

CHESS BARBS

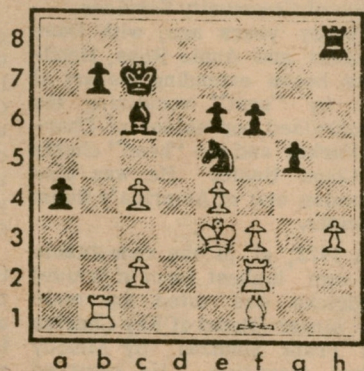
by Jude Acers (U.S senior master)

PSYCHOLOGICAL VICTORY FOR BYRNE: Those who sneered that Robert Byrne had zero chances of even salvaging a draw against the awesome power of Boris Spassky had better re-activate their guesstimators. Byrne not only drew the first match game (Spassky's offer) but also scored a psychological victory in the process, according to IM Julio Kaplan in Puerto Rico: "Spassky threw away more than a possible half point in Monday's game. He ruined his previous fine play by his hasty (35th) move, and also let slip an important psychological advantage."

White: Robert Byrne (USA).
Black: Boris Spassky (USSR).
Quarter-Final World Championship Candidates' Match, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Jan. 14, 1974; 1st Match Game. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cd 4 Nd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e6 6 g4 a6 7 a4 Nc6 8 g5 Nd7 9 Be3 Nde5 10 Be2 Nd4 11 Qd4 Nc6 12 Qb6 Qb6 13 Bb6 h6 14 gh Rh6 15 0-0-0 Bd7 16 Bc7 Rc8 17 Bd6 Bd6 18 Rd6 Ke7 19 Rd3 Rch8 20 h3 g5 21 Rhd1 Ne5 22 Rg3 f6 23 Bf1 Rh4 24 Kd2 Rc8 25 Ke3 Rc3ch 26 bc

Ba4 26 bc Ba4 27 Rb1 Bc6 28 f3 Rh8 29 Rg1 Kd6 30 Rb4 Ng6 31 Rg2 a5 32 Rd2ch Kc7 33 Rb1 af 34 c4 Ne5 35 Rf2.

Boris Spassky



Robert Byrne

35. . .Kd6 36 f4 gfch 37 Rf4 Kc5 38 Rf6 Nc4ch 39 Bc4 Rh3ch 40 Kf4 Kc4 41 Re6 Kc3 42 Rb6 Kc2 43 Rec6ch bc 44 Rc6ch Drawn.

The other quarter-final duels beginning this week are Mecking--

Korchni at Augusta, Georgia (with Martin Morrison appointed Assistant Arbiter to Bozidar Kazic), Karpov -- Polugaevsky in Moscow and Petrosian -- Portisch in Palma de Mallorca, Spain (Did you know that Petrosian has a minus score versus Portisch going into this match?!).

A press release from National Public Radio says that all the action will be reported by Frank Brady ("Profile of a Prodigy") over the weekday radio program, "All Things Considered..." Check our local listings (KQED-FM 88.5) for broadcast times.

LOCAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS: Carrying his FIDE 2410 rating with him from the Philippines, Ruben Rodriguez won five in a row at the Los Altos Winter Open, Jan. 5-6, but had to split the first-place cash with Alan Lavergne (USCF 2158) of Palo Alto, who scored a heroic 5-0 of his own. James Locke was supposed to manage the T.D. chores, but Jennie Kiesling ("Never again!") wound up taking command of the pairing duties for the 140-player event.

White: Borel Menas (2086).
Black: Ruben Rodriguez (2410).

Los Altos, Jan. 6, 1974, Rd.5. Sicilian Defense 1 e4 c5 2 c3 b6 3 Bc4 Bb6 4 Nf3 e6 5 Qe2 Nf6 6 d3 Be7 7 Nbd2 d6 8 Nf1 0-0 9 Bd3 Nbd7 10 Bf4 Re8 11 h4 Bf8 12 h5 c4 13 Bc4 d5 14 Bd5 de 15 de a6 16 Bd3 Nc5 17 0-0-0 Nd3ch 18 Rd3 Qc8 19 Ng3 Qc4! 20 Nd7 Qa2 21 f3 Bc6 22 Rd6 Bb4 23 Qe3 e5 24 Bh6 gh! 25 Rf6 Bc5 26 Qh6 Bd3. 27 White resigns.

KOLTY TO TEACH CHESS CLASS: Blindfold champ George Koltanowski will be teaching beginning and advanced chess classes at the U.C. Extension Center in San Francisco starting Feb. 5 and lasting until Mar. 13. Information on schedules and course contest may be obtained by writing to the Extension Center, 55 Laguna St., or by calling 861-6833.

COUNTY NOVICE CHAMPIONSHIP: The San Francisco County Novice Championship will be held at the Sigmund Stern Grove Clubhouse (on Sloat Blvd. and 19th Ave., by Lake Merced), Saturday, Jan. 19. This tournament is open only to players who are either unrated or whose USCF rating is below 1400. Trophy prizes, 40 moves

per hour, 5-round Swiss. Entry fees are only \$2.50 for students under 19 or \$3.50 for others! Phone David Smith, 582-6527, for playing times and additional info.

BERKELEY RAPID TRANSIT TOURNEYS: Since Hardcastles stopped the weekly speed tournaments that used to be played there before the renovation and name change, Alan Benson has been looking for a new location to hold them. The new rapid transit site is now in the basement of the First Baptist Church (on Haste and Dana), where a maximum of 26 players may compete every Thursday, beginning at 6:30 p.m. (sharp!).

All entry fees (\$1) will be returned to the players in prizes: 50% for 1st, 30% for 2nd and 20% for 3rd. Tournament organizer Alan Benson will direct the events. Please bring sets and clocks. For questions, call the East Asia Book and Game Center, 848-8018. Some of the best players in the country (Browne, Grefe, Tarjan, Fritzing, McCormick, Barnes, et al) participate in these free-for-alls, so even if you can't hack the competition come on down and watch 'em fight!

