Ne6 14.Be3 Be7 15.Rfd1 Bf6? (15...Qc7 16.b4 +=) 16.c5 Nd4 17.Bxd4 exd4 18.Ne2?! (18.e5! dxe5 19.Qxc6+ Kf8 20.Ne4 +/-) 18...dxc5 19.e5 Be7? (19...Bxe5 20.Qxc6+ Kf8 21.Qxc5+ Qe7 22.Qxe7+ Kxe7 23.Nxd4 Rac8 24.Rd3 +/-) 20.Qxc6+ Kf8 (D)

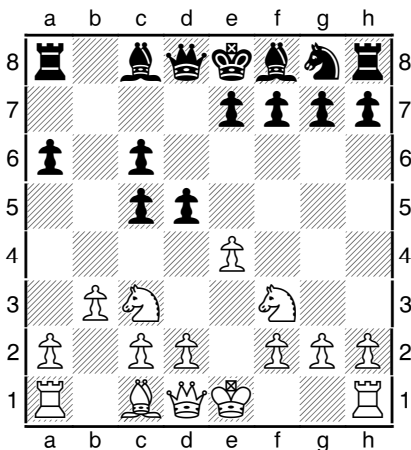


21.b4! cxb4 22.Nxd4 1-0 Matanovic,A-Pirc,V Maribor 1967.

5...d5?!

At those times the text was considered a (dubious) novelty to 5...e6 6.0-0 += O'Hara,J-Smith,W Bolton 1952.

6.b3 (D)

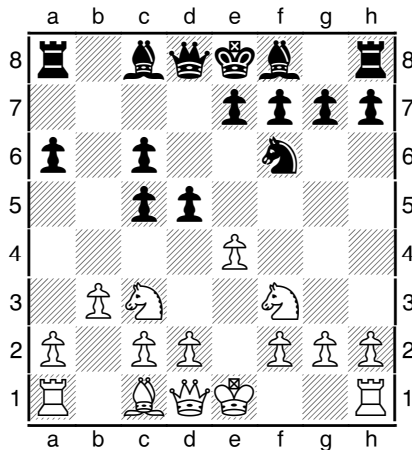


White has the better pawn structure (due to the doubled black c-pawns) and Black has

the pair of bishops. But in general White's position should be considered better, as the position is not open, so the bishops are not doing much, at least for the time being. With the text, White plans Ba3 and Na4, pressuring the doubled c5-pawn.

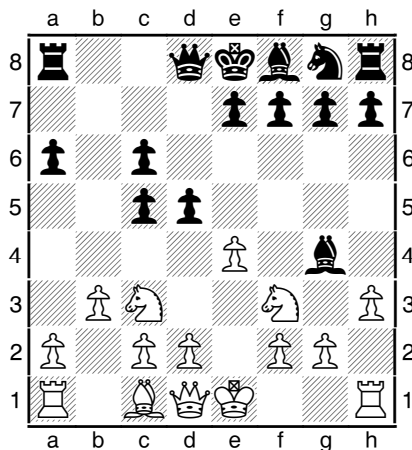
6...Bg4?!

Obviously, exchanging one of the bishops, cannot be the right way for Black. Later, some other tries were played: 6...e6?! 7.d3 Nf6 8.Qe2 d4 9.Na4 Qc7 10.0-0 e5 11.Ba3 Nd7 12.Rac1 +/- Buzov,B-DInser,H Kurpfalz 2005 and 6...Nf6 (D)



7.e5 Nd7 8.0-0 e6 9.d3 Be7 10.Ne2 Qc7 11.Bb2 0-0 12.Nf4 += Hawranke,D-Schnelle,R Pinneberg 1993.

7.h3! (D)

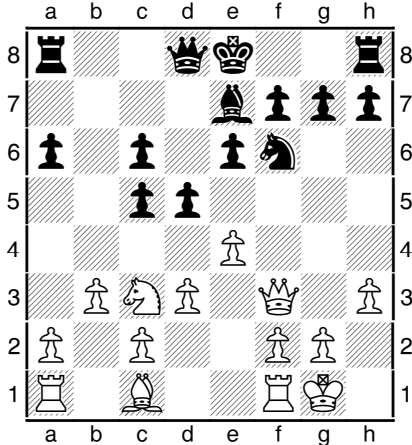


7...Bxf3

7...Bh5, is not much different, but anyway

after 8.d3 (8.Bb2 d4 9.Na4 e6 10.Qe2 +/- Mika,T-Pilch,A Krakow 2017) 8...Nf6 9.Qe2 e6 10.Bb2 Be7 11.g4! Bg6 12.0-0-0 +/-, looks great for White.

8.Qxf3 e6 9.0-0 Nf6 10.d3 Be7 (D)



11.Na4!

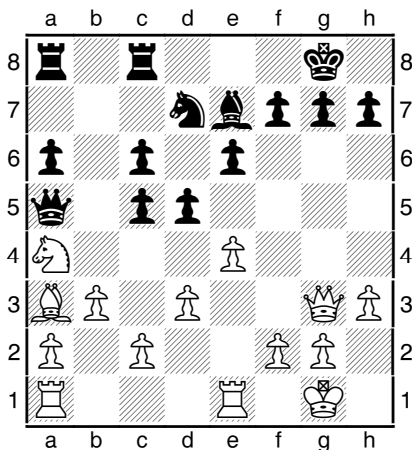
As per plan that it was described.

11...0-0 12.Re1 Nd7 13.Ba3 Qa5 14.Qg3

White wants to play on both wings, putting extreme pressure on Black's camp. 14.c4?, would be quite bad, as after 14...Bf6 15.Rad1 (15.Bb2 Bxb2 16.Nxb2 d4 =) 15...dxc4 16.dxc4 Bd4 =, Black stands fine.

14...Rfc8?! (D)

A move without any precise idea. 14...Bf6! 15.Rac1 Rac8 16.e5 Be7 17.Bb2 +=, was the right continuation for Black.



15.f4!

Now, as said, White can play on both sides

of the board, while Black is struggling to find counterplay.

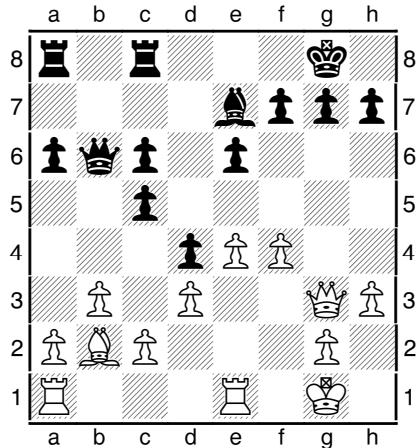
15...Nb6

To release the pressure on c5.

16.Bb2! d4

Not much different is 16...Bf8 17.f5! exf5 18.Bc3 Qb5 19.exf5 d4 20.Nxb6 Qxb6 21.Bd2 +/-, as White's pawn structure is superb and still Black is looking for counterplay...

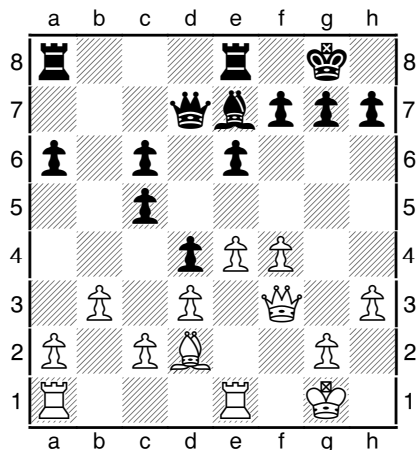
17.Nxb6 Qxb6 (D)



18.Bc1!

As there isn't anymore real pressure on c5, White is shifting/companing his actions to the other side as well.

18...Qd8 19.Qf3 Qd7 20.Bd2 Re8 (D)

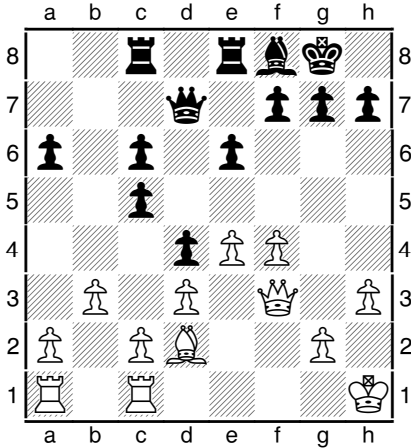


21.Rec1

White is preparing the c3 push, gaining good play on the semi-open c-file (that will arise),

but also good enough was 21.Re2 and Rf1, with a great game.

21...Rac8 22.Kh1 Bf8 (D)



23.Rd1

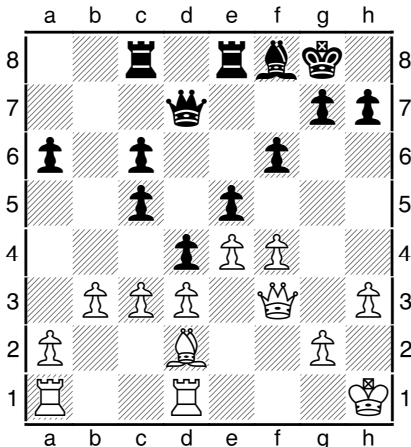
White seems like that he hasn't decide on his future ideas. Strong seems 23.g4 f5 24.Re1 Bd6 25.h4 Rf8 26.h5 fxg4 27.Qxg4 Rf7 28.Rf1 Rcf8 29.Kg2 +/-.

23...f6 24.c3?!

The text could give Black counterplay chances. Still 24.Re1 +/-, would be fine for White.

24...e5?! (D)

24...Ra8!, is the right way to gain counterplay: 25.c4 a5 26.g4 a4 +=.



25.f5!

Planning to advance the kingside pawns by g4 and h4, when the black king should be uncomfortable.

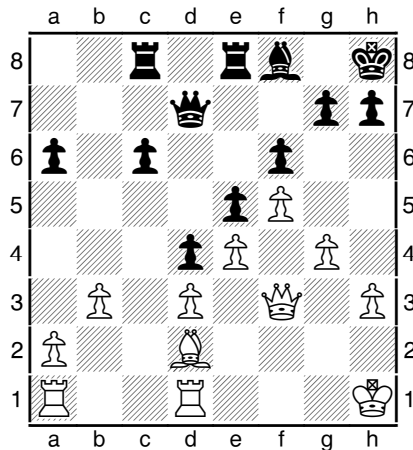
25...Kh8?

Good or bad, Black had to opt for 25...dxc3 26.Bxc3 Ra8 +=, preparing the ...a5-a4 advance, gaining some counterplay on the queenside.

26.cxd4?

Returning the favour. After 26.c4! Ra8 27.g4 a5 28.h4 a4 29.bxa4! Rxa4 30.Bc1! Rb8 31.a3 Rb3 32.Qe2 Ra7 33.Rg1 +/-, Black is left without too many chances to survive in the long run.

26...cxd4 27.g4 (D)

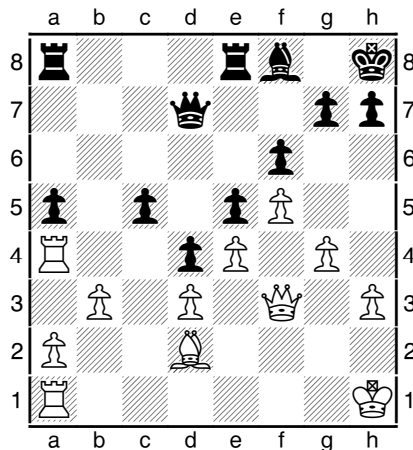


27...c5?!

As said, 27...Ra8! 28.Rg1 a5 +=, is the only real way for Black.

28.Rg1?!

After 28.Rdc1! Ra8 29.Rc4 a5 30.Ra4 +/- (D)

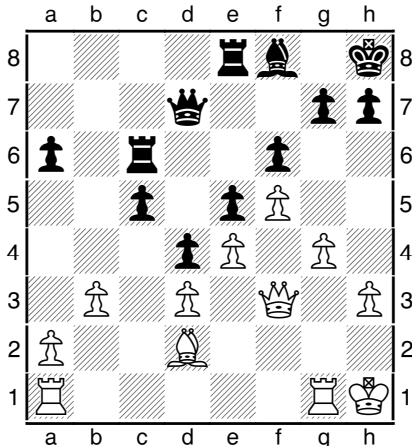


White would have stopped any black

counterplay and he would be in full control in both sides of the board.

28...Rc6?! (D)

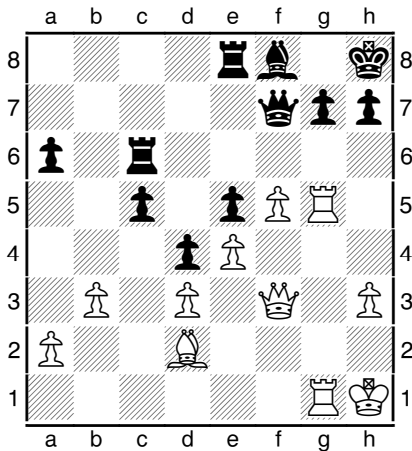
As explained, 28...Ra8! +=, is Black's only chance.



29.g5?!

Too early. 29.h4!, was rather strong, when Black should sac a pawn for activity on the queenside with 29...a5! 30.Bxa5 Ra6 31.Be1 Rb8 32.Qd1 g6! 33.Rg2 +/-.

29...fxg5 30.Rxg5 Qf7 31.Rag1 (D)



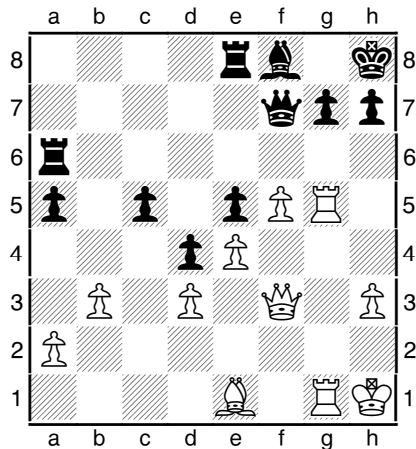
31...a5!

Finally, Black found the right way, gaining his desired counterplay.

32.Be1?!

After the text, Black should stand fine. White was obliged to opt for 32.R5g2 a4 33.bxa4 c4 34.dxc4 Qxc4 35.h4 +=.

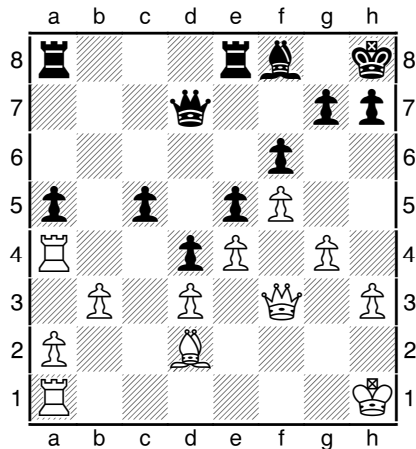
32...Ra6?! (D)



After the accurate 32...Ra8! 33.Bg3 Re8, probably White has nothing better than to repeat moves with 34.Be1=, as Black's counterplay/activity on the queenside looks more dangerous than White's play on the kingside.

33.Qg4?!

White is losing his way. He should have opted for 33.h4! a4 34.bxa4 c4 35.dxc4 Qxc4 36.a3 d3! (36...Rxa4? 37.f6! Ra7 38.h5 +/-) 37.a5 Rd8 38.Bd2 Rd4 39.Rc1 Qa4 40.Rc8 Rf6 41.Rg4 Qd7! 42.Rb8 += (D)

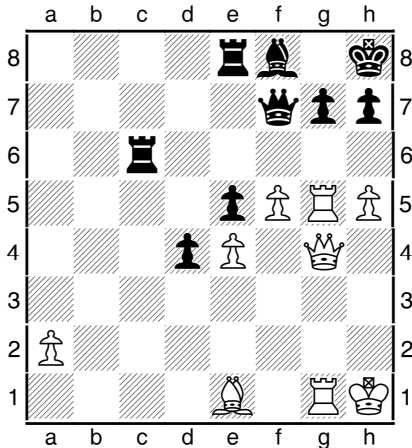


Where he could have gained somewhat better chances, but of course, Black should be fully in the game, as White's king is exposed as well.

33...Rc6?!

Why not 33...a4! 34.bxa4, when Black can

go for the complicated 34...c4! (34...Rxa4 35.f6 Qxf6 36.Rf5 Qh6 37.Bg3 Bd6 38.Bxe5 Bxe5 39.Rxe5 Rg8 40.Rxc5 Rxa2 =) 35.dxc4 Rxa4 (35...Qxc4? 36.Rxg7 +-) 36.h4 Rxc4 37.h5 Rc6! (D)



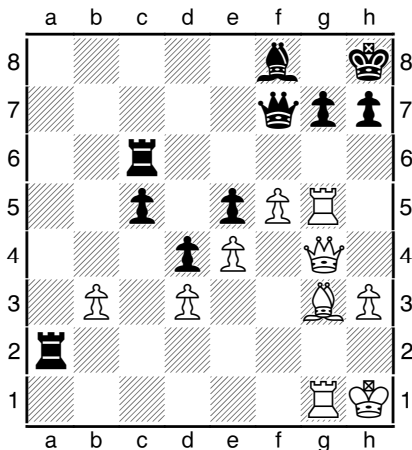
38.Rg6! Rc1! 39.f6! Kg8!, when White seems to have nothing better than 40.Rh6! Kh8! (40...Ra1? 41.Qf5 +-) 41.Rg6 Kg8 =.

34.Bxa5

Simple but it fails to satisfy White's intentions. Better was 34.h4, when White should have the slightly better chances in a complicated position.

34...Ra6?!

Black should stand absolutely fine after the accurate 34...Ra8! 35.Be1 (35.b4 cxb4 36.Bxb4 Bxb4 37.Rxg7 Qf8, should be OK for Black) 35...Rxa2 36.Bg3 (D)

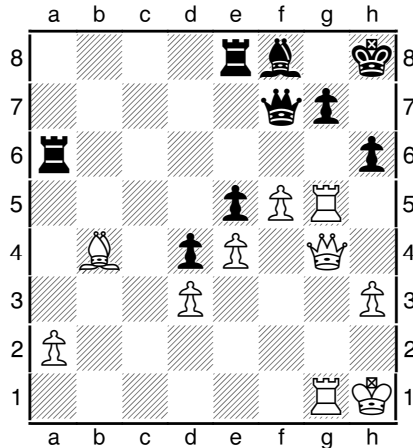


36...Qe7! (36...Be7? 37.Rxg7! Qxg7

38.Bxe5 Rh2+ 39.Bxh2 Qxg4 40.Rxg4 +-) 37.Bh4 Qf7 =.

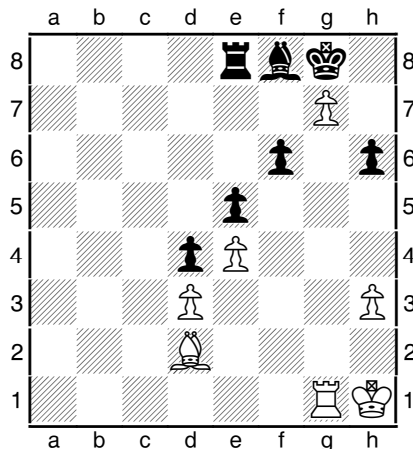
35.b4! cxb4 36.Bxb4! h6! (D)

36...Bxb4?, is out of the question due to 37.Rxg7 Qf8 38.Qh5 +-.



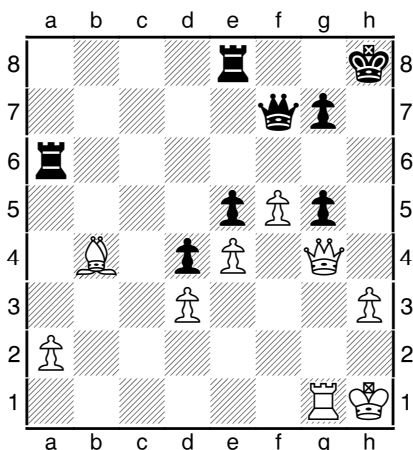
37.Bxf8?

White loses completely his way, making this unsound exchange sacrifice. He should have opted for 37.Rg6! Rxg6 38.fxg6 Qxa2 39.Be1! Qb3 (39...Qa6?! 40.Bd2! Qf6 [40...Kg8 41.Qf5 Qf6 42.Qxf6 gxf6 43.g7 (D)



43...Bd6 {43...Bxg7? 44.Bxh6 Re7 45.Rxg7+ Rxg7 46.Bxg7 Kxg7 47.Kg2 Kg6 48.h4 f5 49.exf5+ Kxf5 50.Kf3 +-} 44.Bxh6 Kh7 45.Rg4 Rg8 46.Rh4 Kg6 47.Kg2 +=] 41.Kg2! Qe6 42.Kg3 +/-) 40.Qf3 Qe6 41.Bd2 Qf6 42.Qf5 +=.

37...hxg5 38.Bb4 (D)



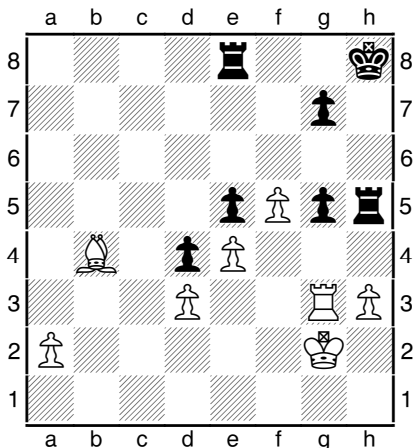
38...Rh6!

Accurate! After 38...Rxa2? 39.Qxg5 Ra6! 40.Qg3 Kg8 41.Bd2, White would have compensation for the sacrificed exchange.

39.Rg3 Qh5

Not bad, but even better was 39...Ra8! 40.a3 Qh5! 41.Kg2 Qxg4 42.Rxg4 Rh5 43.Kh2 Kg8 44.Rg2 Rc8! (44...Kf7? 45.Rc2!) 45.Bd6 Re8 46.Kg3 (46.Rc2 g4 -+) 46...Rh6 47.Bb4 Rc8 -/+, where Black should prevail in the long run. His exchange-up is extremely precious...

40.Qxh5 Rxh5 41.Kg2 (D)

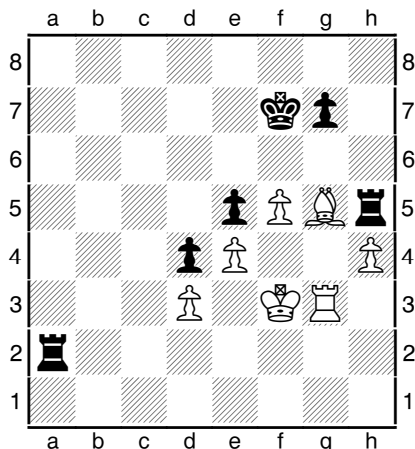


41...Kg8! 42.Bd2 Ra8 43.Bxg5 Rxa2+?

It is always pleasant to capture an enemy pawn with check, but here it is a mistaken action! Black should firstly activate his h5-rook and then prevail after 43...Kf7! 44.Kf3 Rhh8! 45.Kg4 Rxa2 46.h4 (46.Rg1 Rha8

47.Rc1 Rg2+ -+) 46...Rha8 47.h5 (47.Rg1 Ra1! 48.Rg2 R8a2 -+) 47...Rh2 48.Bh4 Ra1 -+. The activity of the black rooks is remarkable.

44.Kf3 Kf7 45.h4! (D)

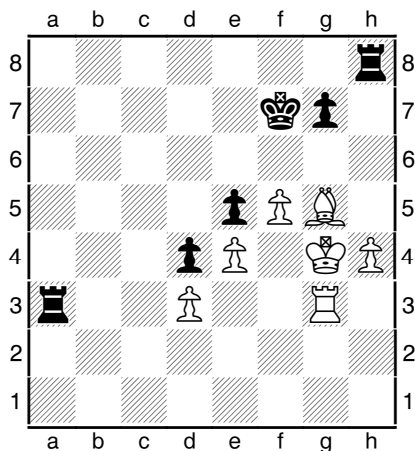


Now White should hold.

45...Ra3

After 45...Rh8 46.Rg1! Rha8 47.Rc1!, White gains the necessary activity to save the half-point: 47...R2a3 (47...R8a7 48.Kg4! Rg2+ 49.Kh5 Rg3 50.Rc5! Rxd3 51.Rxe5 Re3!? 52.Bxe3 dxe3 53.Rb5 e2 54.Rb1 Re7 55.Kg5 Rxe4 56.Re1 =) 48.Rc7+ Kg8 49.Re7! Rxd3+ 50.Kg4 Rd1 51.Kh5! Ra6 52.Rxe5 Re1 53.Rd5 Rxe4 54.Rd8+ Kf7 55.Rd7+ Kg8 56.Rd8+ =.

46.Kg4! Rh8 (D)



47.Rg2!

The point; White has now the time to

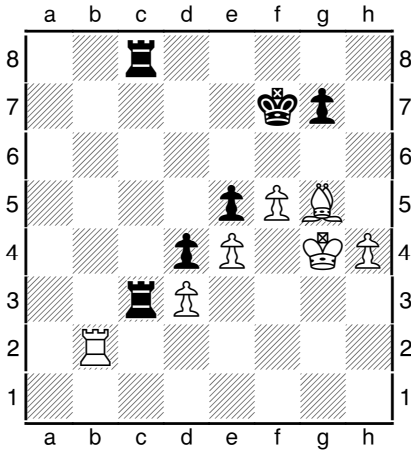
activate his rook.

47...Rc8

Black gains nothing after 47...Rxd3 48.Ra2 Rd1 49.Ra7+ Kg8 50.Re7 d3 51.Kf3! (51.Rxe5? d2 -) 51...d2 52.Ke2 Re1+ 53.Kxd2 Rxe4 54.Kd3 Re1 55.Kd2 =.

48.Rb2! Rac3 (D)

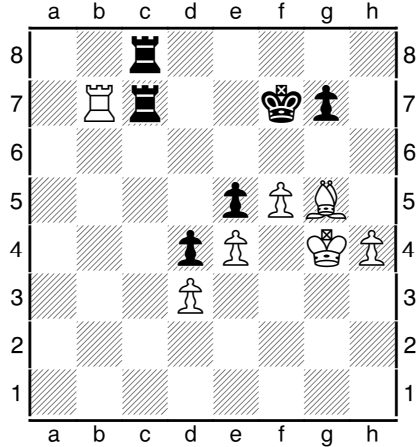
Or 48...Rxd3 49.Rb7+ Kg8 50.f6! gxf6 51.Bxf6 Rd1 52.Rg7+ Kf8 53.Rd7! d3 54.Bg5 Rg1+ 55.Kf5 Rf1+ 56.Kxe5 Re8+ 57.Kd5 =.



49.Rb5!

The white rook has gained the necessary activity to preserve the balance, while the other white pieces are finely placed, so Black cannot improve anymore.

49...R3c5 50.Rb7+ R5c7 (D)



And a draw agreed, as there is nothing to do after 51.Rb5 Rc5 =, or 51...Re8 52.Rd5 Kg8 53.Kh5 =.

1/2-1/2

Game 2

Lazaros Vizantiadis - Robert J. Fischer



1938-2008



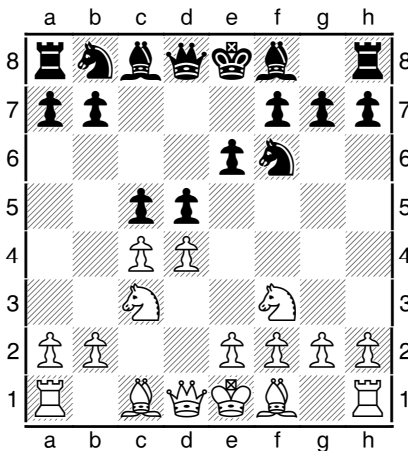
1943-2008

□ Vizantiadis Lazaros

■ Fischer Robert James

D50 Athens 1968

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 (D)

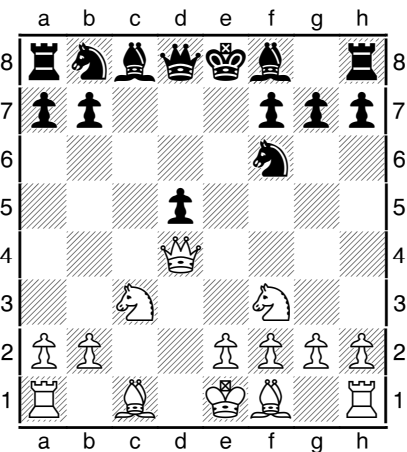


The 'Queen's Gambit Declined' and specifically the 'Dutch-Peruvian Gambit'.

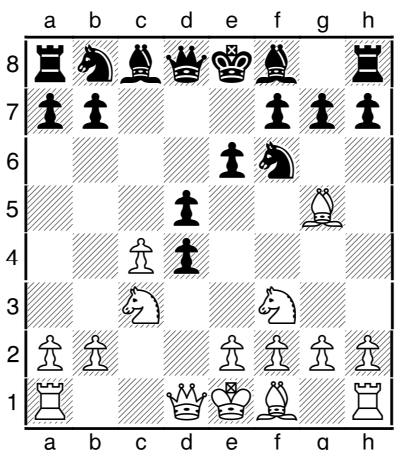
5.Bg5

A bit complicated, while not giving White anything. 5...cxd5, is a more played continuation: 5...cxd4 (5...Nxd5, leads to the 'Semi-Tarrasch Defence': 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Bb4+ [8...Nc6 9.Bc4 b5 10.Bd3 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Qxd2 a6 13.a4 0-0 14.Qc3 Bb7 15.axb5 axb5 16.0-0 Qb6 17.Rab1 b4 18.Qd2 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Rxb4 Qd7 21.Qe3 Rfd8 22.Rfb1 Qxd3 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 24.Rxb7 g5 25.Rb8+ Rxb8 26.Rxb8+ Kg7 27.f3 Rd2 28.h4 h6 29.hxg5

hxg5 ½-½ Spassky,B-Fischer,R Reykjavik 1972] 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0 11.Bc4 Nd7 12.0-0 b6 13.Rad1 Bb7 14.Rfe1 += Carlsen,M-Giri,A Internet 2020) 6.Qxd4 exd5 (D)



7.Bg5 (7.e4 dxe4 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.Ng5 Be6 10.Nxe6+ fxe6 11.Bg5 Nc6 12.Nxe4 Bb4+ 13.Nd2 h6 14.Bxf6+ gxf6 15.0-0-0 Ke7 16.Nb3 Rhd8 17.Be2 Na5 18.Nxa5 Bxa5 19.Rxd8 Rxd8 20.Rd1 Rxd1+ 21.Kxd1 ½-½ Nakamura,H-Carlsen,M Almaty 2022) 7...Be7 8.e3 0-0 (8...Nc6 9.Bb5 [9.Qd3 0-0 10.Be2 +=] 9...0-0 10.Bxc6 bxc6 11.0-0 Be6 12.Rac1 oo Mamedyarov,S-Pinter,J Mainz 2006) 9.Be2 Nc6 10.Qd3 += Carlsen,M-Giri,A Stavanger 2022. Nevertheless, Black can hope for an active game.
5...cxd4 (D)



6.Nxd4?!

6.Qxd4, transposes to an above line and it should have preferred.

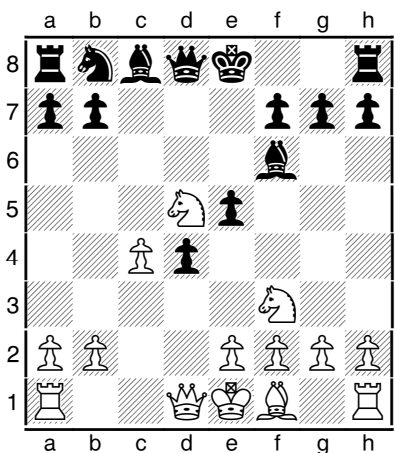
6...e5! 7.Nf3?!

7.Nc2, looks more 'logical': 7...d4 8.Nd5 Nbd7 9.e3 dxe3 10.Bxe3 Nxd5 11.Qxd5 Be7 = Vyprachtinsky,D-Bartos,J Klatovy 2019.

7...d4 8.Nd5 Be7!

A bit better than 8...Nc6 9.a3 Be6 10.e4 oo Palsson,J-Prins,L Varna 1962.

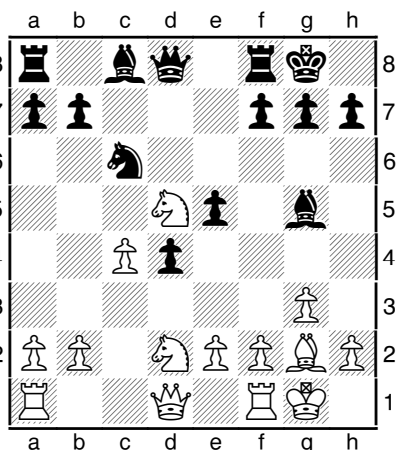
9.Bxf6 Bxf6 (D)



10.g3

A logical (and more or less good) novelty, as White wishes to give to his excellent placed d5-knight (his pride!) full support. Previously we have seen 10.Qa4+? Nc6 11.Rd1 0-0 12.e3 dxe3 13.Nxe3 Nd4! 14.Bd3 Bd7 15.Qb4 Bc6 -/+.

10...Nc6 11.Nd2 Bg5 12.Bg2 0-0 13.0-0 (D)



Black should be satisfied by his position. Although the d5-knight is well-placed, all other white pieces aren't.

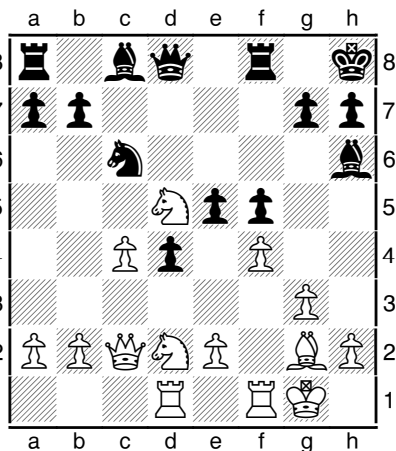
13...Kh8?!

13...Bh6 14.e4 dxe3 15.fxe3 f5 =+, was the accurate follow-up.

14.Qc2?!

White failed to find the needed activity by 14.f4! exf4 15.gxf4 Be7 16.f5 oo.

14...f5 15.f4 Bh6 16.Rad1 (D)



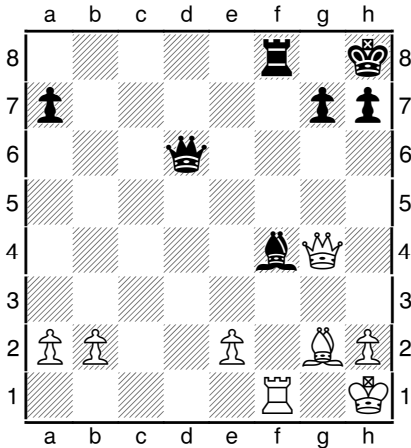
16...exf4?!

The text plays in White's hands. Black should opt for 16...Be6! 17.Nf3 exf4 18.gxf4 Bxd5 19.cxd5 Qxd5 20.Ne5 Qd6 21.Nxc6 bxc6 22.Qxc6 Qe7! =+.

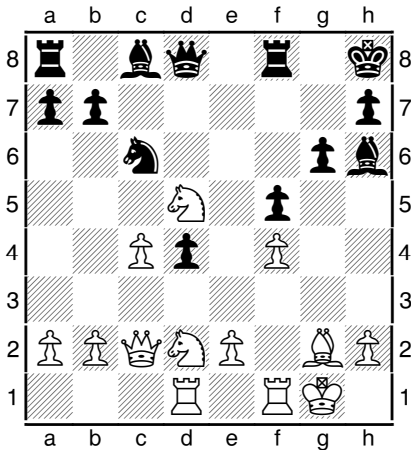
17.gxf4 g6 (D)

Black wants to support his d4-pawn, maintaining chances. 17...Be6, looks more logical, although after 18.Nb3 b5! 19.Nxd4

Nxd4 20.Rxd4 bxc4 21.Qxc4 Rc8 22.Qa6
 Bxd5 23.Rxd5 Qe7 24.Rxf5! Rxf5
 25.Qxc8+ Rf8 26.Qg4 Bxf4! 27.Kh1 Qd6
 oo/= (D)



Only White can dream for the full point. But the presence of the opposite-coloured bishops, in conjunction with the weakened white king, should be enough for Black to maintain the balance. A typical way of modern play, even for 1968!



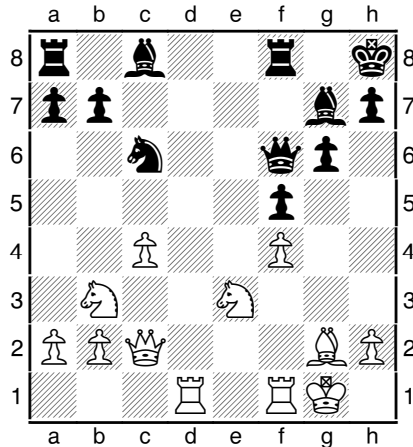
18.Nb3?!

The knight is heading for the wrong way!
 18.Nf3! Bg7 19.e3 dxe3 20.Rfe1! +=, should be excellent for White.

18...Bg7 19.e3 dxe3 20.Nxe3

20.Rfe1?!, isn't so good anymore, due to
 20...Re8 21.Rxe3 Rxe3 22.Nxe3 Qf8 23.Nd5
 Bd7 +=.

20...Qf6 (D)



Now White faces some problems with his b2-pawn, but Black is still not fully developed...

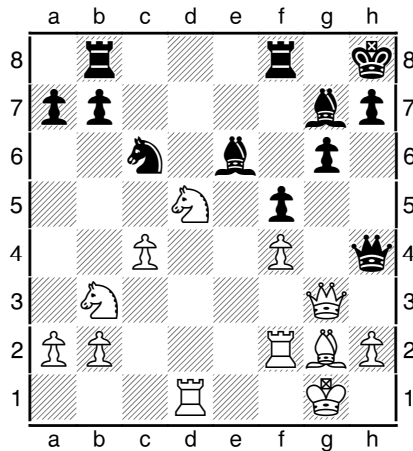
21.Rf2

Activity is rather important, so 21.Nd5 Qxb2
 22.Qxb2 Bxb2 23.Rfe1 oo/=, should have been considered.

21...Rb8 22.Nd5 Qh4

R.Fischer is true to his activity concepts.
 Also playable was 22...Qf7 23.Rfd2 a5 oo.

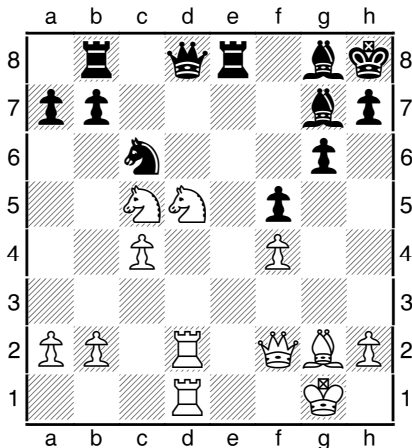
23.Qd3 Be6 24.Qg3 (D)



24...Qd8! 25.Rfd2 Bg8

The d5-knight has nowhere to retreat creating threats, so Black is preparing his position for the desired activity. Although the position remains dynamically balanced the black bishop pair can anytime come to force.

26.Qf2 Re8 27.Nc5 (D)

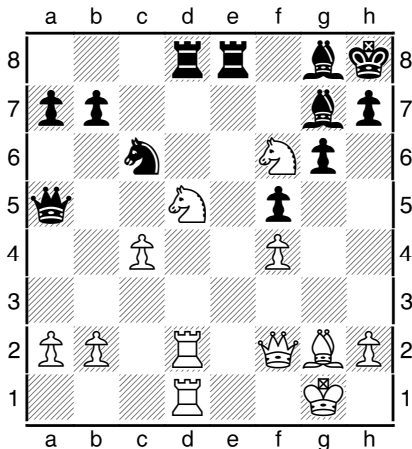


27...Qa5?

A bad idea, which gives White the upper hand. Black should have opted for 27...Qc8! 28.b4 b6 29.Nb3 Nd8! 30.Qh4 Ne6 31.c5! bxc5 32.bxc5 oo. The wrong text is now giving White the possibility to build a nice advantage.

28.Nd7! Rbd8 29.N7f6! (D)

Better than 29.N5f6 Re7 30.Nxg8 Rxg8 31.Qh4 Rf7 32.Kh1! +=.

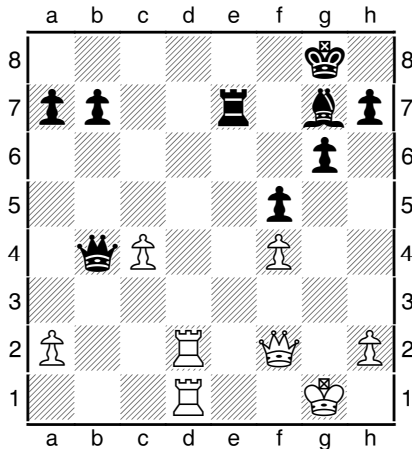


A quite critical phase of the game, where Black should find the correct continuations in this complicated position, but unfortunately for him he went for the wrong...

29...Qxa2?

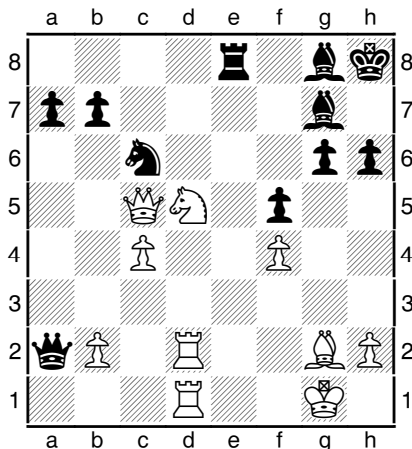
R.Fischer decided to sac the exchange, but it was better to do it in another way. After 29...Re6 30.Nxg8 Rxg8 31.b4! Nxb4

32.Nxb4 Qxb4 33.Bd5 Re7 34.Bxg8 Kxg8 (D)



The superb black pawn structure, could have helped Black to save the half-point, but no more.

30.Nxe8 Rxe8 31.Qc5! h6 (D)

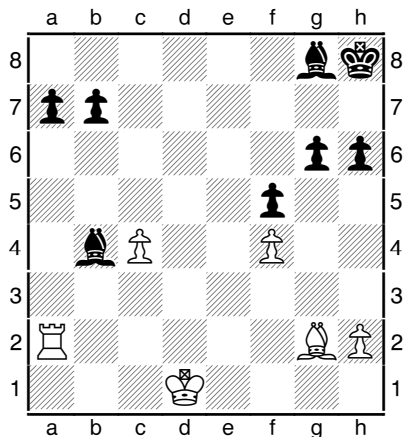


32.b4?

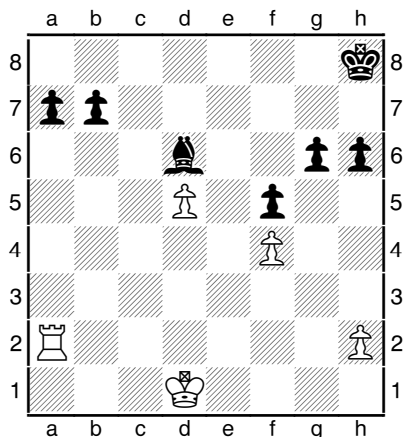
The text helps Black to improve his position considerably and, in a way, escape! After the calm 32.h4, White should preserve his high winning chances: 32...h5 33.Nc3! Qxc4 34.Qxc4 Bxc4 35.Rd7 +/-.

32...Qb3?

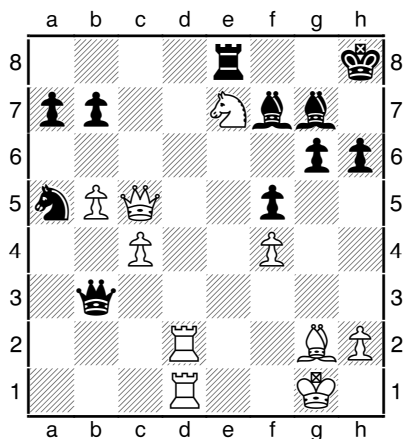
R.Fischer continues to miss chances to save himself. 32...Re1+!, should split the point after 33.Kf2! (33.Rxe1? Qxd2 34.Qf2 Bd4 35.Ne3 Qc3 =) 33...Rxd1! 34.Rxa2 Bd4+ 35.Ke2 Bxc5 36.Kxd1 Nxb4 37.Nxb4 Bxb4 (D)



38.Bd5 (38.Rxa7 Bxc4 39.Rxb7 Bd6 =)
38...Bxd5 39.cxd5 Bd6 (D)

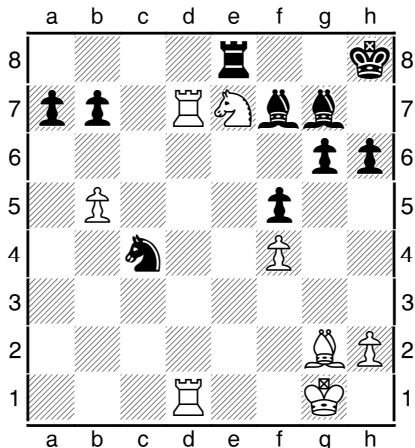


40.Rxa7 Bxf4 41.h4 Kg7 42.Rxb7+ Kf6
43.Rb6+ Kf7 =.
33.b5! Na5 34.Ne7! Bf7 (D)



35.Rd8?

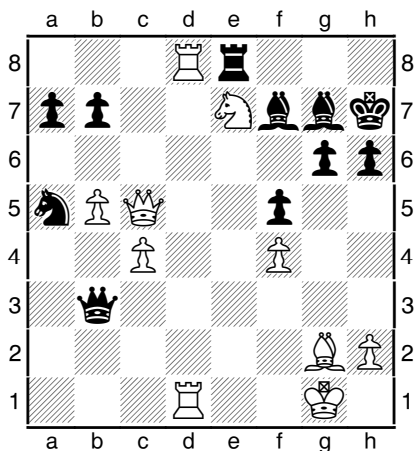
White blunders. After the accurate 35.Rd3!
Qxc4 (35...Qc2 36.Bd5! b6 37.Qd6 Nxc4
38.Qc7 Bxd5 39.Nxd5 Ne3 40.Qxc2 Nxc2
41.Nc7 Rc8 42.Rd8+ Rxd8 43.Rxd8+ Kh7
44.Rd7 +-) 36.Qxc4 Nxc4 37.Rd7 (D)



There is no salvation for Black: 37...Nb6
(37...Ne3 38.R1d3 Nxf2 39.Kxg2 Bf6
40.Nd5 Kg7 41.Nxf6 Kxf6 42.Rxb7 +- ;
37...Nb2 38.Re1 Bf8 39.Bd5 Bxe7 40.Bxf7
Bc5+ 41.Kf1 Rxe1+ 42.Kxe1 +-) 38.Rxb7
Bf8 39.Nc6 Bc5+ 40.Kh1 Bb3 41.Rc1 +-.

35...Kh7? (D)

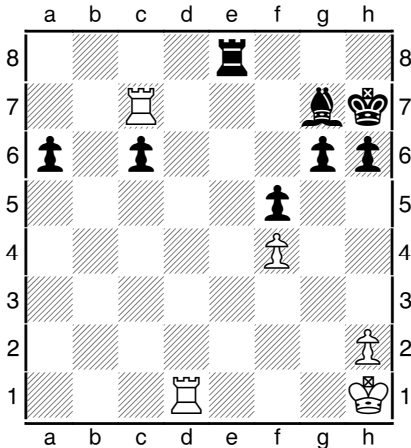
And Black blunders again! After the correct.
35...Rxd8 36.Rxd8+ Kh7, the position
would be unclear, as the white king is weak
as well.



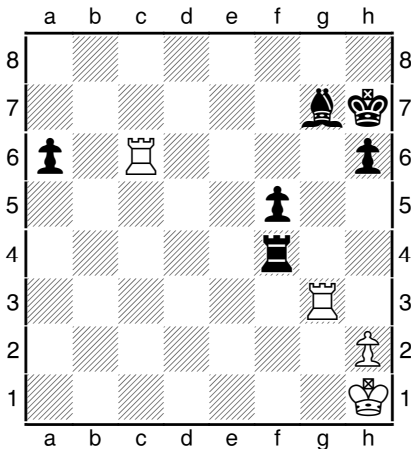
36.Rxe8?

A move that deserves more than one

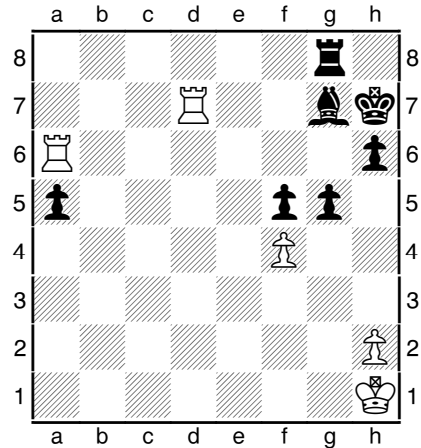
question mark! Natural was 36.R8d3! Qxc4
 37.Qxc4 Bxc4 (37...Nxc4? 38.Rd7 +-)
 38.Rd7 Bxb5 39.Rc7 a6 40.Kh1 Nc6
 (40...Rf8 41.Bd5 +/-) 41.Bxc6 Bxc6+
 (41...Rxe7 42.Rxe7 Bxc6+ 43.Kg1 h5 44.h4
 +-) 42.Nxc6 bxc6 (D)



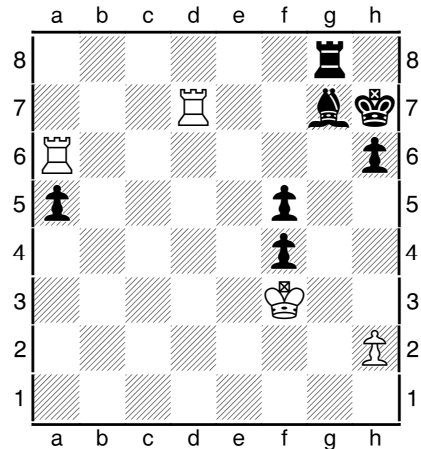
Here it looks that Black would save the draw, but White can obtain a tremendous position as long as he doesn't exchange a pair of rooks: 43.Rdd7! Rg8 44.Rxc6 a5 (44...Ra8 45.Rdd6 [45.Rcc7 Rg8 46.Ra7? Kh8! 47.Rxa6 Bb2 =] 45...g5 [45...Re8 46.Rxg6 Re4 47.Rg3! Rxf4 (D)



48.h3! {48.Rc7? Rg4 49.Rf3 Kg6 =}
 48...Bd4 49.Rb3 Rf1+ 50.Kg2 Rf2+ 51.Kg3
 f4+ 52.Kg4 +-] 46.fxg5 hxg5 47.Rg6 g4
 48.Rg5 +-) 45.Ra6 g5 (D)



46.Kg2! (46.fxg5? hxg5 47.Rxa5 Kg6 =)
 46...gxf4 47.Kf3+- (D)



As all the extra black pawns will fall.

36...Qxd1+

And White resigned, due to 37.Kf2 Bd4+ -+.
 A painful defeat for L.Vizantiadis, as he was
 very near beating his famous opponent...

0-1

Game 3

Robert J. Fischer - Nikolaos Ornithopoulos



1943-2008



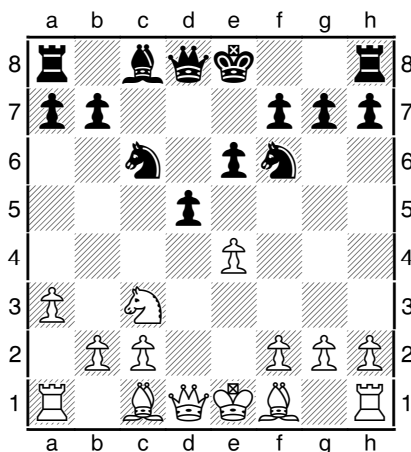
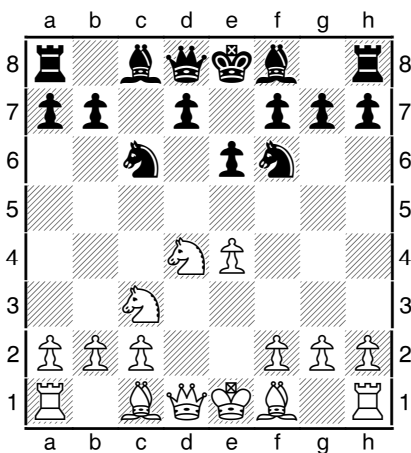
1938-

□ Fischer Robert James

■ Ornithopoulos Nikolaos

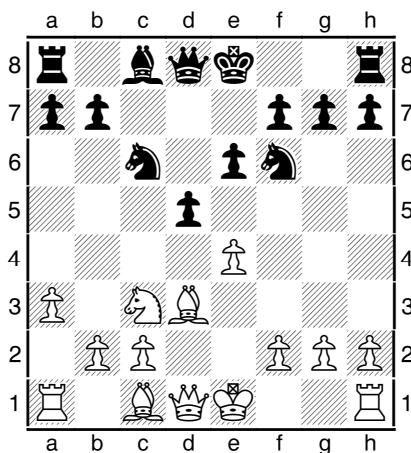
B45 Athens 1968

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 e6 4.d4 cxd4
5.Nxd4 Nf6 (D)



9.exd5

Natural, but interesting is 9.Bd3 (D)



A typical position of the 'Four Knights Variation' of the 'Sicilian Defence'; a popular line in-between the Greek top-players at that time.

6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3

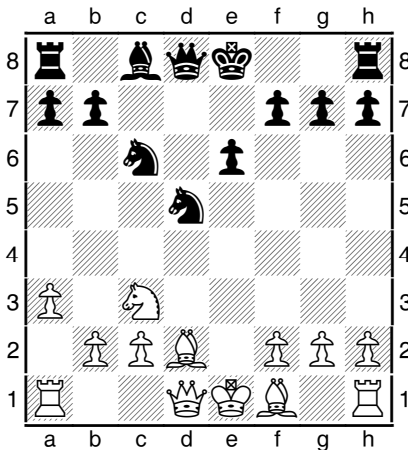
7.Nd6+?!, gives nothing to White after 7...Ke7 8.Nxc8+ Rxc8 9.Bd3 d5 = Samant,A-Kovalenko,I Internet 2024. Of course R.Fischer goes for gaining the bishop pair; a strategical plus which he was famous for loving to play with it, so Black's opening choice wasn't really good...

7...Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 (D)

9...d4 (9...dxe4 10.Nxe4 Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Qxd1+ 12.Kxd1 += Firouzja,A-Erigaisi,A Internet 2023) 10.Ne2 e5 11.0-0 0-0 12.h3 += Carlsen,M-Nepomniachtchi,I Moscow 2010.

9...Nxd5 10.Bd2 (D)

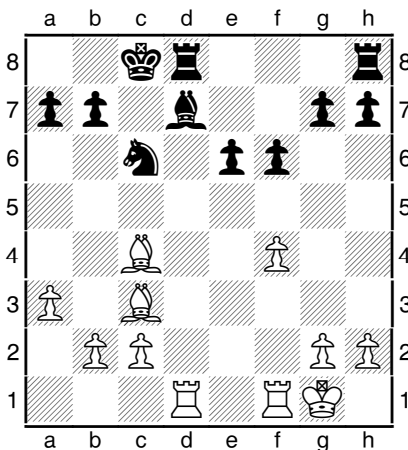
Probably best, as the alternative 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 Qe7+ 12.Qe2 Qxe2+ 13.Kxe2 Ne5 14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.a4 0-0-0 16.Rd1 Bf5 oo Akopian,V-Safarli,E Khanty Mansiysk 2013, looks OK for Black.



10...Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 f6!

Black must play carefully and not expose his position to further weaknesses, as 12...e5?! 13.Bb5?! (13.f4! +/-) 13...0-0 14.Kd2 += Teufel,J-Degehardt,N Kiel 1967.

13.f4 Bd7 14.Bc4 0-0-0 15.0-0 (D)



White has a pleasant position, due to his bishop pair and in general he can play for

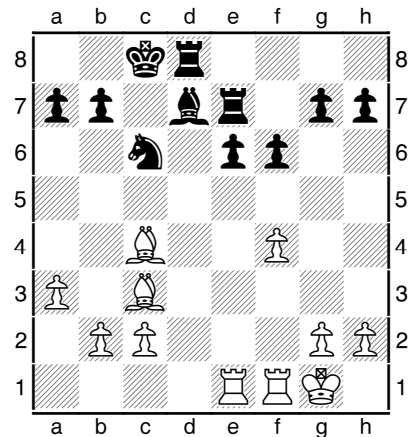
two results, while Black would be satisfied with the split of the point.

15...Rhe8

A natural and good novelty to 15...Kc7?! 16.Rf3! (16.Rfe1 Rhe8 17.Bd3 += Liebert,H-Moehring,G Halle 1966) 16...Rhe8 17.Re1 +/-.

16.Rde1 Re7? (D)

The text should be considered passive. Black had to opt for 16...e5! 17.fx5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Rxe5 fx5 20.Bd3 +=.



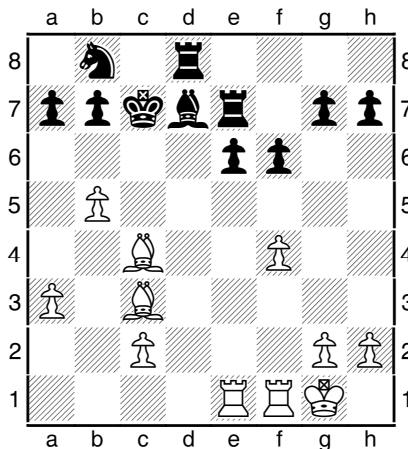
17.b4!

Now Black cannot go for the ...e5 advance, due to b5 and has to defend a passive position.

17...Kc7?

The text is rather weak, so Black should have opted for 17...Ree8 18.b5 Ne7 19.a4 Nd5 20.Bb2 +/-.

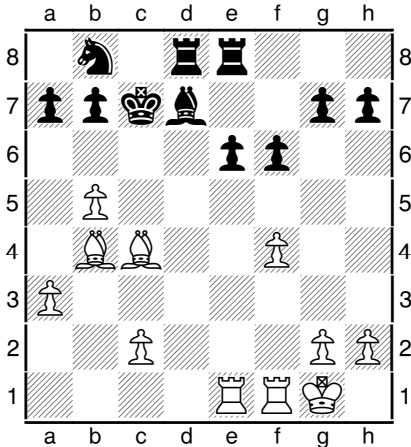
18.b5 Nb8 (D)



19.Bb4

Not bad, but even better was 19.Rf3! a6 20.a4 Rc8 21.Rg3 +-, when Black's days should be numbered...

19...Ree8 (D)

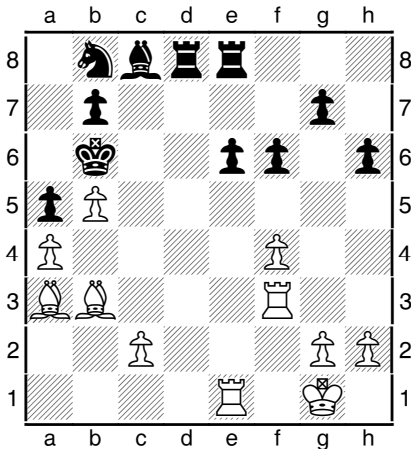


White is fully dominating the position and starts operation on both wings of the board.

20.Rf3! Kb6 21.a4 a5 22.Ba3?!

22.Bd2!, was absolutely lethal: 22...Bc8 23.Be3+ Kc7 24.b6+ Kd6 25.f5! Nc6 (25...e5?! 26.Rd1+ Ke7 27.Bc5+ +-) 26.fxe6 Bxe6 27.Bf4+ Ne5 28.Rd3+ Kc6 29.Rxd8 Rxd8 30.Bxe6 +-.

22...Bc8 23.Bb3 h6 (D)



24.Rc3!

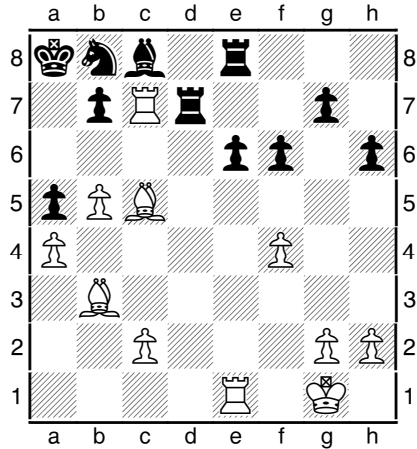
With the lethal threat 25.Bc5+.

24...Ka7 25.Rc7

Black's position is already lost, due to the white bishop pair, the domination of the 7th

rank and his weak pawn structure.

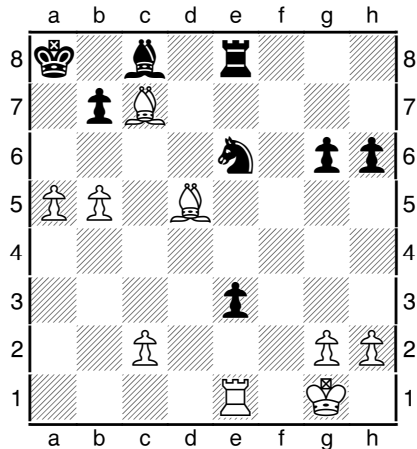
25...Rd7 26.Bc5+ Ka8 (D)



27.Bb6!

Material is won already...

27...e5 28.fxe5 fxe5 29.Bxa5 e4 30.Rc4 e3 31.Rc7 g6 32.Bb6! Rxc7 33.Bxc7 Nd7 34.a5 Nc5 35.Bd5! Ne6 (D)

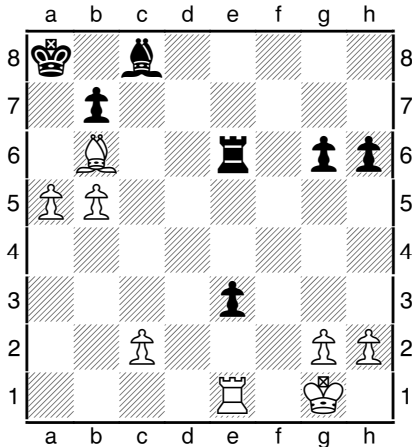


36.Bxe6?

Losing a considerable amount of the advantage. After 36.Be5 Nc5 37.Rxe3 +-, Black could resign. Now the presence of opposite-coloured bishops can help Black to be stubborn.

36...Rxe6 37.Bb6 (D)

After 37.Bf4 e2 38.Kf2 (38.Bxh6 Re5! 39.b6 Bd7 40.c4 Be6 41.Bf4 Re4 42.g3 Bxc4 43.Kf2 +/-) 38...g5 39.Be3 Re5 40.b6 Rxa5 41.Rxe2 +/-, White holds the advantage, but Black shouldn't resign yet!

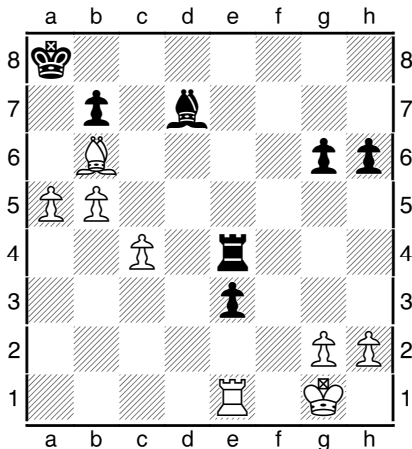


37...Bd7?

Returning the favour. After 37...Re5!
38.Bxe3 (38.Rxe3? Rxe3! 39.Bxe3 h5 =)
38...Rxb5 39.Bb6 Kb8 40.c4 Rb4 41.c5 +/-,
Black could fight.

38.c4! Re4 (D)

After 38...e2 39.Kf2 Re4 40.Rxe2 Rf4+
41.Ke1 Rxc4 42.Rd2 Bf5 43.Be3 h5 44.Rd5
+-, Black wouldn't survive as well, as his
king is rather weak.

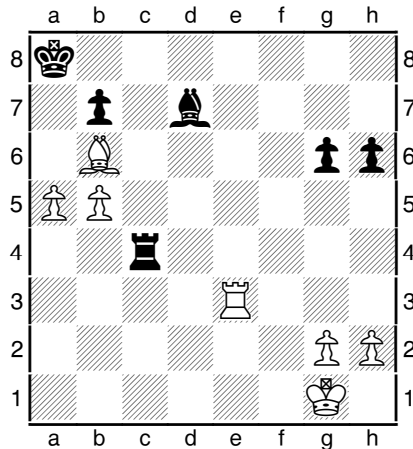


39.Rxe3?

A blunder! White would easily prevail after
39.Bxe3 Rxc4 40.b6 g5 41.Rd1 Bg4 42.Rd6
+-.
39...Rxc4? (D)

Black failed to understand that after
39...Rxe3! 40.Bxe3 h5! 41.Kf2 Be6 42.c5
Bd7 43.b6 (43.c6 bxc6 44.b6 Kb7 =)
43...Kb8! (43...Bb5? 44.Bf4 +-) 44.Bf4+

Kc8 45.Ke3 Bb5 =, he would hold the draw,
despite being two pawns down, due to
presence of the opposite-coloured bishops.

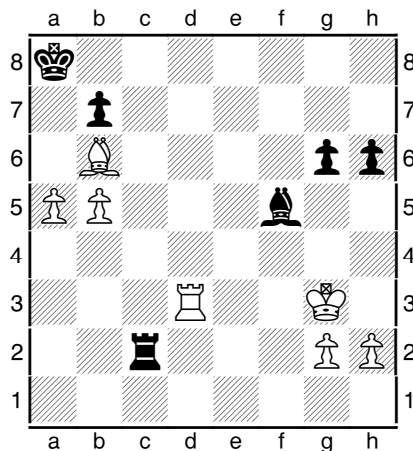


40.Rd3!

Now, as the black king remains rather weak,
White prevails.

40...Rc1+ 41.Kf2 Rc2+

There is nothing better than Black can do:
41...Bf5 42.Rd8+ Rc8 43.Rd6 Kb8 44.Bd4!
Re8 45.Be3 h5 46.b6 Kc8 47.Bg5 +-.
42.Kg3 Bf5 (D)

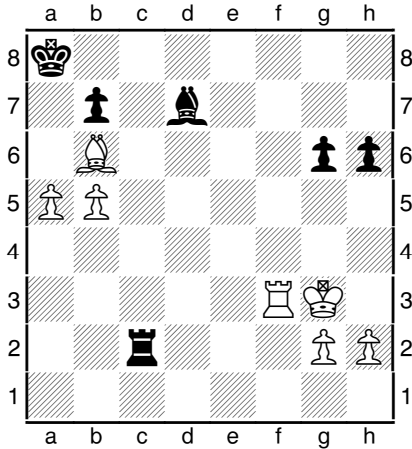


43.Rf3?

A strange decision by R.Fischer. Good
enough was 43.Rd8+ Rc8 44.Rd5 Re8
45.Bd4 +-.
43...Bd7? (D)

And again Black returned the favour! After
the accurate 43...Kb8!, escaping the
dangerous back-rank, Black should be able

to draw in the long run.



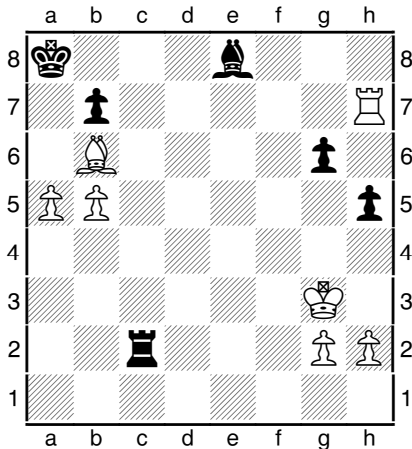
44.Rf7!

Back to business!

44...Be8 45.Rh7

Making room for the white king to penetrate via the dark squares, if needed.

45...h5 (D)

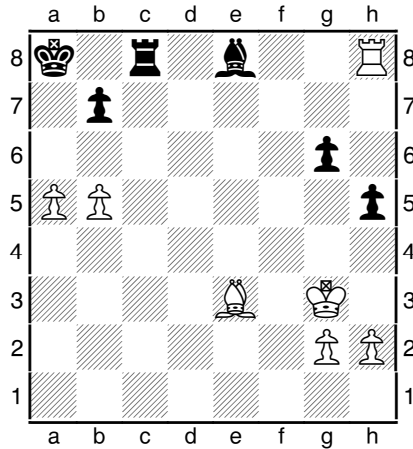


White is quite near to collect the full-point; he just had to play some accurate moves...

46.Rh8?

But not like this! Many blunders were seen in this game, where R.Fischer didn't prove his famous accuracy. Good enough is 46.Be3! Rc3 47.Kf2 Rc2+ 48.Ke1 Rc4 49.b6 Ra4 50.Rh8 Re4 51.Kf2 Kb8 52.Kf3 +/-.

46...Rc8! 47.Be3 (D)

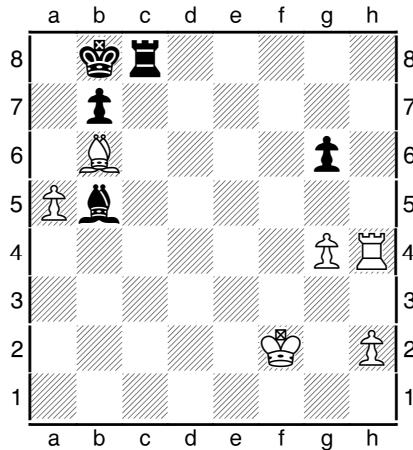


47...h4+?

Black's last blunder. He should have opted for the natural 47...Bd7! 48.Rh6 (48.Rxc8+? Bxc8 =) 48...Bxb5 49.Rxg6 Bc6 50.Rg5 Be8 51.Bb6 +/-.

48.Kf2?

48.Kxh4 Rc4+ 49.Kg3 Re4 50.Kf3 Re6 51.b6 +-, should be the end. But Black anyway resigned, as he thought that there are no chances left after 48...Bd7 49.Rxh4 Bxb5 50.Bb6 Kb8 51.g4 +/- (D)



But there is still plenty of game left to play before White proves his advantage. A non-standard R.Fischer play and his famous endgame accuracy and the two bishops handling...

1-0

Game 4

Hristos Kokkoris - Robert J. Fischer



1942-



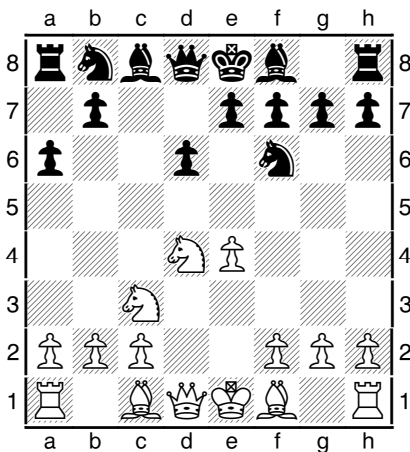
1943-2008

□ Kokkoris Hristos

■ Fischer Robert James

B95 Athens 1968

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 (D)



A standard opening choice for R.Fischer in the 'Sicilian Defence'; the 'Najdorf Variation'. Thus, by playing the text, Black deprives White of the check on b5, so that ...e5 might be possible next move. In general, the text also prevents White's knights from using the b5-square, and helps Black create queenside play by preparing the ...b5 pawn push.

6.Bg5

The principled line in those days.

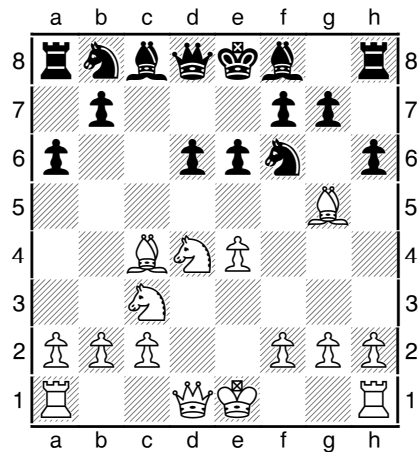
6...e6 7.Bc4

7.f4, is the most well-known continuation,

which was played in several thousand games!

7...h6 (D)

7...b5, seems more aggressive: 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 Be7 10.Qe2 Nbd7 11.Nb3 0-0 12.a3 Rc8 13.Rad1 Qc7 oo Melamedoff,M-Foguelman,A Mar del Plata 1967.



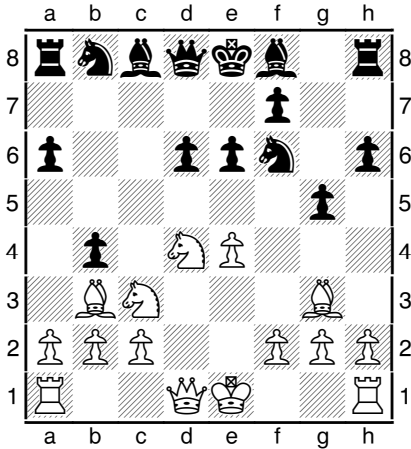
8.Bh4

A novelty in those times to 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.0-0 Bd7! (9...b5? 10.Bb3 Be7 11.f4 Bd8 12.e5! +/- Musakaev,E-Kotsur,P Tiumen 2010) 10.f4 d5! 11.e5 Qd8 12.Bd3 Qb6 13.Nce2 Nc6 14.c3 Bc5 -/+ Abdrlauf,E-Vidit,S Samarkand 2023.

8...b5 9.Bb3 g5?!

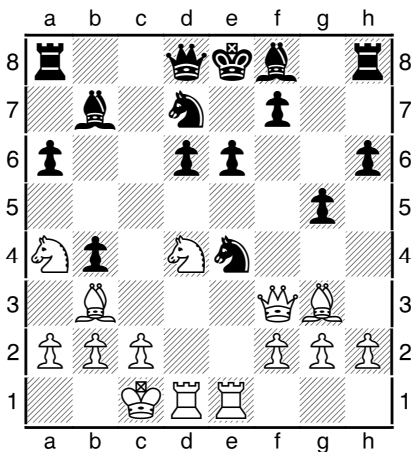
The calm 9...Be7, seems to favour Black: 10.Qf3 Bb7 oo Mantic,A-Vida,G Tatalandia 2024.

10.Bg3 b4 (D)



11.Na4! Nxe4 12.Qf3! Bb7 13.0-0 Nd7?
 Better seems to be 13...g4 14.Qe2 (14.Qxg4+ Qg5+ 15.Qxg5 hxg5 16.Nb6 Ra7 17.Ba4+ Kd8 18.f3 Nxc3 19.hxc3 Rxh1 20.Rxh1 Bg7 =+ Larrain Cadaiz,E-Marin,R Santiago 2007) 14...Nd7 oo Soukos,K-Potapov,A Nikea 2000, but not 13...Nc5? 14.Qh5 Nxb3+ 15.axb3 Ke7 16.Rhe1 (16.Bxd6+ +-) 16...Kf6 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Be5+ Ke7 19.Bxh8 Qa5 20.Qg6 1-0 Schulte,O-Gardner,R Edmonton 2000.
14.Rhe1? (D)

14.Nxe6!, seems to be lethal: 14...fxe6 15.Bxe6 Qf6 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.Nc5+ Kc7 18.Nxe4 Qxf3 19.gxf3 +/-.

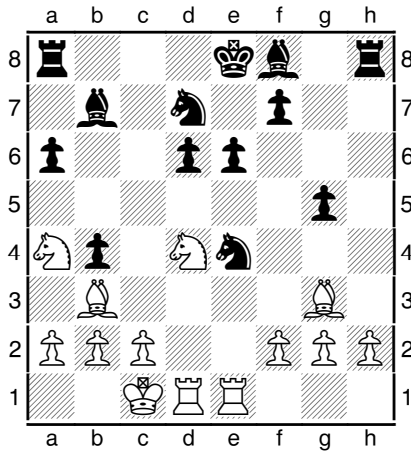


14...g4! 15.Qxg4?
 A critical mistake. Good was 15.Qd3! Ne5 16.Qe3 Bg7 17.Bf4 Qf6 18.f3 Ng5 19.Nxe6!

Nxe6 20.Rxd6 Ng6! 21.Bxe6 0-0! 22.Bc8! Qxf4 23.Qxf4 Nxf4 24.Bxb7 Ra7 25.Re4! gxf3 26.gxf3 Rxb7 27.Rxf4 Be5 28.Rg4+ Kh7 29.Rd5 Bxh2 30.Nc5 +=.

15...Qg5+ 16.Qxg5
 A bit better was 16.Qf4 0-0-0 -/+.

16...hxg5 (D)

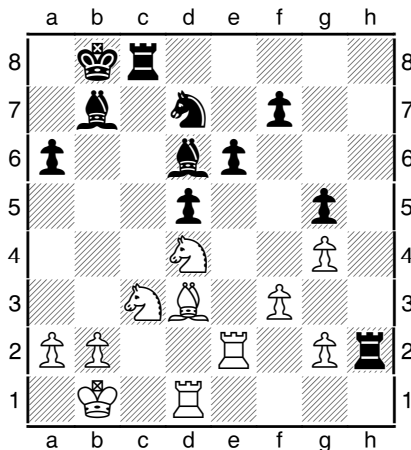


Black is already clearly better, as these middlegames without the queens are clearly superior for him.

17.f3 Nxc3 18.hxc3 0-0-0 19.Bc4 d5 20.Bd3 Bd6

Black has got the bishop pair and clearly better pawn structure, while the offside a4-knight is not of a help - his days are numbered...

21.g4 Rh2! 22.Re2 Kb8 23.c3 Rc8 24.Kb1 bxc3 25.Nxc3 (D)



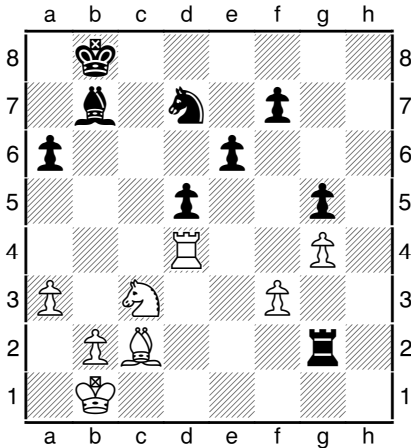
25...Be5! 26.Bc2 Bg7

26...Rc4, was a killer: 27.Nb3 Bxc3 28.bxc3 Rxc3 -+.

27.a3 Rc4! 28.Red2

White will not survive either after 28.Nb3 Bxc3 29.bxc3 Rxc3 30.Rd3 Rxd3 31.Bxd3 Ka7 -+.

28...Rxd4! 29.Rxd4 Bxd4 30.Rxd4 Rxd4 (D)

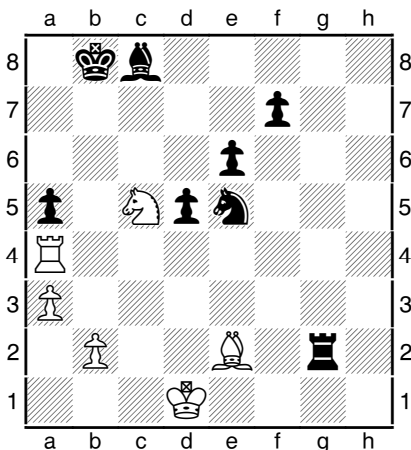


And Black won material, while his pieces are active and White doesn't have any counterplay - the end should be near.

31.Bd1 Ne5 32.f4 Nxc4 33.fxc5 Ne5 34.Na4 Rxc5

A second good pawn for Black...

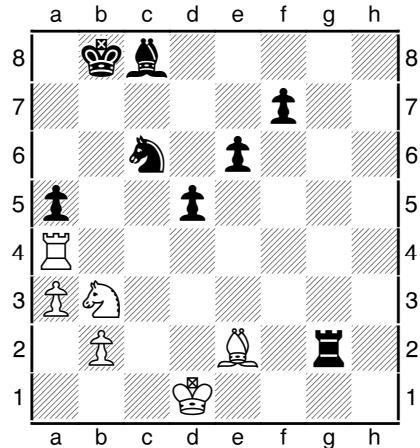
35.Nc5 Bc8 36.Be2 a5 37.Ra4 Rg1+ 38.Kc2 Rg2 39.Kd1 (D)



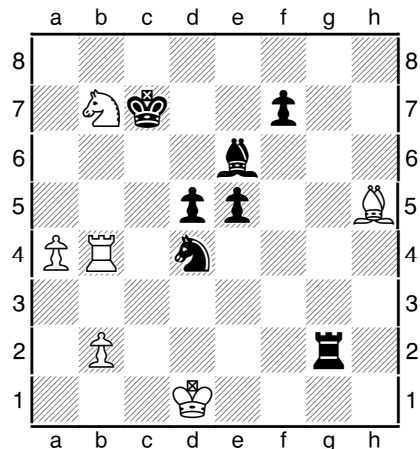
39...Nc6

Black could also opt for 39...Kc7! 40.Rxa5 Nc6! (40...Kb6? 41.b4 -/+) 41.Ra4 e5 42.Nd3 Rh2 -+.

40.Nb3 (D)



40...e5! 41.Nxa5 Nd4 42.Bh5 Be6 43.Rb4+ Kc8 44.Nb7 Kc7! 45.a4 (D)



45...Rg5

And White resigned, as he is losing his bishop: 46.Be2 Rg1+ 47.Kd2 Rg2 -+. After the opening phase, where White missed his great chances, everything was clear-cut and easy for Black... Well, good players gives you just one chance...

0-1

Game 5

Robert J. Fischer - Anastasios Anastasopoulos



1943-2008



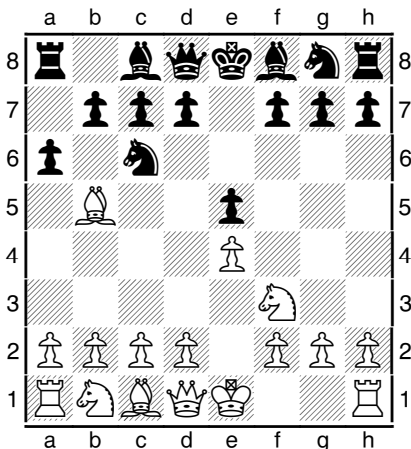
1915-1981

□ Fischer Robert James

■ Anastasopoulos Anastasios

C69 Athens 1968

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 (D)



4.Bxc6

The favourable continuation of R.Fischer in the 'Ruy Lopez/Spanish Game', the 'Exchange Variation'.

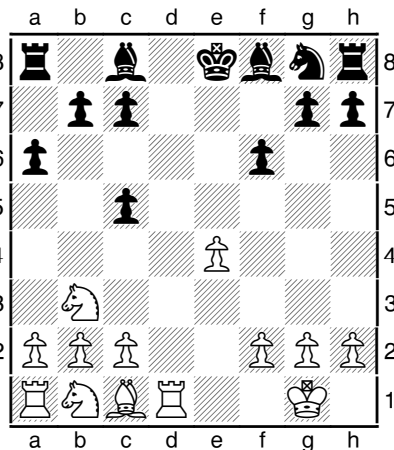
4...dxc6 5.0-0

5.d4, is not much after 5...exd4 6.Qxd4 Qxd4 7.Nxd4 c5 8.Ne2 Bd7 9.Bf4 0-0-0 10.Nbc3 Bc6 11.f3 Ne7 = Sharapov,E-Giri,A Internet 2018.

5...f6

One of the many black continuations, considered as the best.

6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 c5 8.Nb3 Qxd1 9.Rxd1 (D)



In this position, White has the better pawn structure, due to the doubled black c-pawns, but Black has the bishop pair and better central control, due to the doubled c-pawns! A position which presents a dynamical balance, but usually endings are better for White.

9...Bd7?!

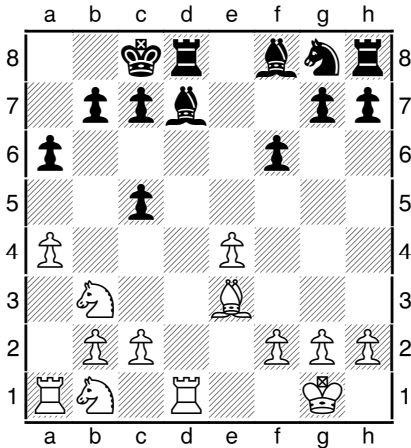
9...Be6, seems to be a better try: 10.Bf4 c4 11.Nd4 0-0-0 12.Nc3 Bf7 13.Nf5 Rxd1+ 14.Rxd1 Ne7 15.Ne3 (15.Bd6! Nxf5 16.Bxf8 Rxf8 17.exf5 Re8 =) 15...Ng6 16.Bg3 Bc5 17.Nf5 h5 18.h4 oo Kasimdzhanov,R-Beliavsky,A Istanbul 2012.

10.a4?

A move without any direct meaning. White should have opted for 10.Bf4 0-0-0 11.Nc3

Be6 12.Rxd8+ Kxd8 13.Rd1+ Kc8 14.Nd5 Bxd5 15.Rxd5 b6 16.Rd1 += Sattarov,B-Abdusattorov,N Tashkent 2015.

10...0-0 11.Be3 (D)



11...b6! 12.Nc3

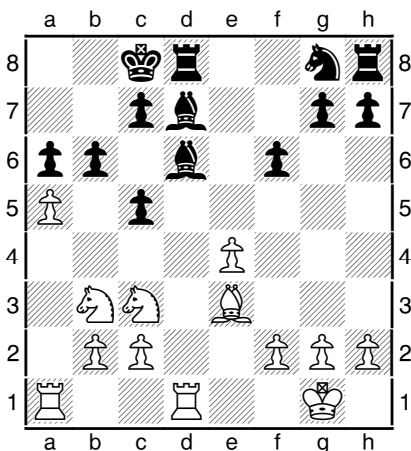
12.a5 c4! 13.Nd4 b5, is already fine for Black, as the coming ...c5, would give him full control over the centre.

12...Bd6?!

12...a5! 13.Nd2 Be6 14.f4 Ne7 += Schammo,J-Quinones,O Siegen 1970, was the right follow-up.

13.a5?! (D)

Returning the favour at once! Good was 13.Nd5 Kb7 14.a5 c4 15.Nd4 b5 16.Bf4 = Doerfler,G-Middelhoff,C Bayern 1995.

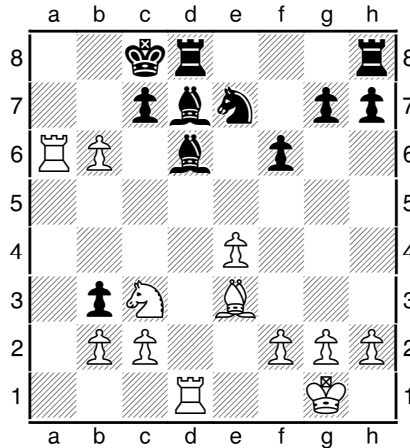


13...c4! 14.axb6?

Not the best, but also 14.Nd4, is a suffer for White after 14...b5 15.Nd5 Ne7! (15...Re8

oo Atakishiyev,E-Shanava,K Baku 2023) 16.Nf4 Rdg8 += Kiseleva,O-Gabaidulina,O Russia 2012.

14...cxb3! 15.Rxa6 Ne7! (D)

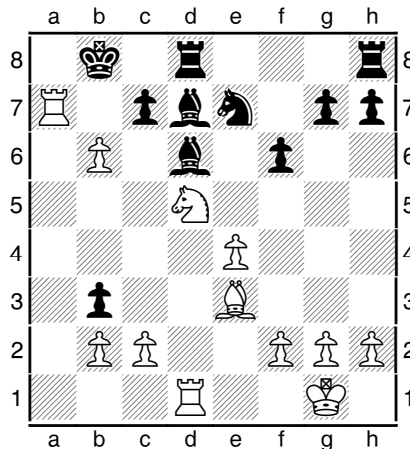


Black has already a clear advantage.

16.Ra8+

White will not survive as well after 16.cxb3 Bc6 17.Rc1 Kd7 18.bxc7 Ra8! 19.Rb6 Bxc7 20.Rb4 Rhc8 -+ Horvath,I-Veress,R Charousek 2000.

16...Kb7 17.Ra7+ Kb8 18.Nd5 (D)



White is trying his best, but his position is beyond repairing...

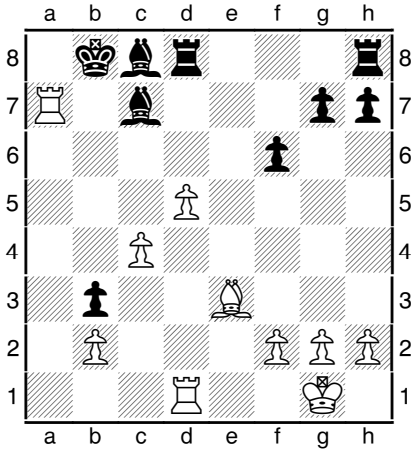
18...Nxd5 19.exd5 Bc8?

A quite bad move, which allows White to escape. Decisive was 19...bxc2! 20.Rda1 c5! -+.

20.bxc7+ Bxc7 21.c4 (D)

21.Rd3, was interesting: 21...Bb6! 22.Bxb6

bxc2 23.Ra1 Bf5 24.Rd4 Rd7 oo.

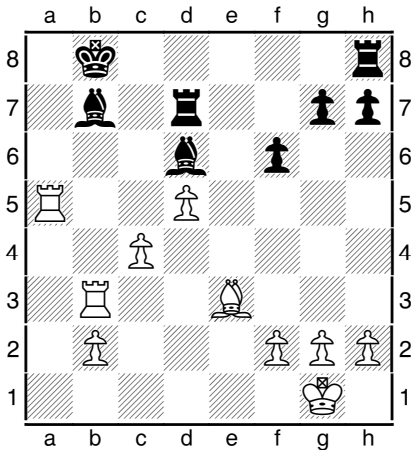


21...Bb7?!

As White has started to achieve real compensation for the sacrificed piece, Black has to be careful. For this he had to opt for 21...Rhe8 22.Ra3 Bb7 23.Rxb3 Re4 24.Rc1 Kc8 25.Rd3 +/=.

22.Rd3! Rd7 23.Rxb3 Bd6 24.Ra5 (D)

24.c5?, would be wrong after 24...Kxa7 25.c6+ Ka8 26.cxd7 Rd8 -/.

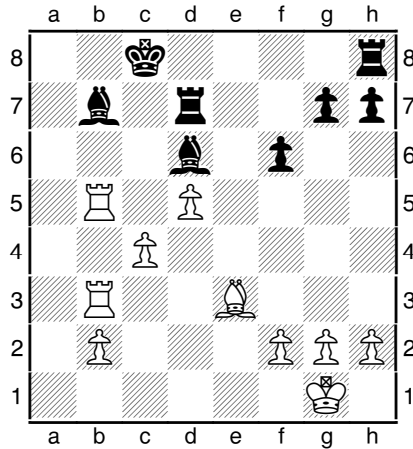


24...Kc8

24...Rc8, should have been played: 25.Ba7+ Kc7 26.Bb6+ Kb8 27.Ra4 Re8 28.Kf1 Re4 29.f3 Re8 30.Bf2 (30.c5? Bxd5+) 30...Kc8 31.g3 +/=.

25.Rab5?! (D)

White went astray for another one time! Good was 25.Kf1 f5 26.g3 +/=, when Black will suffer...



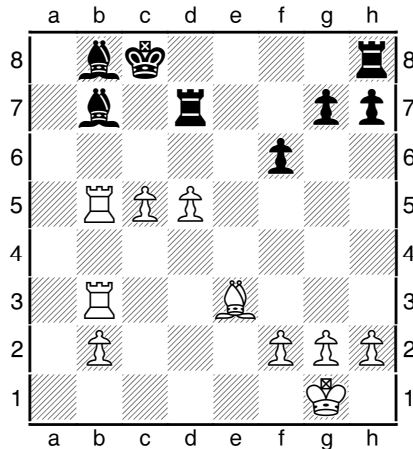
25...Bb8?

A blunder. Black had to opt for 25...f5!

26.g3 f4 27.Bxf4 Bxf4 28.gxf4 Rf8 oo.

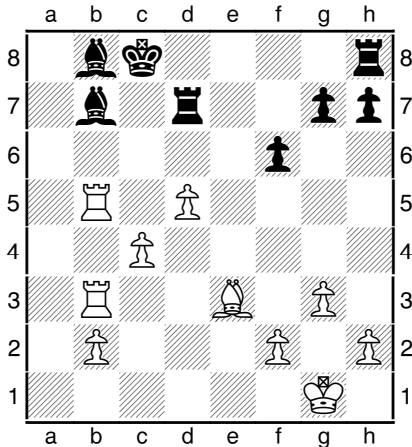
26.g3? (D)

26.c5! (D)



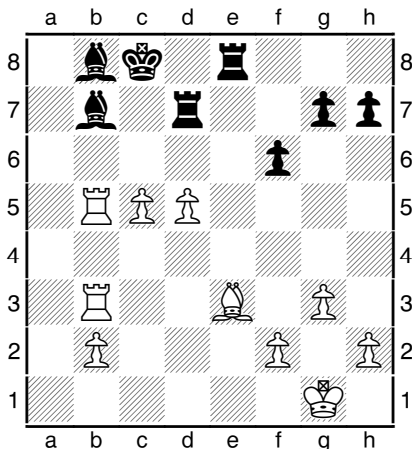
Was nearly decisive: 26...Be5 27.d6! Bxd6 (27...Rhd8 28.c6! Rxd6 [28...Bxc6? 29.Rb8 #] 29.cxb7+ Kb8 30.g3 +/-) 28.cxd6 Rxd6 29.h3 Rd7 30.Bb6 +/-.





26...Re8?

But this too much! The only way for Black to stay in the game was by 26...Bd6! 27.Rb6 Re8 28.R3b5 Be7 29.Re6 Rd6 30.Re4 +-. 27.c5! (D)

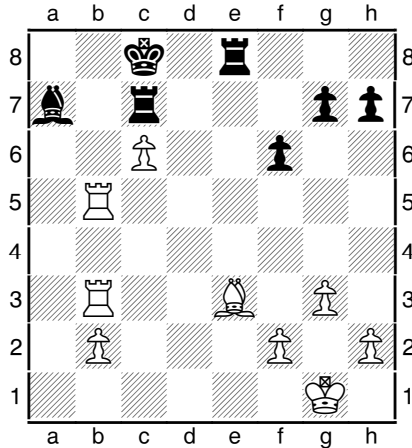


Now the white pawn phalanx is fairly advancing, clearing-up the situation and gaining the full point...

27...Ba7

Black doesn't have any fair alternative: 27...Bxd5 28.Rxb8+ Kc7 29.Bf4+ Kc6 30.R3b6+ Kxc5 31.b4+ +-, or 27...Rxd5 28.Rxb7 Bc7 29.Ra7 +-.

28.c6 Bxc6 29.dxc6 Rc7 (D)



30.Rb7!

Black resigned, due to 30...Rxb7 31.cxb7+ Kb8 32.Bf4+ +-. A pity for A.Anastasopoulos, who came quite close to score a win vs. his great opponent. But in the end, the blunders that he made, deprived him of this great luxury! Well, you only live twice, as it is well-known already... And Black spared more than the allowed number...

1-0

**Greek Chess Federation
Elliniki Skakistiki Omospondia**

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Zone: 1.5a

Established: 1948