

# GARRY KASPAROV ON FISHER MY GREAT PREDECESSORS PART IV

This volume concentrates mainly on the life and games of the great American genius, Bobby Fischer. Here is a sample of Fischer at his best:

*Game 65*

**R.Fischer-M.Tal**

Bled 1961, 2nd round

*Sicilian Defence B47*

**1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4 e6 5 ♗c3**

‘No doubt Tal expected 5 ♗b5 which I had played exclusively at Buenos Aires 1960. I still think that might be best,’ wrote Fischer, and later he confirmed this (*Game No.91*).

**5...♞c7 6 g3 ♗f6?!**

A purely ‘manual’ mistake. Tal intended the usual 6...a6 7 ♗g2 ♗f6 (*Game No.93*) and had already written down 6...a6 on his score-sheet, but, by his own admission, ‘roughly once a year it would happen that I would write down the first move of a variation, but make the second.’

‘Probably the losing move!’ states Fischer. ‘Tal looked worried immediately after having made it, but I’m not sure he was convinced he had been really careless.’ Well, let’s see...

**7 ♗db5! ♞b8** (7...♞a5 8 ♗d2 ♞d8 9 ♗f4 e5 10 ♗g5 is bad for Black – Fischer) **8 ♗f4 8...♗e5?**

‘Tal took a long time on this risky reply. The alternative 8...e5 9 ♗g5 a6 10 ♗xf6 (not

10 ♗a3 b5 11 ♗xf6 b4!) 10...axb5 (not 10...gxf6 11 ♗a3 b5 12 ♗d5) 11 ♗g5 gives a clear advantage.’ (Fischer)

However, Hübner did not agree with this: ‘Fischer often lacks rigorousness when evaluating two options in a cheerless position; to my mind, this is the case here. The text-move loses by force; after 8...e5 9 ♗g5 a6 10 ♗xf6 axb5 11 ♗g5 Black would still have had chances to offer resistance if he continues with 11...♗b4 12 ♗xb5 ♗xc3+ 13 bxc3 d6.’ Or first 13...♞c7 – indeed, the weakness of White’s queenside greatly hinders the conversion of his extra pawn.

Moreover, in the variation 10...gxf6 11 ♗a3 instead of 11...b5? 12 ♗d5 f5 13 ♗b1! Black should go in for 11...♗xa3! 12 bxa3 ♗e7! 13 ♗d5 (13 ♞f3!? ♞c7!) 13...♗xd5 14 ♞xd5 (14 exd5 ♞c7 15 c4 d6) 14...b5 or 14...d6, with a somewhat inferior, but by no means lost position.

**9 ♗e2!**

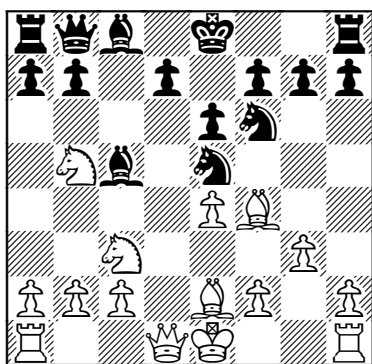
‘Perhaps Tal underestimated this simple move. It prepares ♞d4 and keeps an eye on the b5 square.’ (Fischer)

**9...♗c5?**

But this definitely leads to defeat, as do the lines indicated by Fischer: 9...a6 10 ♞d4 d6 11 ♞d1 axb5 12 ♗xe5, or 9...d6 10 ♞d4 ♗c6 11

♞xd6+ (11 ♜xd6! ♙xd6 12 ♙xd6 Tal) 11...♞d7(?) 12 ♙b5 (or 12 ♜c4) 12...♙xd6 13 0-0-0. Of course, 11...♙xd6 12 ♜xd6 e5 is essential, but after 13 ♜xb8 ♞xb8 14 ♙g5 White is simply a pawn up.

‘In the tournament book Tal suggested the rather startling 9...♞g8 to avoid material loss. After 10 ♜d4 f6 11 0-0-0 (if 11 ♙xe5 fxe5 12 ♜c4 ♞d8! holds) 11...a6 12 ♞d6+ ♙xd6 13 ♜xd6 ♜xd6 14 ♞xd6 leads to a promising endgame,’ writes Fischer. Even so, this was Black’s last chance: he would at least have retained material equality.



**10 ♙xe5! ♜xe5 11 f4 ♜b8 12 e5 a6**

12...♞g8 13 ♞e4 ♙e7 is also hopeless in view of 14 ♜d2 (Fischer), 14 ♜d3 or even the immediate 14 ♞bd6+.

**13 exf6 axb5 14 fxg7**

‘Keres thought 14 ♞e4 ♙f8 15 ♜d4 was stronger. But I wanted the pawn. With only two draws against Tal, out of six times to bat, I was in no mood to speculate!’ (Fischer)

Here Bobby is right, although, of course, in Keres’s variation too Black has a bad position, for example: 15...♜a7 16 ♜e5 g6 17 ♙xb5 ♜e3+ 18 ♞f1 ♜f3+ 19 ♞g1 b6 20 ♙e2! ♜e3+ 21 ♞f1 ♙c5 22 b4! and wins.

**14...♞g8 15 ♞e4 ♙e7 16 ♜d4 ♞a4**

A loss of a tempo, but the slightly more tenacious 16...♜c7 (Botvinnik) would also have lost in view of 17 ♙d3 b6 18 ♞f6+ ♙xf6 19 ♜xf6 ♜c5 20 0-0-0 ♜h5 21 h3 etc.

**17 ♞f6+ ♙xf6 (17...♞d8? 18 ♜b6+) 18**

**♜xf6 ♜c7 19 0-0-0!**

An accurate move, which essentially concludes the game. If 19 ♙h5, then 19...d5 (Fischer).

**19...♞xa2** (or 19...♜d8 20 ♜h6 ♞xa2 21 ♜xh7 ♞e7 22 h4 and wins) **20 ♞b1 ♞a6**

If 20...♜a5 Fischer gives 21 b3! and ♙h5, while if 20...♞a5 – the immediate 21 ♙h5 d6 22 ♞d6! or 21...d5 22 ♞d5! exd5 23 ♞e1+.

**21 ♙xb5**

‘I was so intent on snatching material and not botching this one that I missed 21 ♙h5 d6 (21...d5 22 ♞d5!) 22 ♞he1 ♜e7 23 ♜h6 ♞d7 24 ♜xh7 with a quick win in view.’ (Fischer). Or 22 f5!

**21...♞b6 22 ♙d3 e5**

After 22...♜d8 23 ♜h6 f5 24 ♜h5+ ♞e7 both 25 g4 (Fischer) and 25 ♙e2 ♞xg7 26 ♜h4+ ♞e8 27 ♙h5+ etc. are possible.

**23 fxe5!**

This is stronger than 23 ♜xe5+ ♜xe5 24 fxe5 ♞xg7, although even here after 25 ♞he1 ♞d8 26 ♙f5 it is doubtful whether Black can save the game. ‘In top-flight chess, you have to drive your advantage home unmercifully.’ (Fischer)

**23...♞xf6 24 exf6** (threatening ♙xh7)

**24...♜c5** (24...♜b6 25 ♞hf1) **25 ♙xh7 ♜g5**

**26 ♙xg8 ♜xf6 27 ♞hf1 ♜xg7 28 ♙xf7+**

**♞d8 29 ♙e6 ♜h6**

29...♞c7 30 ♙f5 was no better (Fischer).

**30 ♙xd7 ♙xd7 31 ♞f7 ♜xh2 32 ♞dxd7+**

**♞e8 33 ♞de7+ ♞d8 34 ♞d7+** (now, and

on the 36th and 37th moves, ♞xb7 would also

have been decisive) **34...♞c8 35 ♞c7+ ♞d8**

**36 ♞fd7+ ♞e8 37 ♞d1 b5 38 ♞b7 ♜h5**

**39 g4 ♜h3** (39...♜xg4 40 ♞h1! Fischer) **40**

**g5 ♜f3 41 ♞e1+ ♞f8 42 ♙xb5 ♞g7 43**

**♞b6 ♜g3 44 ♞d1 ♜c7 45 ♞dd6 ♜c8 46**

**b3 ♞h7 47 ♞a6 1-0**

‘Finally, he has not escaped me!’ exclaimed the happy Bobby after the game. ‘It is difficult to play against Einstein’s theory,’ sighed Tal and... he went on to score a total of eleven wins – more than anyone in the tournament!