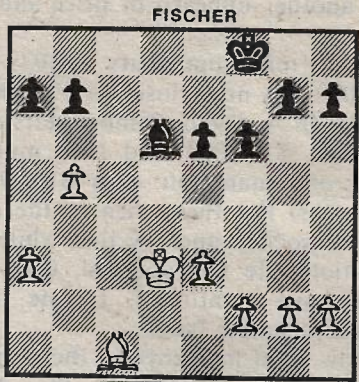


The living endgame



WHEN AMERICAN Bobby Fischer (Black in this position) played his 29th move, bishop takes rook's pawn, against the Russian Boris Spassky in the first game of their world championship match back in 1972, it stunned everyone. Was it a move of such depth that not one of the grandmaster commentators looking on could see its true point? Or could it conceivably be, they wondered, that the most devastating chess machine of all time had made an elementary blunder in the endgame — the worst of his professional career?

We know that Fischer had badly miscalculated with 29... Bxh2, and indeed his bishop was duly lost after 30.g3 h5 31.Ke2 h4 32.Kf3 Ke7 (did he miss that 32...h3 33.Kg4 Bg1 34.Kxh3 Bxf2 35.Bd2! keeps the bishop trapped?) 33. Kg2 hxg3 34.fxg3 Bxg3 35.Kxg3 and Spassky went on to win this game — although ultimately lose his crown. What is still unclear after all this time, however, is just how bad Bobby's error was.

This is, of course, mainly because of the enormous complexities in analysing such an endgame (Black has only two pawns for his bishop but his king is more active). But it may also in part be because of a severe lack of recent literature on certain aspects of the endgame. In this respect a new Batsford book, *Analysing the Endgame* by Jon Speelman, covers important ground.

Jon has encompassed a variety of themes in this scholarly work, including the updating and correcting of a number of known theoretical positions, as well as original in-depth examinations of several positions from modern games.

His 18-page analysis of the Spassky-Fischer endgame must surely be the definitive version. The ultimate conclusion: Fischer's move was bad, but it required two further dubious moves before his position was actually lost. Ironically, this was roughly the consensus reached a few days after that game, which goes to illustrate another theme which Speelman repeatedly stresses — the importance of judgment as well as calculation.

The fact that author Speelman is one of England's most aggressive young grandmasters may also encourage interest from those who think their games will rarely go as far as the endgame. Apart from the sheer enjoy-

ment to be derived, I have long felt that studying what pieces are capable of in simplified positions can be beneficial to all aspects of one's game. Whether or not it assisted Jon in the following piece of destruction, which gained him first equal place with Kuzmin (USSR) and Ftacnik (Czechoslovakia) in Dortmund recently, is, however, open to speculation!

QUEEN'S INDIAN DEFENCE

O. BORIK (West Germany)	J. SPEELMAN (England)
1. d4	Nf6
2. c4	e6
3. Nf3	b6
4. Nc3	Bb4
5. Bg5	h6
6. Bh4	Bb7
7. e3	Qe7!?

An original idea in this currently fashionable opening line. Speelman delays committing his kingside pawn structure (as has so far been usual by 7...g5 8.Bg3 Ne4) until he has lured White into castling.

8. Bd3	Bxc3 ch
9. bxc3	d6
10. O-O	Nbd7
11. Nd2	g5!
12. Bg3	h5
13. f3	h4
14. Bf2	O-O-O
15. h3	Rdg8
16. Be2	

Passive, though on 16.a4 Black can thrust his attack into top gear by means of the knight sacrifice 16...g4! 17.fxg4 Nxg4! 18.hxg4 f5!

16. ...	Nh5
17. Qa4	Kb8
18. c5	dxc5
19. Ba6	Ba8
20. Nb3?	

After this Black is able to blunt White's queenside attack. A better chance was offered by 20.Nc4 when Speelman gives the incredible variation 20...f5 21.Rfb1 g4 22.Na5 Qd6 23.Nc4 gxh3! 24.Nxd6 Rxg2 ch 25.Kf1 Ng3 ch 26.Ke1 (26.Bxg3 hxg3 27.Qxd7 Rf2 ch 28.Ke1 h2) 26...h2! "with an unclear position"! Despite having only three pawns as compensation for his queen, Black is on the verge of winning, eg 27.Kd2 c4! (to block the c4 square, eg 28.Nxc4? Rxf2 ch 29.Kd3 Be4 ch 30.fxex4 fxe4 mate) 28.Bxc4 Rxf2 ch 29.Kd3 Bxf3!? threatening both 30...Be4 ch and 30...Be2 ch.

20. ...	c4!
21. Bxc4	f5
22. Be2	

To stop 22...g4 — but Speelman is not deterred.

22. ...	g4!
23. fxg4	fxg4
24. Bxg4	Nhf6
25. Nc5	Nxc5
26. dxc5	Nxg4
27. hxg4	Qxc5
28. Rfd1	h3
29. e4	h2 ch
30. Resigns	

Because 30.Kh1 Qxf2 wins the bishop and 30.Kf1 h1=Q ch is exceedingly decisive.

MURRAY CHANDLER