CHESS July 19, 2025 David Ellis 0439798607 / [ellisd19@bigpond.com](mailto:ellisd19@bigpond.com)

A person and person playing chess

AI-generated content may be incorrect. A chess board with black and white figures

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**Emanuel Lasker vs Dawid Janowski 1910:** *Capablanca vs Lasker*

White to play and win(4 moves)

**WORLD CHAMPIONS**

I have over the years written articles on world champions and world championship matches. Here is a brief summary of those contests. The first recognised match for the world championship was between **Wilhelm Steinitz** and Johannes Zukertort, played in 1886 and won by Steinitz 12.5-7.5. Steinitz successfully defended his title twice against Mikhail Chigorin 1889 by 10.5-6.5 and in 1894 by 10.5–8.5, against Isidor Gunsberg 1890 by 10.5-8.5 before losing to **Emmanuel Lasker** in 1894 by 7.5-12.5. Lasker successfully defended his title in a re-match with Steinitz in 1896 by 12.5-4.5, against Siegbert Tarrasch in 1908 by 10.5-5.5 and Dawid Janowski in 1909 by 8-2 and in 1910 by 9.5-1.5. He came close to losing to Carl Schlecter in 1910 winning the final game to draw 5-5 before losing to Jose Raul **Capablanca** in 1921. Trailing 5-9, Lasker abandoned the 30-game match. Capablanca lost the title in his only defence to **Alexander Alekhine** in 1927 by 15.5-18.5, Alekhine twice defeated Efim Bogoljubov in 1929 & 1934, 15.5-9.5 & 15.5-10.5 before losing to **Max Euwe** in 1935 by 14.5-15.5, Alekhine regained the title in a rematch 1937 by 15.5-9.5. He died in 1946 and FIDE took over the organisation of world championships. A tournament with five of the world’s best players was held in 1948 for the vacant title and won by **Mikhail Botvinnik**. FIDE would then hold tournaments called Candidates to find a challenger. Botvinnik played seven matches for the title, drawing matches against David Bronstein 1951 & **Vassily Smyslov** 1954 (both 12-12), losing the title three times, to Smyslov 1957 by 9.5-12.5. **Mikhail Tal** 1960 by 8.5-12.5 and **Tigran Petrosian** in 1963 by 9.5-12.5 and regaining the title twice, against Smyslov 1958 by 12.5-10.5 & Tal in 1961 by 13-8. Petrosian defended his title against **Boris Spassky** in1966**,** winning by 12.5-9.5 before losing to Spassky in 1969 by 10.5-12.5. Spassky’s sole defence was against **Bobby Fischer** 1972, losing 8.5-12.5, Next week I continue the series starting with **Anatoly Karpov**.

**SOLUTION:** 1.Rxd5! Rxd5 2.Qxd5! & if 2…cxd5 3.Rxc8+ Qf8 4.Rxf8+ Kxf8 and white has won a bishop.