

Richard Shorman

Chess

RECIPROCATED PAWNS

White: Robert Fischer. Black: Boris Spassky.

World Championship, Match Game No. 14.

Reykjavik, August 15, 1972.

Queen's Gambit Declined

1 P-QB4	P-K3	22 BxN	N-B6!(g)
2 N-KB3	P-Q4	23 Q-N4	QxQ
3 P-Q4	N-KB3	24 PxQ	PxB
4 N-B3	B-K2	25 B-K5	N-N4
5 B-B4(a)	0-0	26 R-B1	R-B1
6 P-K3	P-B4	27 N-Q4	P-B3??(h)
7 PxBP	N-B3	28 BxP(i)	BxN
8 PxP	PxP(b)	29 BxB	NxB
9 B-K2	BxP	30 PxN	R-N1
10 0-0	B-K3	31 K-B1	RxP
11 R-B1	R-B1	32 RxP	RxP
12 P-QR3(c)	P-KR3	33 R-R6(j)	K-B2
13 B-N3(d)	B-N3	34 RxPch	K-B3
14 N-K5	N-K2	35 R-Q7	P-R4
15 N-R4	N-K5	36 K-K2	P-N4
16 RxR	BxR	37 K-K3	R-K5ch
17 N-KB3	B-Q2	38 K-Q3	K-K3
18 B-K5(e)	BxN	29 R-KN7	K-B3
19 QxB	N-QB3	40 R-Q7	K-K3
20 B-KB4	Q-B3	41 Drawn	
21 B-QN5(f)	QxP		

(Notes by former world champion Vasily Smyslov, translated from "64," No. 33, Aug. 18-24, 1972, pp. 9 and 16)

(a) Fischer deviates from 6 B-N5 that he used in the preceding games. The development of the bishop to KB4 is well known in opening theory, and reliable defenses have been found for Black. In this game Spassky achieves equality without much effort.

(b) Black has an isolated center pawn. This position is typical for the Tarrasch Defense, which has been seen often in the world champion's tournament practice. While the weakness of the QP can be felt in the endgame, in the middlegame it often promotes active piece play.

(c) The struggle takes on a placid maneuvering quality. One of White's tasks is to maintain control over his Q4 in order to keep Black from playing P-Q5. White must avoid 12 NxP here because of 12 . . . QxN 13 QxQ NxQ 14 RxB NxB 15 PxN N-Q5 16 R-K5 NxBch 17 RxN B-B5, and Black wins the exchange.

(d) In similar positions 13 N-QN5, followed by posting the knight at Q4, is usually played.

(e) Individual moves are hard to criticize. Fischer's game here does not seem purposeful. Striving for favorable simplification by 18 NxB QxN 19 Q-Q4 looks better.

(f) An oversight, or has Fischer become aware of his plight and decided to reach an ending even if it means going a pawn down? If 21 Q-N3, then 21 . . . P-Q5! 22 Q-Q5 R-K1 23 B-Q3 N-B4. Also doubtful is 21 Q-B2 in view of 21 . . . P-N4 22 B-N3 P-KR4, with the most unpleasant threat of P-R5.

(g) Thanks to this in between move Black wins a pawn. Now White must steer clear of 23 B-K5 on account of 23 . . . NxQ 24 BxQ PxB.

(h) A painful blunder that costs Black his pawn plus. The natural replies 27 . . . NxN and 27 . . . BxN preserve good chances for realizing Black's material advantage in the endgame.

(i) A simple retort based on the variation 28 . . . PxB 29 NxN, and White profits from the pin on the QB file. A drawn result is now inevitable.

(j) Neither side can be given preference in the rook ending. The draw could have been agreed to here.

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