

Opening secrets

OPENING THEORY nowadays has become so voluminous, so complicated, that it is often difficult for the club player to choose a group of suitable openings to play. When he does decide on the various attacks and defences he wishes to use, he must then wade through labyrinthine encyclopaedias on openings, most of which stop after the 16th move or so. So even if our poor player does remember the correct moves he is more than likely to become

lost as soon as his book knowledge runs out. This year B. T. Batsford have released a book which caters specifically for players with such a problem, and it is an excellent book indeed. *An Opening Repertoire for Black* is written by two Yugoslav grandmasters, Drazen Marovic and Bruno Parma, and in their quality analysis they have revealed a few trade secrets. They have set their defences with Black around complete master

games and explain the development of ideas in the opening. They choose for their repertoire tried and true openings which are frequently played by the world's top grandmasters. They also give the reader a choice of either a solid or sharp defence — a decision that might well depend on one's position in a tournament.

This book is part of the Club Players Library but I have found it most useful for a deeper understanding of the strategic content of the openings.

One of the games the book analyses during its explication of the Queens Gambit is Bobby Fischer's brilliant ex-

ploitation of hanging pawns in his sixth match game with Boris Spassky.

QUEENS GAMBIT

R. J. Fischer (USA) B. Spassky (USSR)

1. c4
This move alone must have been a shock for Spassky as Fischer has almost unfalteringly been a 1.e4 man.

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| 1. ... | e6 |
| 2. Nf3 | d5 |
| 3. d4 | Nf6 |
| 4. Nc3 | Be7 |
| 5. Bg5 | 0-0 |
| 6. e3 | h6 |
| 7. Bh4 | b6 |
| 8. cxd5 | Nxd5 |

The basic position of the Tartakower defence. As Marovic and Parma explain, to 7...b6 White reacts with the

following simple logic; Black wants to fianchetto his queen's bishop so it is useful to shut that diagonal at once.

But just this year, when Spassky essayed the same defence against him in the Candidates, Viktor Korchnoi delayed exchanging on d5 one move to entice the bishop to b6, viz. 8.Rc1 Bb7 9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.cxd5 exd5 11.b4! with advantage as 11...c5 meets 12.dxc5 bxc5 13.bxc5 Qa5 14.Qd2! so that 14...Qxc5 15.Nb5! etc.

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| 9. Bxe7 | Qxe7 |
| 10. Nxd5 | exd5 |
| 11. Rc1 | Be6 |

On 10...Qb4ch 11.Qd2 and White's pressure down the c-file is too strong in the ending.

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| 12. Qa4 | c5 |
| 13. Qa3 | Rc8 |
| 14. Bb5 | a6?! |

Spassky wants to kick the bishop before developing his knight, but this move allows a break-up of Black's pawn formation. Instead, Geller against Timman, AVRO 1973, offered an excellent pawn sacrifice with 14...Qb7 (threatening 15...c4) and after 15.dxc5 bxc5 16.Rxc5 Rxc5 17.Qxc5 Na6! 18.Bxa6 Qxa6 had easily enough compensation for his offering. But back to the game...

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| 15. dxc5 | bxc5 |
| 16. 0-0 | Ra7 |

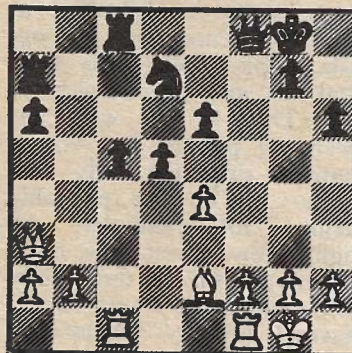
16...Qb7!?

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| 17. Be2 | Nd7 |
| 18. Nd4! | Qf8 |

After 18...Nf6 White pressures the hanging pawns in the centre with 18.Nb3 Nd7 19.Rc3.

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| 19. Nxe6 | fxe6 |
| 20. e4! | |

SPASSKY



FISCHER

Masterful and thematic! Fischer forces a serious weakening of the centre pawns, for if 20...dxe4 21.Bc4 Qe7 22.Rfel Nf6 23.f3 is very strong. Russian Grandmaster Mikhail Tal's suggestion of 20...c4 falls short after 21.Qh3 Qf7 22.Bg4 Re8 23.Bh5 g6 24.Be2 and Black has an ill-looking kingside into the bargain.

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| 20... d4 |
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Still, it must have hurt to play this move which allows a blockade of the pawns and a lasting initiative for White. Fischer starts to grind Spassky with the utmost precision.

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| 21. 14 | Qe7 |
| 22. e5! | Rb8 |

On 22...Nb6 23.f5! and hands off for on 23...exf5 24.Qb3 ch and picks up the knight.

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| 23. Bc4 | Kh8 |
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Again...Nb6 fails, this time to 24.Qb3 immediately.

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| 24. Qh3 | Nf8 |
| 25. b3 | a5 |
| 26. f5 | exf5 |
| 27. Rxf5 | Nh7 |
| 28. Rcf1 | |

Of course not 28.Rf7 Ng5

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| 28. ... | Qd8 |
| 29. Qg3 | Re7 |
| 30. h4 | Rbb7 |
| 31. e6 | Rbc7 |
| 32. Qe5 | |

Ugh! This is very painful to observe, but it must have been excruciatingly so for poor Boris — he had never lost to Fischer before... the match began!

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| 32. ... | Qe8 |
| 33. a4 | Qd8 |

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| 34. Rf12 | Qe8 |
| 35. R2f3 | Qd8 |
| 36. Bd3 | |

As Marovic and Parma say, Black is stalemated and the execution is quick.

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| 36. ... | Qe8 |
| 37. Qe4 | Nf6 |

Or 37...Rxe6 38.Rf8 ch! mating.

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| 38. Rxf6 | gxf6 |
| 39. Rxf6 | Kg8 |
| 40. Bc4 | Kh8 |
| 41. Qf4 | Resigns |

MURRAY CHANDLER