



White Knight Review

Chess E-Magazine

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HISTORY OF FIDE

The Fischer King: *The Illusive Life of Bobby Fischer Pt 2*

Principles of Chess

Online Chess

ODDITIES IN CHESS

In Memoriam: Bent Larsen

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- Click up URLs to go to websites.

My Move

jerry_wall@comcast.net

editorial -Jerry Wall



We are excited about releasing our second issue of White Knight Review. Chess is a sport that is enjoyed by every sector of life, from young to old, male and female, rich or poor and

entails people on a variety of levels and yet it is a great facilitator of the skills and strengths of two opposing people. Though chess is called a game it is far more than that. It can be a fierce competitive war of intellect or a relaxing personal pastime. It is a game that can be played singularly or with a formidable opponent be it man or computer.

Our feature article about Online chess opens the world of chess to myriads of people who through their computers, iPads or smart phones can find link up with one or many opponents on just about any level. Chess has the incredible power to enrich your thinking whether your playing someone below your level or far above it. There is so much to learn from your opponents blunders or your own. You can equally learn from brilliant moves regardless of who is on either side of the board.

Chess can be strategic, brutal, mentally stimulating or heart pounding. Whether chess is passive or pensive, serious or just plain fun it should always be enjoyed! If we loose the fun than all other motivations will be lame and all other arguments moot. So go find a player and enjoy the ride.

Gerald (Jerry) Wall
Editor

Please direct all comments to
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www.offthewallchess.com

Chess.com - Free internet Chess

by Steve Wall

There are many online chess sites, so I thought I would write an article on one of the more popular ones and see why people go there to play chess. Just yesterday, my son Jonathan told me that he usually plays chess with his friend Chris, and in fact had beaten him 10 times in a row. Then Chris joined chess.com and started using the tactics trainer. Chris has since beaten Jonathan the last five times they played. Jonathan now wants the tactics trainer also. There must be something to it. That being said, I will start my search with chess.com.

Chess.com is the #1 chess site on the internet. If you google the word chess, it is the first site that comes up. They have over 2,500,000 members and approximately 10,000 are playing 24/7 from all around the world. You will never have a problem finding someone to play with and at any level. Interesting enough, my brother, Bill Wall was the very first member to join on 5/18/2007 and played the very first day. Their basic membership is free, but at any time you can upgrade with a paid Gold, Platinum, or Diamond Membership and get more features and benefits. More on that later; let's talk about what you get for free. You don't have to download anything; just sign up and start playing.

If you like to take your time and play at your own pace, then click Online Chess. You can play correspondence-style chess and set it so that you move once or more a day or once a week. You will receive an alert when it is your turn. You can also set parameters to play someone close to your rating. For

faster play, click Live Chess. You can set it to play quick one minute games, on up to 15 minute games with or without bonus seconds for each move. You can play rated or non rated games. If you prefer, you can play against a computer or compete with opponents in online tournaments. Play anywhere as you can get a free app for most cell phones. There are social sites to play on with your friends such as igoogole and facebook. You can play alone or join online chess clubs or use the directory to find a local chess club nearby.

If you want to try something new, you can play Chess960 (also known as Fischer random). The rules are the same, but the starting position of the pieces is one of 960 randomly generated possibilities. If you love chess but hate memorized openings, then Chess960 is for you. Never lose to opening traps again. You can play single games or 960 tournaments.

Chess.com comes with a number of learning features to help you improve your game. If you are new to chess you can click on Chess Rules and Basics to get started or simply watch a video. You can search millions of games in their data base and explore games played by masters and see the most popular openings and moves. The free basic membership gives you limited access to Tactics Trainer (3 a day) whereby you are given a tactical problem to solve, which will help you learn how to recognize the critical positions that come from pins, forks, overworked pieces, and other tactical scenarios. The Computer Workout tool helps you improve your knowledge of key

positions by setting you up to play these key positions against the computer. There is a daily puzzle to solve. You can choose to have a super computer analyze one of your games each week and give you a fully annotated game that shows you the mistakes made by both players. Get access to hundreds of articles on strategy and tactics which contain interactive chess diagrams to help improve your game. You can buy chess books and get free downloads on this site. You can hire a chess coach from the many that are listed and get one on one personal instruction.

Just for fun and for your own personal amusement, chess.com offers many benefits. They have articles on amazing games, fun & trivia, and famous chess players. In fact, my brother Bill Wall has



FEATURES

- Play chess
- Learn Chess
- Chess openings
- Tournaments
- Chess Clubs
- Chess Videos
- Mobile Chess
- Forums
- Downloads
- Articles
- Resources

written more chess articles than anyone in history. He just wrote and posted another one on Oct. 29, 2010 about the late Bill Addison. Click on Chessopedia, an online chess encyclopedia. Take the Endless Chess Quiz, a huge database of chess trivia, and compare your scores. Each day chess.com publishes an educational and entertaining article by a top chess professional. Chess News provides relevant news articles about current chess events and big games from around the world. You can watch chess videos on You Tube, from funny shows to game analysis. There is even chess.com TV, live broadcasts of ongoing chess events and the weekly chess.com Podcast. You can participate in Chess Surveys and Vote Chess. If you want to talk about chess, you can use the chess Blog or chess Forums available. Get a free YOURNAME@ chess.com email address to show others how much you like chess.

You might be interested in the number of chess masters that play here at chess.com. My brother Bill compiled the list for me. There are 25 Grandmasters, including the top ranked chess player in the world, GM Magnus Carlson at 2826. There are 30 International Masters and over 150 masters. The top Grandmasters are Carlson, Hikaru Namamura, Maxime Vachier-Lagrave, Judit Polgar, Victor Mokhalevski, Gregory Kaidanov, Melikset Khachiyani, Jon Hammer, Vladimir Belov, Julio Becerra (from Miami where I live), Alex Lenderman, Vinay Bhat, Gregory Serper, Nigel Davis, and Raymond Keene.

At any time you can upgrade from the basic membership to a paid membership and receive more features and more value. The Gold

Membership is \$4.99 a month, or only \$2.49 a month when you pay annually (\$29.88). For that you get full use of the Openings & Game Explorer, and can use the Tactics Trainer 25 times a day. You get unlimited use of the Computer Workout. The Platinum Membership is \$5.99 a month, or only \$3.99 when paid annually (\$47.88). With that you get unlimited access to all site features except two. The Diamond Membership is for serious players who want to improve quickly and costs \$12.99 a month, or only \$7.99 a month paid annually (\$95.88). The two extra features you get are Video Lessons and Chess Mentor. One of the most powerful learning methods is watching and listening to top Grandmasters explain their thoughts while at the chessboard. Video Lessons are in-depth chess lectures that cover all topics from openings to endings with awesome analysis and insight. Chess Mentor is the most effective interactive chess training system ever created! You receive custom feedback on every possible move so you not only know the right answer, but why other moves were wrong. Lessons are written by chess professionals and teachers and you will learn how Grandmasters think about each move.

Chess.com has something to offer for the novice or seasoned player and I suggest you join for free to play or pay to get better. In the next issue I will explore other web sites for playing chess.

If you have a favorite site, drop me an email at stevewall@offthewallchess.com and tell me why you play there. You might get mentioned in the next issue. Until next time, keep playing chess.

Steve Wall (*knighonrimdim*) 

FREE Online Chess Sites

There are hundreds of websites out there that offer Free Chess playing. Some with people and some with computers. Many are exclusively chess sites while others are multigame sites. Here are a few site you might want to check out.

www.chessmaniac.com/
www.playfin.com/chess
www.chessfriends.com
www.alilg.com/games/free-online-chess-challenge/
www.chess.com/
[www.chess.com/play/computer\](http://www.chess.com/play/computer/)
www.chesshere.com/
www.geekswithchess.com/
www.chesszone.org/
www.freechess.org/
www.chessanytime.com/
www.sparkchess.com/
www.redhotpawn.com/
www.chessworld.net/
www.chessboss.com/
www.caissa.com/
www.postcardchess.com/
www.chesskid.com/
www.wildchess.org/
www.worldchesschampions.com/
www.chesshounds.com/
www.chessgames.com/
www.chesshotel.com/

Book Review

Paul Morphy: The Pride and Sorrow of Chess, New Edition

By David Lawson and edited by Thomas Aiello

Published by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Press, September 2010

The original edition of *Paul Morphy: The Pride and Sorrow of Chess*, was published in 1976, authored by David Lawson and published by the David McKay Company, New York. It was the definitive and only full-length biography of the 19th century's greatest and most celebrated chess player (Bobby Fischer considered Morphy to be the greatest player of all time), Paul Morphy (1837-1884). Lawson was 89 years old when his edition was first published, which he spent over 35 years researching (starting in 1938). The original book is a collectible and now out of print and costs over \$100 on eBay and other online outlets. The new edition includes new material, editor's notes to correct some of Lawson's text, and some background on Lawson's life (born Charles Whipple in 1886 and died in 1980). Lawson also included a large number of pictures and photographs in his original book. This new edition omits some pictures but contains some new images.

The original edition also included a collection of 60 Morphy chess games. The new edition contains no chess games. The editor explains that he could provide nothing that could not be found in other Morphy books or in databases or online through the Internet. Sources such as www.chessgames.com carry all the chess games cited by Lawson and more, each annotated with contemporary commentary to make them far more understandable to modern players.

The contents of the book are broken down into acknowledgments, editor's introduction, a note on the text, author's introduction (Lawson's introduction with editor's notes for corrections), Lawson's photo gallery, Morphy image gallery, 26 chapters on Morphy, tournament and match record, an appendix including a comparison of Paul Morphy and Bobby Fischer, author's bibliography, editor's annotated bibliography or sources since Lawson's original book in 1976, and an alphabetical index.

This newer edition, edited by Thomas Aiello, assistant professor of history at Valdosta State University, fixes grammatical mistakes and awkward word choice that was found in Lawson's original edition to make the book easier to read. Explanatory notes were added where appropriate. Some copies of the original book had an errata list. Others did not. This edition includes Lawson's desired changes in the body of the text where appropriate.

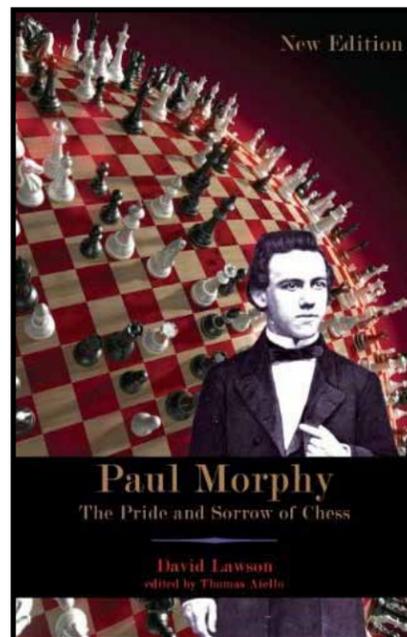
In addition to the text and 398 pages, there are a few chess diagrams and two chess games (in descriptive notation). Each chapter highlights an aspect of Morphy's

life. He qualified at age 20 for the American Legal Bar, but was still too young to practice law. He occupied his time playing chess and winning the first American Congress at New York in 1857. He was challenged to go to Europe and play the best in Europe. Howard Staunton wouldn't pay him, but Morphy beat all the other old world champions, including Adolph Anderssen, winner of the first international chess tournament at London in 1851. Morphy's law practice was disrupted by the American Civil War (1861-1865) and he may have been a Confederate spy during that period. Due to Morphy's fame as a chess player, no one would take him seriously as a qualified lawyer. He then had increasing mental problems of paranoia, and died after taking a cold bath, perhaps of a stroke, in New Orleans in 1884, at the age of 47.

Some interesting facts are included in the editor's notes. For example, the chess publisher Dale Brandreth purchased Lawson's Morphy memorabilia in 1978. He then donated the bulk of Lawson's letters and Morphy documents to the Cleveland, Ohio Public Library (which houses one of the largest chess book collection in the world). To this day, these documents are uncatalogued and unavailable to public researchers.

This book tells the full known story of the life of Paul Morphy, from the origin of the Morphy (Murphy) clan of mixed Irish/Spanish/French stock, to his grandparents arriving in America, to his privileged upbringing in New Orleans (his father was an influential judge of the Supreme Court in Louisiana), to his complete dominance of the chess world in just a few short years, to the later tragedy of possible mental illness and demise.

As a biography, this book is unmatched. Lawson researched all primary sources thoroughly, making it the fullest and most accurate account available of Paul Morphy's life, and updated with a new annotated bibliography. This new edition of *Paul Morphy: The Pride and Sorrow of Chess*, edited by Thomas Aiello, is a very good high-quality chess book that chess player and non chess player would enjoy.



Humor

You Might be a Chess addict if...

- You bump into someone or something and say “J’adoube.”
And you don’t even know French.
- When you sit at a checkered tablecloth you set up a chess set with salt and pepper shakers and food items.
- You calculate 8x8 faster than 7x7 and navigate like a knight - one block up and two blocks over.
- You use the chess clock as a kitchen timer.
- Mate, mating positions, exposed bishops, and forking the queen have nothing to do with sex.
- You take a chess set and chess book to the bathroom, and forget to go to the bathroom.
- You meet someone, your first question is, “What’s your Elo rating?”
- You still think Bobby Fischer is the greatest person ever, and you don’t really believe he his dead.
- You have more chess books than any other book or magazine combined.
- You spot the chessboard set up wrong in every movie with a chess scene.
- You name any of your pets Fischer, Tal, Karpov, Kasparov, Fritz, Chess or Alekhine.
- You have checkered underwear with “It’s your move” on the front.
- You have a crush on Irina Krush.
- Your favorite snack is Pepperidge Farm’s Chessmen cookies.
- You know what BCO, ECO, MCO, NCO, PCO, UCO all mean and have all these books.
- You ask an attractive (or any) girl what her rating is before you ask her out for a date.
- And if it didn’t work out, you explain the two of you were “like bishops of opposite color.”
- You end your letters and email with “P.S. 1.P-K4 (or 1.e4)” hoping to start a game.
- You know exactly where all the chess books are located at Borders and Barnes & Noble.
- You say good knight to your girlfriend.
- When the cashier says, “Check?” you wink and say “mate.”



CHESS VARIANTS



There are hundreds of variants to the normal game of chess. Here are just some of the chess variants.

3D Chess or Star Trek Chess– The three dimensional board consists of seven different levels. Three of these levels have size 4x4 and have a fixed position. The four other levels have size 2x2 and can be moved by the players. The position of the fixed levels looks like a staircase.

Accelerated Chess – Each player makes two non-capturing moves or one capturing move in each turn.

Alice Chess – Two chessboards are used. One is set up normally and the other is empty. After moving a piece, the piece is transferred to the corresponding square on the other board. Each player makes a single move on either board. A move must be legal on the board where it is played. A piece can only move or capture if the corresponding destination square on the other board is vacant.

Bughouse Chess - Two orthodox chess boards are set up for four players. One player on team A has White and one player on team A has Black. Team B then has someone playing Black on one board and another player playing White on the other board. All captured pieces are given to one's partner. Once received, they become reserved pieces which can be dropped onto an empty square on the board to be used as one's own pieces. You may not advise your partner, but you can ask him to capture a certain piece that you need. You can say, "Partner, I need a knight."

Checkers Chess – The normal rules of chess apply, but pieces can only move forwards until they have reached the last rank.

Checkless Chess – Players are forbidden from giving check except for checkmate.

Chess960 or Fischer Random Chess – The initial setup of the pieces are chosen randomly. The pawns are placed on their normal squares. The remaining pieces are placed on the first rank. The king is placed somewhere between two white rooks. The bishops are placed on opposite-colored squares. The black pieces are placed equal-and-opposite the white pieces.

Circular Chess - The game is played on a circular board made of 4 rings of 16 squares each. A normal set of pieces are used and the standard setup is folded along the round board.



Courier Chess - This is a game played on an 8x12 chess board. Players have 24 pieces: 12 pawns, a king, a queen, a counselor, a spy (or fool), two couriers, two bishops, two knights and two rooks. The counselor moves one square at a time like a king, but without being hindered by check, etc. The spy moves one square horizontally or vertically. The courier moves like a modern bishop. The bishop jumps two squares diagonally. The game was played in Germany in the middle ages.

Giveaway Chess – Pieces must be taken if possible, so capturing is compulsory. There is no check or checkmate. The king plays no special role in the game and can be taken as any other piece. The first player that loses all his pieces wins. The game is also known as Losing Chess or Suicide Chess.

Handicap Chess or Chess With Odds – One player will play without a pawn or a knight or a rook or a queen, It is a game of chess that enables a weaker player to have a chance of winning against a stronger player. Various permutations include things like "Pawn and two moves," are also possible.

Hexagonal Chess – The game is played on a hexagonal board. The board has 91 hexes with three different colors. There is an extra bishop and pawn for each player.

Kriegspiel – This is a battle between two players. However, a third person is needed to act as a referee. One needs three boards for the game. The main idea is that players only get to see their own pieces, but not see the pieces of their opponent, and do not know what moves the opponents has made. Only the referee knows exactly the real position of both sets of pieces. Players move like normal chess. Each turn, a player attempts a move. When the move is legal, the referee announces that the player has moved, and the turn is done. When the move is illegal, the referee says so and the player must make a new attempt to move until a legal move has been made.

Four-handed chess (also known as Chess 4 and 4-way chess) typically played with four people. It is played on a special board, which is made of standard 8x8 board with an additional 3 rows of 8 cells extending from each side. Four sets of different colored pieces are needed to play this game. Four way chess follows the same basic rules as regular two way chess.

Marseilles Chess or Two-move chess – After the first turn of the game by White being a single move, each player moves twice per turn.

Progressive Chess – The player with White moves once, the player with Black moves twice, the White player then moves three times, etc.

For more on chess variants, see <http://www.chessvariants.com/>



The World Chess Federation – FIDE

The Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) or World Chess Federation is the international organization for chess federations around the world. Its motto is Gens una sumus, meaning “We are one people.” Its headquarters is currently in Athens, Greece. It has 158 national associations or countries that are members. Its web site is www.fide.com

FIDE organizes the World Chess Championship for men, women, and juniors. It also organizes regional championships and the Chess Olympiad every two years. FIDE calculates the Elo ratings or chess ratings of players and uses these to award titles such as FIDE Master (FM), International Master (IM), and International Grandmaster (IGM or GM).

The purpose and aim of FIDE are the diffusion and development of chess among all nations in the world, as well as the raising of the level of chess culture and knowledge on a sporting, scientific, creative and cultural basis.

In April 1914 an initiative was taken in St. Petersburg, Russia to form an international chess federation.

In July, 1914 an attempt was made to organize an international chess federation during the Mannheim International Chess Tournament.

In 1920 another attempt to organize an international chess federation was made at the Gothenburg Tournament.

In 1922 an international tournament was held in London (won by Capablanca) as part of the British Chess Congress. One of the participants of this tournament was the Russian chess master Eugene Znosko-Borovsky, who was living in Paris. He announced to the chess world that a chess tournament would be held during the 8th Sports Olympic Games in Paris in 1924 and hosted by the French Chess Federation.

From July 13 to July 24, 1924, the first world team competition took place at the Hotel Majestic in Paris. It was reported as the Chess Olympic Games. There were 54 players from 18 countries that participated. It was supposed to be the first International Team Tournament of Amateurs. The organizers of the

Sports Olympics considered chess as a sport, but they demanded that only amateurs be permitted to take part in the chess competition.

The winner of this Paris event was Hermannis Mattison of Latvia, followed by Apscheneek, then Colle. The team championship was won by Czechoslovakia. Mattison was proclaimed amateur World Chess Champion.

The event was directed by Alexander Alekhine.

The Frenchman Pierre Vincent was the first to put forward the idea of an international chess federation. He had the support of the French Chess Federation to start a larger, world chess federation.

The Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) was formed on Sunday, July 20, 1924. It was the closing day of the Paris Chess Olympic Games.

The principles of FIDE (pronounced fee-day) were to be an association of national federations of chess, with any national chess federation able to join it. The cost of joining was an annual contribution 300 francs.

The first President of FIDE was Dr. Alexander Rueb of Holland. The first registered office of FIDE was in The Hague, Switzerland in 1925.

The first Vice-President of FIDE was Leonard Percy Rees (1862-1944) of Surrey, England. At the time, he was the Secretary of the British Chess Federation.

The first Treasurer of FIDE was Professor A. Nicolet of Switzerland.

The original signers in the formation of FIDE included the following from 15 countries:

Roberto Gabriel Grau (1900-1944) of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Leon Willem Weltjens (1887-1975) of Anvers, Belgium.

Dr. Steven Francis Smith (1861-1928) of British Columbia, Canada.

Count Ignacio de Penalver (y Zamora) (1857-1933) of Spain.

Anatol A. Tschernurnoff (1871-1942) of Helsinki, Finland.

Pierre Vincent (1878-1956) of France.

Major Francis Hooper Rawlins (1861-1925) of England.

Dr. Alexander Rueb (1882-1959) of Holland and President of the Dutch Federation. He was also a Dutch lawyer and diplomat.

Istvan Abonyi (1886-1942) of Budapest, Hungary.

Florenziano Marusi (1860-1936) of Milan, Italy.

T. Toubin (Towbin) of Poland.

Lt. Jon Gudju (1897-?) of Romania.

Marc Nicolet (1876-1942) of Biel, Switzerland.

Dr. Karel Skalicka (1896-1979) of Czechoslovakia.

Jakov M. Ovadia (Ovadija) (1878-1941) of Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Other people who participated in the first FIDE organization included Alexander Alekhine and George Koltanowski.

The motto selected for FIDE was Gens una sumas, meaning “We are one people.”

Dr Rueb served as President of FIDE for 25 years, from 1924 to 1949. He was an amateur player and wrote books on endgame studies.

In 1949 Folke Rogard of Sweden was elected FIDE President and served until 1970.

In 1970 Dr. Max Euwe was of the Netherlands elected FIDE President and served until 1978.

In 1978 Fridrik Olafsson of Iceland was elected FIDE President and served until 1982.

In 1982 Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines was elected FIDE President and served until 1995.

In 1995 Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was elected FIDE President. He is also the president of Kalmykia, a small republic within Russia.

In 1925 FIDE held its 2nd FIDE congress in Zurich.

In 1926 FIDE had its third FIDE congress in Budapest. Invitations for a Chess Olympiad were late in being sent out, so that only 4 countries participated. As a result, the competition was called the Little Olympiad. The winner was Hungary, followed by Yugoslavia, Romania, and Germany.

In 1927 FIDE began organizing the First Chess Olympiad during its 4th Congress in London. The official title of the tournament was known as the Tournament of Nations, or World Team Championship, but Chess Olympiads became a more popular title. The event

was won by Hungary, with 16 teams competing.

In 1947 the USSR joined FIDE for the first time. It joined only under the condition that Spain, a founding member, be ejected from FIDE.

In 1948 FIDE organized the World Chess Championship.

In 1949, Folke Rogard was elected president of FIDE. He served for 21 years.

In 1950 FIDE awarded its first Grandmaster (GM) title to 27 players. The first list also included 94 International Masters and 17 International Women Masters.

The first GMs were Bernstein, Boleslavsky, Bondarevsky, Botvinnik, Bronstein, Duras, Euwe, Fine, Flohr, Gruenfeld, Keres, Kostic, Kotov, Levenfish, Lilienthal, Maroczy, Mises, Najdorf, Ragozin, Reshevsky, Saemisch, Smyslov, Stahlberg, Szabo, Tartakower, and Vidmar.

In 1957 FIDE introduced norms to gain FIDE titles.

In 1970, former world chess

champion Max Euwe was elected president of FIDE. He served for 8 years.

The first official FIDE ratings list was in 1971.

In 1978, Fridrik Olafsson, grandmaster from Iceland, was elected president of FIDE. He served for 4 years.

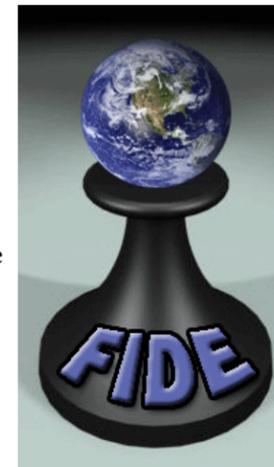
In 1982, Florencio Campomanes of the Philippines was elected president of FIDE. He served for 13 years.

In 1995, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was elected FIDE President. He is the president of Kalmykia, a republic in southern Russia.

In June, 1999, FIDE was recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as an International Sports Federation.

In 2004 there are 159 national chess federations, with over 5 million registered chess players, that are members of FIDE.

In 2010, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was re-elected as FIDE president. He defeated Anatoly Karpov, former world chess champion, by a vote of 95 to 55. The election was held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Siberia, where the biennial Chess Olympiad was being played.



FIDE Member countries include:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guernsey, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jersey, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Surinam, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, US Virgin Islands, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.



Mobile Chess?

MOVE In Motion

Available on the iPhone
App Store

Biography

The Fischer King: The illusive life of Bobby Fischer Pt. 2

By Bill Wall

Editor's Note: Last month an Part one of Bobby Fisher we covered his early life from his birth in 1943 till 1958 when by the age of 13 he was astounding players across the world with his prodigious playing. Fischer at the age of 13 was the youngest player to win the U.S. Junior Championship. He would hold the title at 15 as the youngest grandmaster in history (until 1991).

In January 1959, Bobby Fischer again won the U.S. Championship (Rosenwald Trophy) with 6 wins and 5 draws. His USCF rating was 2665. The event was covered in the January 5, 1959 issue of Chess Life.

The February 5, 1959 issue of Chess Life published its National Chess Ratings, led by Reshevsky at 2693 and followed by Fischer at 2636.

After Fischer's U.S. Championship win, the student council at Erasmus Hall had voted him a gold medal for his accomplishments.

He attended Erasmus Hall High School in Brooklyn (Flatbush and Church) with Barbara (later changed to Barbra) Streisand and they were good friends. Neil Diamond also attended this school at the same time as Fischer and Streisand.

Bobby later dropped out of school to become a professional chess player. Fischer's academic records indicated an I.Q. of 180 with an incredibly retentive memory. Erasmus High School is the second oldest secondary school in the United States, established in 1787. Walter Browne also attended Erasmus High.

The March 5, 1959 issue of Chess Life was dedicated to Bobby Fischer.

Fischer may have dropped out of school when he turned 16 on March 9, 1959. He said he hated school except for Spanish and geometry.

In a 1961 interview with Ralph Ginzburg, he said, "My two and a half years in Erasmus High I wasted. I didn't like the whole thing. You have to mix with all those stupid kids. The teachers are even stupider than the kids. They talk down to the

kids. Half of them are crazy. If they'd have let me, I would have quit before I was 16."

Barbra (Barbara) Streisand, who attended Erasmus Hall at the same time as Fischer, had a crush on Bobby. Every day they had lunch together. Barbra said that Fischer was "always alone and very peculiar. But I found him very sexy." (Christopher Andersen, Barbra The Way She Is, page 41)

Around this time, Mrs. Fischer and Bobby visited Frank Brady, who was working with the U.S. Chess Federation. She was looking for any financial aid that the USCF could give. Down the hall from the USCF office was the office of Dr. Albrecht Buschke, who specialized in chess literature. He offered Bobby to choose a number of chess books free of charge. It took Bobby over a year to make his selection. (Brady, p. 27)

In Yugoslavia, a chess club was named after Fischer.

In April 1959 he took 3rd-4th at the annual international tournament in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The expenses of this trip were handled by the sponsoring organization. It was Bobby's first trip to South America.

From April 20 to May 6, 1959, he went to Santiago, Chile (Arturo Alessandri Palma International Tournament) where he placed 4th-7th. Fischer withdrew from the tournament for a short while, stating that he had gone there with the understanding that there was \$2,000 in cash prizes. It turned out that there was \$1,000 in cash prizes and \$1,000 in trophies. He was eventually persuaded to re-enter.

In May, 1959 he took 3rd-4th (with Keres) at Zurich, Switzerland

Bobby Fischer (1959-2008)

behind Tal and Gligoric, with 8 wins, 5 draws, and 2 losses. Max Euwe, in an interview in Swiss Schachzeitung, said of Fischer, "His chess technique is nearly a miracle. In their youth, only a few players could handle the endgame so precisely. Only two such players are known to me, Smyslov and Capablanca." (Brady, p. 29) The Zurich tournament was staged to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Zurich Chess Club (Schachgesellschaft). The

event was covered in the July 5, 1959 issue of Chess Life.

During the summer of 1959, Regina Fischer was trying to sell Bobby Fischer chess wallets. She had them made in Argentina and was advertising them in The New York Times. It had Bobby's profile and signature stamped in gold. She wanted to sell them at the U.S. Open in Omaha that summer, but Bobby was against it.

Mrs. Fischer also wrote a letter to the New York Herald Tribune appealing to people for funds to help finance U.S. participation in overseas tournaments. She asked for contributions to be sent to the USCF. About \$3,000 was received, including a \$2,000 check from Sports Illustrated. Bobby Fischer refused any of this money.

The manufacturers of Fischer pianos offered Bobby \$500 to pose for one photo of him standing next to one of their pianos with a chess set on top. Fischer turned this offer down. He said, "It was just a cheap gimmick." (Brady, p. 32).

In September-October, 1959, he took 5th-6th at the Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade Candidates tournament, won by Mikhail Tal, age 22. Tal received \$1,000 for 1st place. Fischer received \$200 for two months work. Tal beat Fischer in all 4 games that they played. The event was covered in the November 20,



1959, issue of Chess Life.

At the end of 1959, Fischer's USCF rating was 2636, behind Reshevsky's 2693 rating.

On December 16, 1959, just before the 1959-60 US Championship, Fischer decided not to play at the last minute. He had demanded a public drawing of the pairings. Anthony Saily was substituted for Fischer. On December 19, after it was agreed that the drawing would be made public in the future, Fischer decided to defend his title.

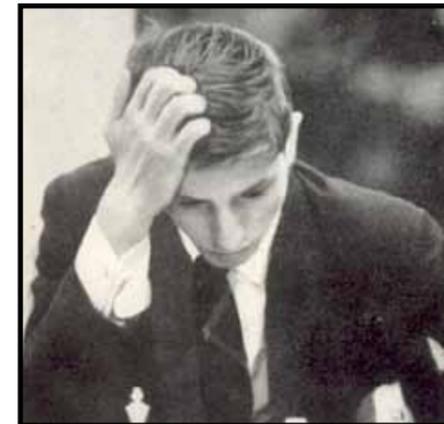
Fischer, for the first time, showed up in a suit. He wore a white shirt and a white tie. He had been encouraged by Pal Benko to dress well.

In 1959, Fischer published Bobby Fischer's Games of Chess. In the introduction, he wrote that "Mr. Nigro was possibly not the best player in the world, but he was a very good teacher."

From December 18, 1959 through January 4, 1960, Fischer again won the U.S. Championship with 7 wins, 4 draws, and no losses. It was his 3rd year in a row that he won the U.S. championship. His rating was 2636. The event was covered in the February 5, 1960, issue of Chess Life.

In April, 1960 he tied for 1st-2nd with Boris Spassky at Mar del Plata, Argentina. He won 13 games, drew 1 (to Bronstein), and lost 1 (to Spassky, who played the King's Gambit). The event was covered in the May 5, 1960 issue of Chess Life.

From June 23 through July 23, Fischer played in an international tournament in Buenos Aires. He scored 8.5-10.5. He only won 3 games in 19 rounds. It was the worst result of his career. When asked to explain his results, he said the lighting was poor. The crosstable of



the event appeared in the August 20, 1960 issue of Chess Life.

The August 5, 1960 issue of Chess Life published supplement No. 4 of the USCF National Rating List. Fischer led the list with 2640, followed by Reshevsky at 2620.

In 1960, Fischer's mother, Regina, staged a five-hour protest in front of the White House urging President Eisenhower to send an American team to the chess Olympiad in Leipzig, East Germany.

Fischer took first place at Reykjavik, Iceland in October.

In November, 1960, he played board 1 for the United States at the Chess Olympiad in Leipzig, East Germany, winning 10 games, drawing 6, and losing 2. The USA took 2nd, behind the Soviet Union. He won the silver medal for individual result. The USA won a silver medal for team result. His rating was 2641. The event was covered in the December 5, 1960 issue of Chess Life.

In an interview in Leipzig, Fischer was asked when he would be the world champion. Fischer replied, "Perhaps in 1963. Why not." (Brady, p. 40)

During the Leipzig Olympiad, Fischer played Tal a blitz match and lost 1-4.

Against his game with Najdorf, Bobby had an easily won game, but made a mistake and Najdorf was able to draw. Bobby then swept the pieces off the table in disgust. Najdorf then told Fischer, "You'll never play in South America again." This account appeared in the Soviet chess press by Yugoslav journalist Dmitrije Bjelica.

In January 1961, Bobby again won the U.S. Championship with 7 wins, 4 draws, and no losses. His prize was \$1,000 and he qualified for the next Interzonal. His rating was 2660.

In 1961, he wrote his famous "Bust to the King's Gambit," which appeared in the first issue of The American Chess Quarterly.

On March 9, 1961, Fischer turned 18. He was living alone in a Brooklyn flat. His rent, food, and clothing bills (he was now dressing up in suit and tie) were being paid by his mother. He lived in an area of Brooklyn (Bedford-Stuyvesant district) where the homicide and general crime rate was among the highest in the city of New York. He

lived in a four-room apartment with over 200 chess books, thousands of chess magazines, and an inlaid chess table he had made for him in Switzerland.

In early 1961 he told journalist Robert Cantwell (1908-1978), "I am going to win the World Championship. Anyway, Tal hasn't been playing so good and he may not even be World Champion by the time the next match is held." To a reporter for Newsweek, he said, "Give me two years. I will win it." (Brady, p. 41)

In June, 1961, the American Chess Foundation announced plans for a match between Fischer and Reshevsky. It was to consist of 16 games.

In July he started a match with Sam Reshevsky and tied it with 2 wins, 7 draws, and 2 losses before negotiations broke down to continue the match over the playing schedule and time of the start of each game. The games were played in New York and Los Angeles.

Bobby forfeited the match because the 12th game of the series was set at 11 a.m., and Bobby was not told of this time change. The game had been scheduled for play at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles on Sunday, August 13 at 1:30 pm. At 10 am that morning, he received a call that the playing time had been moved up to 11 am to accommodate the wishes of the principal patron, Mrs. Jacqueline Piatigorsky. She wanted the game to be over in time for her to attend a concert to be given that night by her husband, Gregor Piatigorsky. Bobby refused to play at 11 a.m. and cited a clause in his playing contract which stated that playing time had to be acceptable to both parties.

On August 25, 1961, Bobby gave a controversial 5 hour interview with Ralph Ginzburg for Harpers magazine. It appeared in January, 1962.

In that interview, he said, "They're all weak, all women. They're stupid compared to men. They shouldn't play chess, you know. They're like beginners. They lose every single game against a man. There isn't a woman player in the world I can't give knight-odds to all and still beat."

He was asked if he considered himself the greatest player that ever

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lived, even better than Capablanca, Steinitz, or Morphy. He replied, "Well, I don't like to put things like that in print, it sounds so egotistical. But to answer your question, Yes."

Ginzburg noted that quite a few number of Jews were in the upper echelons of chess. Fischer replied, "Yeah, there are too many Jews in chess. They seem to have taken away the class of the game. They don't seem to dress so nicely, you know. That's what I don't like." Fischer admitted he was part Jewish, that his mother was Jewish. In reality, both his mother and his father (either Hans-Gerhardt Fischer or Paul Nemenyi) were Jewish.

In the interview, Fischer said he wanted to learn judo, but the judo schools in New York were too low class for him. He said he used to do weight lifting to keep himself in shape, but gave it up as too boring. He was also interested in palmistry but not astrology. He said his favorite actor was Marlon Brando but didn't watch television because he feared it was giving off radiation. He said he liked Tennessee Williams' pictures.

When asked about religion,

Fischer said, "I read a book lately by Nietzsche and he says religion is just too dull the senses of the people. I agree."

Finally, Ginzburg asked him what he was going to do when he becomes world chess champion. Fischer said, "I'll make a tour of the whole world, giving exhibitions. I'll set new standards. I'll write a couple of chess books and start to reorganize the whole game. I'll have my own club. It'll be class. I'll hold big international tournaments in my club with big cash prizes. Then I'll build me a house. I'm going to hire the best architect and have him build it in the shape of a rook. I want to live the rest of my life in a house built exactly like a rook."

In October, 1961, he took 2nd at the Alekhine Memorial in Bled, Yugoslavia, behind Tal. He defeated Tal in the 2nd round. Fischer's rating was 2675.

Of Fischer's performance at Bled, Larry Evans said, "He has shown beyond the shadow of a doubt that he is a contender for the world title. Fischer has single-handedly broken the Russian iron grip on chess supremacy." Svetozar Gligoric said, "Bobby is going to be world



champion." (Brady, p. 49)

After Bled, Fischer was confined for a few days at a hospital in Bosnia, due to an appendicitis attack. However, he did not have any surgery and waited out the pain.

In December, 1961, Fischer was in London. He appeared in the BBC's "Chess Treasure of the Air." Fischer and Leonard Barden played a game against Jonathan Penrose and P. H. Clarke. The game was adjudicated as a draw by Max Euwe. Bobby Fischer chose not to play in the 1961-62 U.S. Chess Championship. That event was won by Larry Evans.

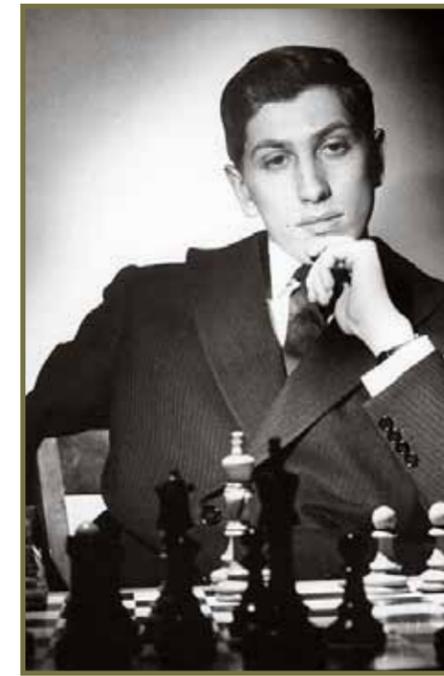
In 1962 Bobby became involved in the Worldwide Church of God.

In March, 1962, he won the Interzonal in Stockholm with 13 wins, 9 draws, and no losses. This was the first interzonal that a Soviet player did not take first place. Fischer's rating was 2713.

After Stockholm, Gideon Stahlberg and Jostein Westberg issued the first book about him, called Bobby Fischer. It contained a short biographical sketch and 50 selected games. It was published in Stockholm in 1962.

In May 1962, he took 4th place at the Curacao, Dutch West Indies, Candidates tournament, won by Petrosian. He later accused the Russians of cheating in this event and that interview was published in the August 20, 1962 edition of Sports Illustrated under the title "The Russians Have Fixed World Chess." During this tournament, Arthur Bisguier was there as a second to Pal Benko and Fischer. On May 9, Benko came looking for Bisguier in Fischer's room to get some help in analyzing his adjourned game with Petrosian. Fischer told Benko to leave and they both got in a fist fight. The next day Fischer wrote a letter to the organizing committee to fine and/or expel Benko from the tournament. The letter was ignored. After the event, Fischer's USCF rating was 2687.

Bisguier wrote, "Apparently he [Benko] developed this feeling of righteousness after he got off to such a good start [he defeated Tal and Fischer in rounds 1 and 2]. I was willing to give my services to both but Fischer wanted a second all to himself and it was so agreed in advance." (Brady, p. 57)



During the Candidates tournament, Tal was hospitalized. His only visitor was Bobby Fischer. None of the Soviets or any other participant visited Tal while he was in the hospital.

In October 1962, he played Board 1 for the United States at the 15th Chess Olympiad in Varna, Bulgaria and scored 8 wins, 6 draws, and 3 losses. The USA took 4th place, behind the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, and Argentina. His USCF rating was 2659 after the event.

In January 1963, Bobby won the U.S. Championship with 6 wins, 4 draws, and 1 loss (to Edmar Mednis). His rating was 2664.

He announced he was boycotting FIDE tournaments until the Russians stopped fixing chess.

In July, 1963 he won the Western Open in Bay City, Michigan, winning \$750. His USCF rating was 2674.

In September he won the New York State Open with a perfect score of 7 wins, no draws, and no losses. His USCF rating was 2685.

In the September 1963 issue of Chess Life, there was an announcement that Bobby Fischer was compiling his early games, from 1955 through 1957, for publication. If anyone had any scores that they played against Fischer, to send them to Chess Life in care of J.F. Reinhardt.

On November 27, 1963, Fischer

was to play over 400 opponents at once in an exhibition, but was postponed because of President Kennedy's assassination (November 22, 1963) and a fire at the Astor hotel where the event was to have taken place. He was attempting to break Gideon Stahlberg's record of 400 opponents. Stahlberg played 400 opponents in Buenos Aires in 1941, winning 364, 14 draws, and 22 losses. It was only \$3 to play and \$1 to watch.

On December 31, 1963, Bobby Fischer was at a New Year's Eve party at the home of Jack Collins. Right after ringing in the new year, Bobby played several blindfold games at the party with International Master Bill Addison under conditions where Addison had sight of a chess board and pieces. Addison also had White in every game. In addition, Bobby took off his king's bishop pawn at the start of each game. Each player had only five minutes per game. Addison barely managed to break even in their series. (Brady, p. 76)

On January 2, 1964, Bobby Fischer won the U.S. Championship with a perfect score of 11 wins. First prize was \$2,000.

In 1964, he began a nationwide simultaneous exhibition for the rest of the year. His fee was \$250 for a 50-board simul and a lecture. Harry Evans, father of Larry Evans, was in charge of putting it together. From February to May, he played in 40 cities. He played 1,882 games, winning 1,719, drawing 102, and losing 61 games.



During the exhibition months, Fischer carried a Bible with him during his travels and read it regularly. (The Chess Correspondent, July, 1964)

On March 9, 1964, he turned 21. His mother sent him a number of chess books from the Soviet Union. He had just completed a 65 board simultaneous exhibition in Washington, DC the day before.

In the first issue of Chessworld, he wrote an article called, "The Ten Greatest Masters in History." The players he included were Paul Morphy, Howard Staunton, William Steinitz, Siegbert Tarrasch, Mikhail Chigorin, Alexander Alekhine, Jose Capablanca, Boris Spassky, Mikhail Tal, and Samuel Reshevsky.

The first international rating list was published by Arpad Elo in 1964. The top two players were Fischer and Petrosian at 2690. His USCF rating was 2734. He chose not to play in the 1964 Amsterdam Interzonal, missing the world championship cycle. He was still protesting the Soviets and their cheating in events like the Interzonals.

Perhaps in 1964, Bobby Fischer took a physical examination for the military. For some reason, he was rejected.

Fischer refused to play in the 1965 Interzonal in Amsterdam. He told Holiday editor Peter Lyons that "FIDE is a crooked organization, run by the Communists from Moscow." (Brady, p. 81)

From October through

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December, 1964, Fischer gave chess lectures at the Marshall Chess Club.

In May, 1965, he gave a simultaneous exhibition at the United Nations.

In August 1965, Bobby participated in the 4th Capablanca Memorial in Cuba by playing through a teletype machine at the Marshall Chess Club in New York. He tied for 2nd-4th with 12 wins, 6 draws, and 3 losses. The United States did not have diplomatic relations with Cuba, and the State Department would not authorize him to travel to Havana. Fischer thus had to play by teletype and the Cuban government paid for the services, over \$10,000. Fischer's USCF rating was 2706.

In 1965 Frank Brady published Profile of a Prodigy, a biography of Bobby Fischer.

In late 1965, Fischer spent his time writing Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess.

In December 1965, he won the U.S. Chess Championship with 8 wins, 1 draw, and 2 losses. His 1st place prize was \$2,000. Fischer's USCF rating after the event was 2708. He also qualified for the 1967 Interzonal in Sousse, Tunisia.

In April, 1966, Bobby Fischer was the official adjudicator at the Greater New York Open Championship.

In July 1966, Bobby took 2nd place at the Piatigorsky Cup in Santa Monica, behind Spassky. Over 1,000 people watched his game with Boris Spassky, the largest audience for a chess game in U.S. history. His USCF rating was 2713.

In November 1966, he played Board 1 for the U.S. at the 17th Chess Olympiad in Havana, scoring 14 wins, 2 draws, and 1 loss. His USCF rating was 2748.

In December 1966, he won the U.S. Championship with 8 wins, 3 draws, and no losses. This was his 8th U.S. Championship title. His USCF rating was 2758.

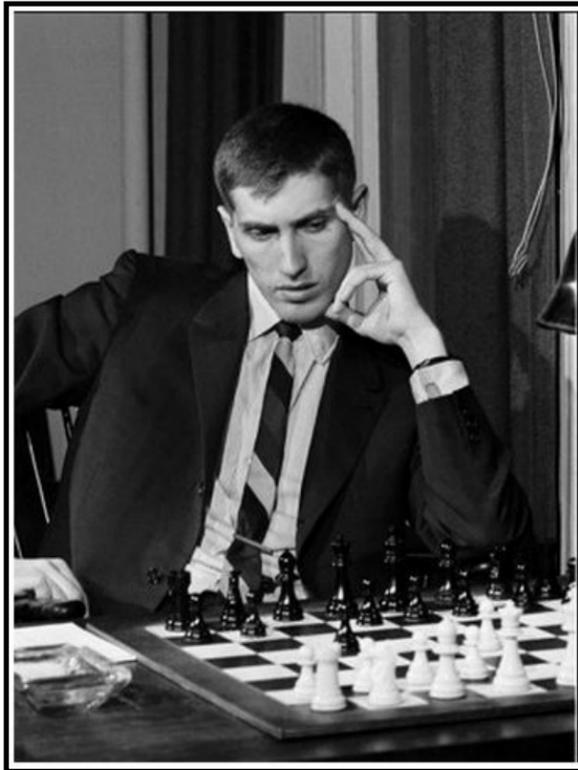
In 1966, Bobby's mother started her medical school degree in the Freidrich Schiller University in East Germany. She completed her medical degree two years later, at the age of 55.

At this time, Bobby was living in a suite at the Tudor Hotel on East

42nd Street, near the United Nations building.

In December, 1966, Fischer started writing a chess column for Boys' Life, the official publication of the Boy Scouts of America. He wrote a column until December, 1969.

In April 1967, Fischer took 1st place at Monaco. His USCF rating was 2762. He received an



appearance fee of \$2,000 and a 5,000 franc first prize. The trophy was presented to him by Prince Rainier and Princess Grace.

In the summer of 1967, he went to the Philippines for a series of simultaneous and clock exhibitions.

In August 1967, he won at Skopje, Yugoslavia. His USCF rating was 2741.

In October he participated in the Sousse Interzonal, but withdrew after leading the event with 7 wins and 3 draws. He forfeited his game with the Soviet international master Gipslis because of too many games he had to play in succession as a result of the tournament organizers re-scheduling his games around his religious holidays and Sabbath. Since the organizers would not let him replay the forfeited game, Fischer withdrew. His USCF rating was 2754 after this event.

In 1967, a review copy of My Memorable Games: 52 Tournament Games, was printed but never published.

In the spring of 1968 Bobby moved to Ambrose Avenue in Los Angeles and followed the Worldwide Church of God.

In July he took 1st place at Nathanya, Israel. His USCF rating was 2739.

In July, 1968, he gave a 5 board clock simul in Athens, winning 4 and drawing one game.

In September he took 1st place at Vinkovci, Yugoslavia. His USCF rating was 2745.

In 1969 Bobby finished his book, MY 60 MEMORABLE GAMES. It included 9 draws and 3 losses.

He played Board 1 in a New York Metropolitan League and defeated Anthony Saïdy.

In April 1970, he played Board 2 in the USSR vs. REST OF THE WORLD match in Belgrade, beating Petrosian with 2 wins and 2 draws. Fischer asked for and received a \$2,500 appearance fee. All the other players were given a \$500 honorarium. The prize for the winner of board 1 was an Italian-built Fiat. The prize for the winner of board 2 was a Russian-built Moskvich. The Soviets won 20.5 to 19.5. His USCF rating was 2755.

He then went on to Herceg Novi, Yugoslavia and won the unofficial world 5-minute championship with 17 wins, 4 draws, and 1 loss (to Korchnoi). He score 4.5 points more than 2nd place finisher Mikhail Tal. Fischer spent no more than 2 minutes on any game. After the tournament he called off from memory all of the moves from his 22 games, involving over 1,000 moves. In May, 1970, he took 1st at Rovinj/Zagreb. His USCF rating was 2748.

In June, 1970, Fischer flew to Sarajevo to be the guest of Dimitrije Bjelica. They produced a series of 10 television shows, each devoted to a famous chess master.

In August 1970, he took 1st place at Buenos Aires. His USCF rating was 2762.

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In September he played Board 1 for the U.S. at the 19th Olympiad in Siegen, Switzerland. His USCF rating was 2755.

In November, Pal Benko gave up his spot at the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal for \$2,000 so that Fischer could play. Bobby won the event with 15 wins, 7 draws, and 1 loss. His USCF rating was 2771. His December 1970 FIDE rating was 2740.

Fischer won the chess Oscar for 1970, 1971, and 1972.

In 1971, Fischer proposed that the world championship match be decided on the first player winning 10 games.

In June 1971, Bobby Fischer defeated Mark Taimanov with 6 wins, no draws, no losses in the Candidates quarterfinals in Vancouver, Canada. Fischer wanted Larry Evans to be his second, but Evans refused when Fischer demanded that Evans abstain from any journalism and for him to leave his wife, Ingrid, back home in Nevada. Fischer's USCF rating was 2801. His FIDE rating was 2760.

In July 1971, he defeated Bent Larsen also with a perfect 6-0 score in the Candidates semi-final in Denver, Colorado. His performance rating was 3060. His USCF rating peaked at 2825.

In August Bobby won the Manhattan Chess Club 5-minute blitz with 21 wins and 1 draw.

In September, 1971, Bobby



defeated Tigran Petrosian with 5 wins, 3 draws, and 1 loss in Buenos Aires for the Candidates finals. He now became challenger for the world championship. His USCF rating was 2824. His FIDE rating was 2785. During the match with Petrosian, someone threw a stink bomb in the playing hall.

In January 1972 Bobby appeared on the Dick Cavett show and talked about chess.

Just before the match with Boris Spassky, he told the Washington Post "I don't believe in psychology. I believe in good moves."

On July 11, 1972 he began his match with Boris Spassky in Reykjavik (Smoky Bay), Iceland for the world championship. On September 1, 1972 Bobby became world champion after winning 7 games, drawing 11 games, and losing 3 games (one on forfeit). Fischer received \$160,000 for his efforts and another \$40,000 in royalties. President Nixon sent him a telegram congratulating him for his fine efforts. Fischer donated \$61,200 of his winnings to the Worldwide Church of God. His USCF rating after the event was 2810. This would be his last USCF rating. His FIDE rating was 2780. This would be his last FIDE rating.

Of interest is that Bobby Fischer once wanted to be a singer. He did sing for Saemund Pauson, the Icelandic policeman assigned to guard him in Reykjavik. When Pauson was asked how Fischer sounded, he said, "Not very beautiful because Bobby was not a very musical voice." (by Harold Schoenberg, New York Times, 1972)

On September 22, 1972, the mayor of New York declared that day as Bobby Fischer day.

In 1972 Frank Brady wrote a new edition of Profile of a Prodigy.

In 1972, Fischer showed up for 15 minutes at the Church's Fried Chicken tournament in San Antonio.

Bobby Fischer appeared on the Johnny Carson show on November 8, 1972.

In December, 1972, Bobby Fischer met the press at a luncheon in his honor at the home of his attorney, Stanley Radar, in Beverly Hills. A few producers had already contacted him with a variety of film and television appearances. He had been discussing with Wolper

Productions about doing a documentary based on his life. He told the press that he eats sensibly and sleeps 10 hours a night. For relaxation he said he plays racquetball and tennis and takes walks. (Lima News, Jan 2, 1973)

Bobby Fischer's last published USCF rating was 2810. His FIDE rating was 2785.

In 1973, Las Vegas offered Fischer \$1 million to play a chess match in Las Vegas.

In 1973 Bobby moved to Los Angeles. His mother Regina sent him her Social Security checks to survive on.

In 1973, Fischer traveled to Tokyo to meet with the Japan Chess Association and met Miss Miyoko Watai, who gave him a tour of Tokyo. They later became very good friends and lived together in 2000.

In September, 1973, Fred Cramer, Vice President (Zone 5) of FIDE, proposed that the world championship match be decided on 10 wins, draws not counting. He also proposed that the champion retains his title if it were a 9-9 tie. This became known as the Cramer proposal, or Annex 43 by FIDE. In September, Bobby Fischer telegraphed the FIDE Congress being held in Helsinki that FIDE adopt the Cramer proposal. The FIDE Congress voted that the match should be based on 6 games, not 10 games.

In November, 1973, Bobby Fischer was the guest of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. He made an appearance at the Philippines International Tournament, won by Bent Larsen. Fischer played an exhibition game with President Marcos, which was broadcast on television. It lasted 5 minutes after 8 moves and a draw agreed. Fischer then played Florencio Campomanes, President of the Philippines Chess Federation, in a blitz game on television. Fischer won on time. Fischer was paid \$20,000 for appearance fee.

In 1974, Fischer asked for \$150,000 in appearance fee to play in the Nice Olympiad.

In early 1974, FIDE's rules committee issued a 14-page document with 179 numbered paragraphs of regulations for the world championship match. Fischer agreed to all the regulations except one. He did not agree to a 36-game

limit.

Fischer insisted that the championship be decided by 10 wins, draws not counting, and that the number of games be unlimited. Also, Fischer insisted that if the score reached 9 wins apiece, the champion should retain the title.

On June 21, 1974, Fischer telegraphed a message to the FIDE delegates at Nice on the match conditions he wanted for the world championship match.

In June, 1974, the FIDE Congress in Nice approved the 10-win regulation and the elimination of draws from the scoring, but imposed a 36-game limit and rejected the 9-9 proposal. Fred Cramer telephoned FIDE's decision to Fischer.

On June 27, 1974, Fischer sent a telegram from Pasadena, California to the FIDE Congress: "As I made clear in my telegram to the FIDE delegates, the match conditions I proposed were non-negotiable... FIDE has decided against my participation in the 1975 World Chess Championship. I therefore resign my FIDE World Championship title."

In 1974, Fischer wrote to Larry Evans about not counting draws in a match. Larry Evans wrote: "The whole idea of not counting draws is to eliminate a draw match." Fischer responded: "Nonsense! The whole idea is to make sure the players draw blood by winning games, and the spectators get their money's worth. And most importantly as an accurate test of who is the world's best player."

In January, 1975, the Philippines were offering \$5 million for Fischer to play Karpov in the Philippines.

In March, 1975, an extraordinary FIDE Congress was held in Osterbek, Netherlands, and it was agreed to have an unlimited number of world championship games, but refused Fischer's 9-9 rule (32 votes for it, and 35 votes against it).

On April 3, 1975 Bobby Fischer forfeited his title as world chess champion to Anatoly Karpov without playing a single chess game since winning the world championship. Fischer had been living in an apartment in South Pasadena owned by the Worldwide Church of God since the world championship.

In 1976, Karpov met secretly



with Fischer three times, in Tokyo, Japan, in Washington, DC, and in Manila, to discuss an unofficial match or possible world championship match.

In 1977 Bobby played three games against the MIT Greenblatt computer program and won all three games.

In 1977, Fischer played a training match with Jack Collins and won with 16 wins, one loss, and three draws.

Fischer turned down \$250,000 to play one chess game at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas and \$3 million to play in a tournament in the Philippines. At the end of 1977 he cut all ties with the Worldwide Church of God. He claimed that the church was taking orders from a satanical secret world government.

In 1978 Bobby Fischer filed a \$3.2 million lawsuit against the publishers of a magazine critical of the Worldwide Church of God. He claimed the writers taped his conversations without his consent. He then accused the church of renegeing on their promise to finance the lawsuit.

On May 26, 1981, Fischer was arrested in Pasadena under suspicion of a bank robber. He was stopped by a police officer who said he fit the description of a bank robber. Fischer refused to answer some questions as he was arrested. In 1981 Fischer stayed with grandmaster Peter Biyiasis. They

played at least 17 blitz games and Fischer won every game.

In 1982 Fischer published, "I WAS TORTURED IN THE PASADENA JAILHOUSE." He used the pseudonym Robert D. James. The pamphlet was 14 pages on how he was treated in jail for 48 hours.

In 1984 Bobby Fischer wrote to the editors of the Encyclopedia Judaica requesting his name be removed from their encyclopedia. He claimed he was not a Jew and had never been circumcised.

In 1987 the House of Representatives passed House Resolution Bill 545 recognizing Bobby Fischer as the world chess champion.

In 1988 Bobby patented the Fischer digital chess clock which adds 2 minutes per move (the patent expired in November, 2001).

In 1991 Bill Wall delivered to Bobby Fischer, via Joan Targ, a large number of chess magazines and chess books provided to him by International Master John Donaldson. Every issue of Inside Chess by Yasser Seirawan was included, as requested by Fischer.

In early 1992 Fischer started a relationship with 18-year old Zita Rajcsansyi of Hungary. She may have persuaded him to play a chess match with Boris Spassky. Plans were being made to have Spassky play a re-match with Fischer in Yugoslavia.

Continued on Page 20

On August 21, 1992 the Department of the Treasury ordered Bobby Fischer to stop his activities in the planning of a chess match in Yugoslavia. He was subject to the prohibitions under Executive Order 12810, signed by George Bush on June 5, 1992 (rescinded in 2003), imposing sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

On September 1, 1992, Bobby Fischer came out of his 20 year retirement and gave a press conference in Yugoslavia. He pulled out an order from the U.S. Treasury Department warning him that he would be violating U.N. sanctions if he played chess in Yugoslavia. He spit on the order and now faces 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine if he returns to the U.S. In addition, he must forfeit his \$3.65 million to the U.S. Treasury and forfeit 10% of any match royalties earned. On September 30, Bobby Fischer began his re-match with Boris Spassky (ranked 99 in the world) in Sveti Stefan (Montenegro), Yugoslavia. The match was organized by banker Jedzimir Vasiljevic. On November 11, Fischer won the match with 10 wins, 5 losses, and 15 draws. He received \$3.65 million for his winnings and Spassky received \$1.5 million. The match used the new Bobby Fischer chess clock. Fischer's 2nd during the match was Eugene Torre of the Philippines.

On December 15, 1992 the State Department indicted Bobby Fischer for violating Title 50, US Code 1701, 1702, and 1705 and Executive Order 12810 (Prohibiting Transaction with Yugoslavia), signed by President George Bush on June 2, 1992.

The crime was performing a contract in support of a commercial project in a banned country (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia). He was ordered to be arrested by any U.S. Marshall or any authorized agent for violating the International Emergency Economic Powers Act.

In 1993 the movie, "Searching for Bobby Fischer," was released.

In 1996 Bobby traveled to

Argentina to promote his random chess (Fischerandomchess), where you set up the pieces in a random manner. This would take away the book knowledge of regular chess.

The President of FIDE offered Fischer \$100,000 and a piece of land in the Kalmyk Republic in redress for copyright violations by former Soviet publishers.

On January 24, 1997 Fischer was issued a U.S. Passport (#27792702) at the American Embassy at Bern, Switzerland. The passport should have been valid until 2007.

On July 27, 1997 Bobby Fischer's mother died in Palo Alto, California. She was 84.

On June 2, 1998, Bobby Fischer's only sister, Joan Fischer Targ, died of a cerebral hemorrhage at the age of 60. She lived in Portola Valley, California and was married to Stanford physicist Russell Targ.

In 1998 all of Bobby Fischer's valuables and belongings kept at the Bekins Moving and Storage Company in Pasadena, California were sold when the storage bill was not paid by Bob Ellsworth of Pasadena, who was supposed to pay his bills.

On January 13, 1999 Fischer granted a live radio interview to a radio station in Budapest, Hungary. It was the first of over 20 radio interviews he would make in the next 3 years.

On January 14, 1999 Fischer granted an interview to Baguio

Radio in the Philippines. He accused the Jewish community of conspiring against him and denied the holocaust of the Nazis. He has since made 9 interviews over the radio.

On May 24, 1999, in Baguio, Fischer said: "America is totally under control of the Jews... The Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense are dirty Jews."

Fischer was living in Budapest in the 1990s. He has been frequented by the Polgar family and Grandmaster Peter Leko.

In 2000 Fischer traveled to the Philippines and stayed with

Philippine Grandmaster Eugene Torre. Fischer was living his girlfriend, Justine Young. She was 22 years-old and a Chinese-Filipino. She had a daughter, Jinky Young, born in 2000 in Manila. Justine Young claimed that Fischer was the father of Jinky Young.

Later that year, Fischer traveled to Japan and was living with Miyoko Watai, President of the Japanese Chess Association and former Japanese women's chess champion.

In 2001, Fischer worked for awhile as a disc jockey for DZSR, an AM station in Manila. In exchange for exclusive interviews, Fischer was allowed to spin his favorite Rhythm & Blues records and discuss politics.

On September 11, 2001, Bobby Fischer spoke on Philippine radio (Radio Bomba in Baguio) while in Japan, applauding the New York terrorist and Pentagon attacks.

On October 28, 2001 the US Chess Federation put out a newsletter disassociating itself from the remarks of Fischer about the terrorist actions and threatening to revoke his USCF membership.

In 2001 Grandmaster Nigel Short was convinced that Bobby Fischer was playing chess on the Internet. An unknown player easily defeated Short, one of the world's strongest chess grandmasters, in an 8-game match. The unknown player answered all of Short's questions about chess in the 1960s and knew all the answers to several Bobby Fischer trivia questions (who did Fischer play in round 3 of the 1967 Sousse interzonal, how many moves, and what was the opening). Others speculate that the player was using a computer, but others have analyzed the moves and the time between moves to show that it was a human playing.

On January 27, 2002 Fischer did a radio interview from Reykjavik, Iceland. He encouraged the Icelandic government to close the local U.S. naval base. He then said, "If they refuse to go, send them some letters with anthrax. They'll get the message."

In 2002, it was reported that Bobby Fischer was living in Tokyo, Japan working on a new chess clock for Seiko that could also be used in other games like go and shogi. He had previously lived in Germany, Hungary, Hong Kong, Switzerland, and the Philippines.

In May, 2002 Frank Berry posted an Internet article in ChessCafe entitled, "Was Fischer's mother a Communist Spy?" He implied that Bobby Fischer's mother was a communist spy and that his father may have been a leading German spy.

In November, 2002, the Philadelphia Inquirer published a story that identifies the real father of Bobby Fischer. The article identifies the real father to be Paul Nemenyi, a Hungarian physicist. He died in 1952. He was at the University of Chicago in 1942 working on the Manhattan Project to develop the first nuclear bomb. Paul Nemenyi worked on the mechanism which triggered the atomic bomb. Bobby was born in Chicago on March 9, 1943. Russell Targ, Bobby's brother-in-law, disputes this suggestion that Nemenyi was Fischer's real father. Hans-Gerhardt Fischer is listed on Bobby's birth certificate.

On December 11, 2003 the U.S. Embassy in Manila sent a letter by the U.S. Consul General (Thomas Allegra) to the Japanese authorities that Fischer's U.S. passport (#27792702) had been revoked pursuant to Section 51.70(a) (Denial of Passports) of Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations. Fischer was still being charged with violating Title 50, US Code 1701, 1702, and 1705 and Executive Order 12810. The crime was performing a contract in support of a commercial project in a banned country (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia).

On March 9, 2004 Fischer turned 61.

On April 15, 2004 Bobby Fischer flew to Japan. He cleared Japanese immigration at the time.

On July 13, 2004 at about 5:30 pm, Bobby Fischer was arrested by the Japanese immigration authorities at Narita International Airport in Tokyo, Japan during a rough struggle. Fischer was headed to Manila, Philippines at the time on a Japan Airlines flight (JL 745). He was then going to fly to Hong Kong. Fischer was told that he would be deported to the United States to face charges. Japan and the United States have an extradition treaty. Fischer could go to prison for 10 years and pay a \$250,000 fine for violating the Trading with the Enemy Act and income tax evasion.

In October, 2007, Fischer was admitted to a Reykjavik hospital for

Fischer was going to Baguio, Philippines to give another radio interview for Radio Bomba.

After two weeks of incarceration, he agreed to hire a lawyer (Masako Suzuki and Takeshi O'Hashi) to appeal the Japanese government's decision to deport him. He has been telling Japanese authorities that he is a German citizen, invoking his lineage to a German-born father (Hans-Gerhardt Fischer, born in Berlin in 1908).

On August 10, 2003, Fischer was transferred from Narita airport (east of Tokyo) to Ushiku, an hour north of Tokyo.

On August 16, 2004, Bobby Fischer appealed to US Secretary of State Colin Powell to help him renounce US citizenship. He also announced plans to marry Miyoko Watai, the Japan Chess Association President.

In September, 2004, a Japanese court granted an injunction preventing Fischer from being deported until it had ruled on his lawsuit seeking to have the deportation order thrown out.

In January, 2005, Fischer wrote a letter to the government of Iceland, asking for Icelandic citizenship. The Icelandic authorities granted him an alien's passport, but that was insufficient for the Japanese government to release him. So the Icelandic government unanimously granted Fischer full citizenship in March, 2005. The U.S. government filed charges of tax evasion against Fischer in an effort to prevent him from traveling to Iceland.

The Japanese released Fischer on March 23, 2005. Fischer then flew to Iceland.

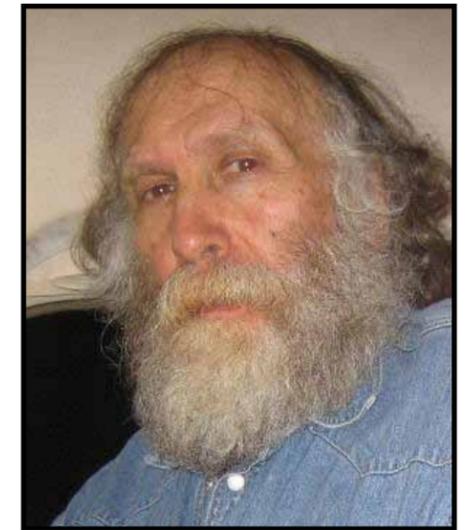
Fischer was issued an Icelandic passport on April 27, 2005. It will expire on April 27, 2015.

In May, 2005, Boris Spassky visited Iceland with the intent of getting Fischer to return to chess.

In December, 2005, eBay opened a bid on Bobby Fischer's belongings that had been stored in a Pasadena storage lot. The starting bid was \$15,000.

On December 10, 2006, Fischer phoned in to an Icelandic television station and pointed out a winning combination which was missed in a chess game that was televised in Iceland.

In October, 2007, Fischer was admitted to a Reykjavik hospital for



physical problems. He remained in the hospital until November and returned to his home in December.

On January 17, 2008, Bobby Fischer died from kidney failure (degenerative renal failure) in a Reykjavik hospital. He was 64. His last words were "Nothing is as healing as the human touch."

The last movie Fischer saw before his death was American Gangster.

On January 21, 2008, he was buried in the small Christian cemetery of Laugardaelir church in Selfoss, Iceland.

Fischer's estate was estimated at \$2 million. Four parties claimed the money: Miyoko Watai, who claims she is the wife of Fischer, Marilyn Young who says that Fischer is the father of her Philippine daughter Jinky Young, the Targ family - his two American nephews Alexander and Nicholas Targ and their father Russell Targ, and the U.S. government, claiming unpaid taxes.

In December 2009, the Supreme Court of Iceland ruled that Watai's claim of marriage was invalidated because of her failure to present the original of their alleged marriage certificate.

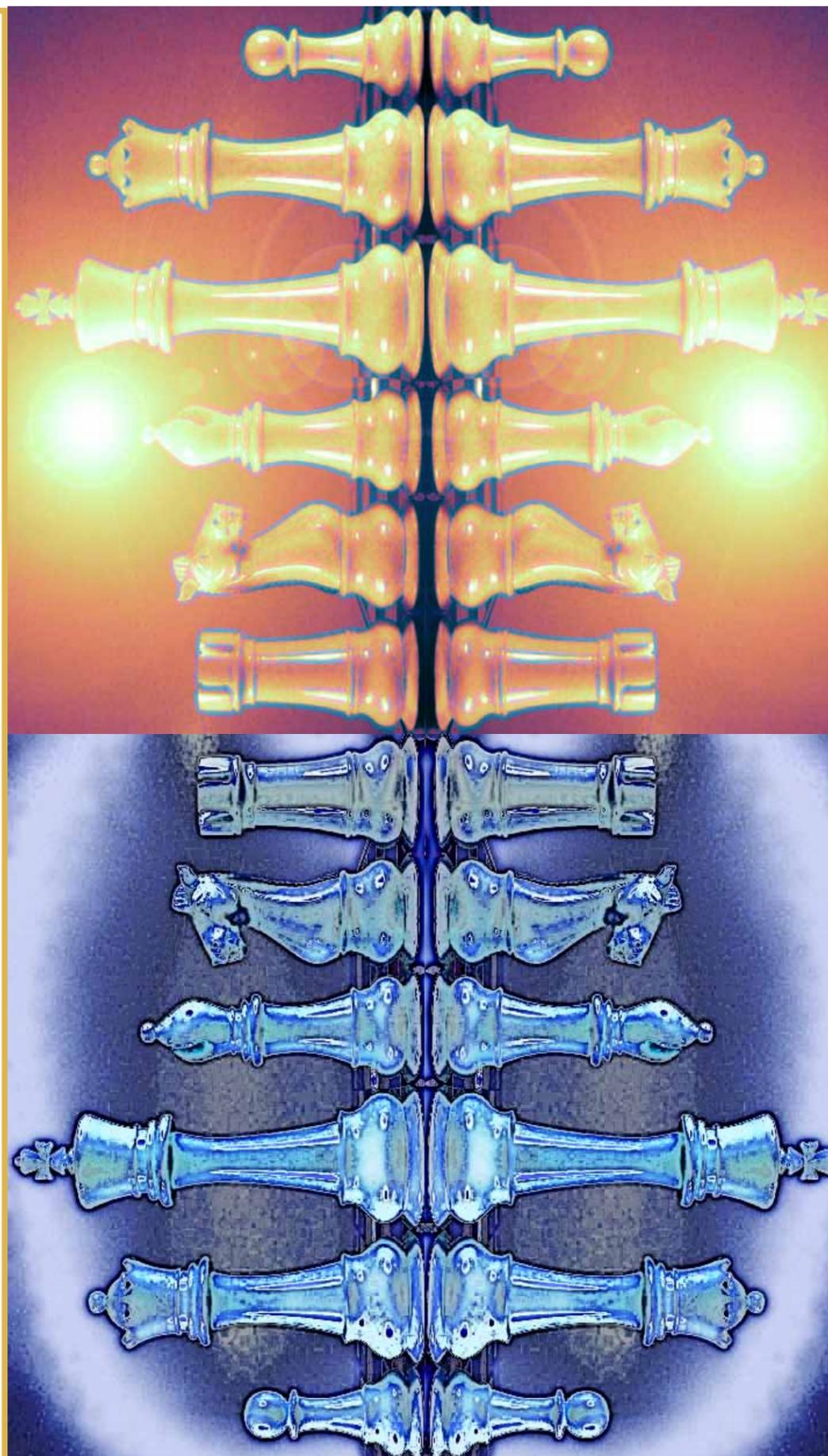
On July 5, 2010, DNA samples were taken of Bobby Fischer due to a filed paternity lawsuit from Marilyn Young that Fischer was a father of Jinky Young. On August 17, 2010, the DNS tests determined that Fischer was not the father of Jinky Young.

<http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/Lab/7378/fischer3.htm>



Principles of Chess

1. Develop your chess pieces quickly.
2. Control the center squares.
3. Try to put your chess pieces on squares that give them maximum space.
4. Try to develop your knights towards the center.
5. A knight on the rim is dim.
6. Don't take unnecessary chances with your moves.
7. Play aggressive and not passive.
8. Calculate forced moves first.
9. Always ask yourself, "Can he put me in check or win a piece?"
10. Have a plan. Every move and idea should have a purpose.
11. Assume your opponent's move is the best move or he will play the best move.
12. Ask yourself, "Why did he move there?" after each opponent move.
13. Play for the initiative and controlling the board.
14. If you must lose a piece, get something for it if you can.
15. When behind in material, exchange pawns. When ahead, exchange pieces.
16. If you are losing, don't give up fighting. Look for counter-play and tactics.
17. Don't play unsound moves.
18. Don't sacrifice a piece without good reason.
19. If you are in doubt of an opponent's sacrifice, accept it.
20. Attack with more than just one or two pieces.
21. Do not make careless pawn moves. They cannot move back.
22. Do not block in your bishops.
23. Bishops of opposite colors have the greatest chance of drawing.
24. Try not to move the same piece twice or more times in a row.
25. Exchange pieces if it helps your development or uncramps your position.
26. Don't bring your queen out too early.
27. Castle soon to protect your king and develop your rook.
28. Develop rooks to open files.
29. Put rooks behind passed pawns.
30. Study rook endgames. They are the most common and most complicated.
31. Don't let your king get caught in the center.



32. Don't castle if it brings your king into greater danger from attack.
33. After castling, keep a good pawn formation around your king.
34. If you only have one bishop, put your pawns on its opposite color.
35. Trade pieces when ahead in material or when under attack.
36. If cramped, free your game by exchanging material.
37. If your opponent is cramped, don't let him get any freeing exchanges.
38. Study openings you are comfortable with.
39. Play over entire chess games, not just the opening.
40. Blitz chess is helpful in recognizing chess patterns. Play often.
41. Study annotated games and try to guess each move before playing the next move.
42. Stick with just a few openings with White, and a few openings with Black.
43. Record your games and go over them, especially the games you lost.
44. Show your games to higher rated opponents and get feedback from them.
45. Use strong chess engines and databases to help you study and play more.
46. Avoid blunders if you can. Everyone blunders. Strong players just blunder less often.
47. When it is not your move, look for tactics and combinations.
48. Try to double rooks or double rook and queen on open files.
49. Always ask yourself, "Does my next move overlook something simple?"
50. Don't make your own plans without the exclusion of the opponent's threats.
51. Watch out for captures by retreat of an opponent's piece.
52. Do not focus on one sector of the board. View the whole board.
53. Write down your move first before making that move if it helps.
54. Try to solve chess puzzles with diagrams from books and magazines.
55. It is less likely that an opponent is prepared for off-beat openings.
56. Recognize transposition of moves from main-line play.
57. Watch your time and avoid time trouble. Do not rush your game.
58. Bishops are worth more than knights except when they are pinned in.
59. A knight works better with a bishop than another knight.
60. It is usually a good idea to trade down into a pawn up endgame.
61. Have confidence in your game.
62. Play in as many tournaments and matches as you can.
63. Try not to look at your opponent's rating until after the game.
64. Always play for a win.



In Memoriam

Don't Get Bent!- The life of Bent Larsen

Editor's note: The great Danish grandmaster Bent Larsen died in Buenos Aires on September 9, 2010. He was 75 years old. Larsen was a determined and spirited player who was famous for his unusual openings. Throughout his career, he beat seven world champions: Mikhail Botvinnik, Vasily Smyslov, Mikhail Tal, Tigran Petrosian, Boris Spassky, Bobby Fischer and Anatoly Karpov. The following is a brief summery of his chess career.

Bent Jorgen Larsen was born on March 4, 1935 in Tilsted, Denmark.

In 1941, Larsen took up chess while lying sick in bed as a child. He was 6 years old.

In 1947, at the age of 12, he joined the local chess club in Copenhagen.

In the 1950s, he attended Aalborg Cathedral School.

In 1951, he represented Denmark in the World Junior Championship, held in Birmingham, England. He placed 5th.

In 1952, he moved to Copenhagen to study civil engineering, but decided to become a chess professional and chess journalist instead.

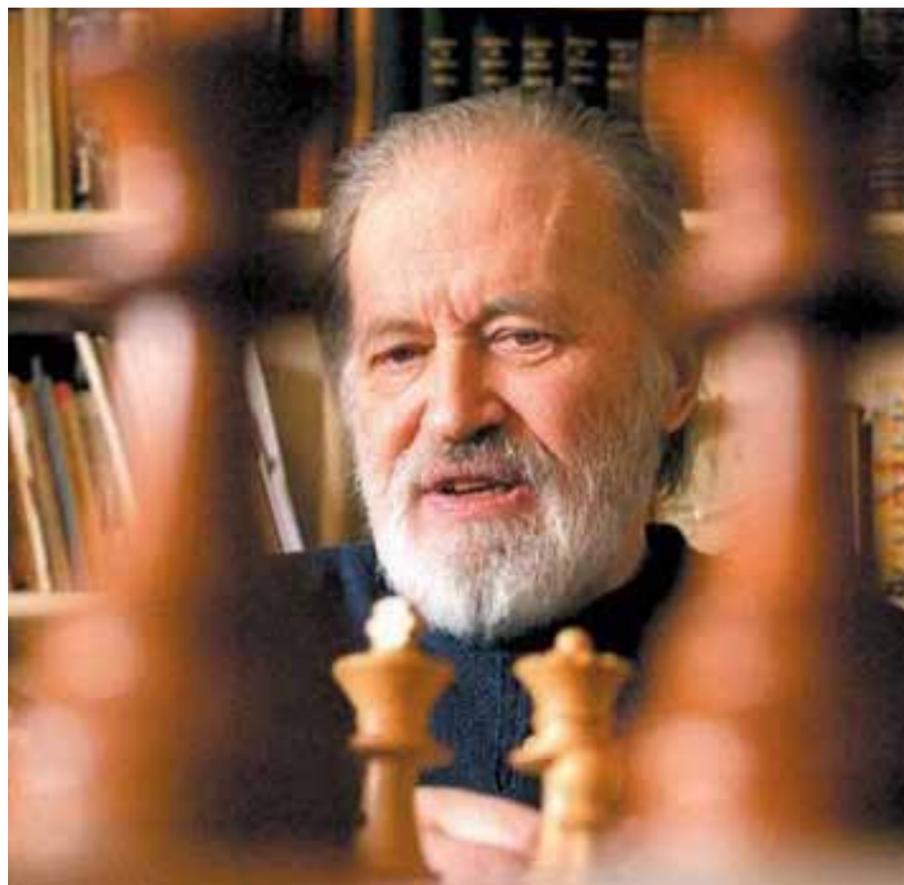
In 1953, he represented Denmark in the World Junior Championship, held in Copenhagen. He finished 8th.

In 1953, he labored all night on an adjourned game, and finally found the winning line. He then tried to get a few hours of sleep. He lost the game because he overslept and failed to appear on time.

In 1954, at the age of 19, he became an International Master after his performance in the Amsterdam Chess Olympiad. He took the bronze medal on board one.

He represented Denmark 6 times in Olympiad play, always on first board, winning one gold and two bronze medals.

He won the Danish Championship 6 times: 1954, 1955,



1956, 1959, 1963, 1964, and 1989.

In 1956, he became an International Grandmaster after his performance in the Moscow Chess Olympiad. He took the gold medal on board one, scoring 11 wins, 6 draws, and one loss.

In 1956-57, he tied for 1st at Hastings with GM Svetozar Gligoric.

In 1958, he qualified for his first Interzonal at Portoroz.

In 1958, he won his first international tournament at Mar del Plata.

In 1959, Bent Larsen was Bobby Fischer's second at the Bled

Candidates tournament. Larsen said that Fischer managed to drive him almost desperate by sitting alone in his room with a chess set, not eating very much and sleeping little. Larsen tried to change Fischer's openings, but to no avail.

In 1960, he tied for 1st at Beverwijk with GM Tigran Petrosian.

In 1961, he tied for 1st at Beverwijk with GM Borislav Ivkov.

In the early 1960s, Larsen got married before a chess tournament. Mikhail was his best man. Tal then went on to beat Larsen in the

tournament.

In 1962, he was drafted in the Danish army and did military service for two years.

In 1963, he finished 2nd at the Halle Zonal, behind GM Lajos Portisch.

In 1964, he tied for 1st at the Amsterdam Interzonal, with Boris Spassky, Mikhail Tal, and Vasily Smyslov.

In 1965, he defeated Ivkov in the Candidates' matches, but then lost to Tal.

In 1966, when Larsen defeated Efim Geller in a match, it was the first time in a match that a Soviet grandmaster ever lost to a foreigner. Larsen won 3, lost 2, and drew 4.

In 1966, he placed 3rd at the Piatigorsky Cup Santa Monica, behind Spassky and Fischer. He twice defeated reigning world champion, Tigran Petrosian.

In 1967, he won a strong tournament in Havana.

In 1967, he won the Sousse Interzonal (Bobby Fischer was leading the event until he withdrew).

In 1967, he was awarded the first Chess Oscar for his performance that year.

In 1968, he won the Canadian Open at Toronto and the U.S. Open at Aspen.

In 1967-68, he set the modern record of most consecutive tournament victories, winning 5 major events in a row and 9 out of 10 from 1967 to 1970 (Havana 1967, Winnipeg 1967, Sousse Interzonal 1967, Palma de Mallorca 1967, Monte Carlo 1968, and the US Open in Aspen 1968, Bussum 1969, Palma de Mallorca 1969, and Lugano 1970). At Palma de Mallorca in 1968, he took 2nd.

In 1968, he defeated Portisch in the Candidates' matches, but then lost to Spassky, who went on to become world champion.

In 1968, he wrote 50 Udvalgte Partier, 1948-69, which was later translated, Bent Larsen: 50 Selected Games.

In the late 1960s, he first moved to Spain, then to Buenos Aires, saying that Denmark had too many taxes. He divided his time between Buenos Aires and Las Palmas. His second wife was from Argentina.

In 1970, he won the Canadian Open at St. John and the U.S. Open at Boston.

In 1970, he played first board for the World side in the USSR vs. Rest of the World at Belgrade, Yugoslavia. He scored 2.5/4 against Spassky and Leonid Stein. He won one game, drew one game, and lost one game to Spassky. He won one game against Stein. Bobby Fischer played Board 2 for the Rest of the World. The USSR team narrowly won the overall match, 20.5 to 19.5.

"I am a self-made man. I didn't have an instructor, and I wasn't engrossed in chess manuals except the books of Nimzovitch, I just worked a lot playing chess." Bent Larsen

Larsen's loss to Spassky was quick.

Larsen-Spassky, USSR vs Rest of the World, Belgrade, Larsen's Opening 1.b3 e5 2.Bb2 Nc6 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nf3 e4 5.Nd4 Bc5 6.Nxc6 dxc6 7.e3 Bf5 8.Qc2 Qe7 9.Be2 O-O-O 10.f4 Ng4 11.g3 h5 12.h3 h4 13.hxg4 hxg3 14.Rg1 Rh1 15.Rxh1 g2 16.Rf1 Qh4+ 17.Kd1 gxf1=Q+ and Larsen resigned 0-1

In 1970, he won the bronze medal for board one at the Siegen Olympiad. He played one of the



shortest games in the Olympiad.

Sursock – Larsen, Siegen 1970, 1.d4 e6 2.e4 c5 3.Nf3 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bc4 Nf6 7.Bg5 Qb6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Ndb5 Ne5 10.Bb3 Rg8 11.O-O a6 12.Nd4? Qxd4! (if 13.Qxd4 Nf3+ and 14... Nxd4 wins) and White resigned 0-1

In 1970, he shared 2nd place in the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal, behind the tournament winner, Bobby Fischer.

In 1971, he was the 3rd highest rated player in the world, behind Fischer and Spassky. His rating was 2660.

In 1971 he defeated Wolfgang Uhlmann in the Candidates matches, but then lost to Bobby Fischer with the score of 0-6 in Denver in July. Fischer's performance rating was 3080 when he defeated Larsen. Larsen could have drawn the last game by perpetual check but elected to play on. Larsen blamed his loss on the hot climate and the high altitude of Denver.

In 1972/73, he won at Hastings.

In 1973, he wrote San Antonio Church's Fried Chicken

International Chess Tournament '72.

In 1973, he won the Nordic Championship.

In 1973, he won at Manila.

In 1974, he won the second annual World Open in New York.

In 1976, he won the Biel Interzonal.

In 1977, he lost his Candidates' match to Portisch.

In 1982, he wrote Larsen's Good Move Guide.

In 1988 he lost a chess game to Deep Thought chess computer, becoming the first Grandmaster and the player with the highest Elo rating (2560) to be defeated by a computer in tournament play. Larsen lost in 43 moves at the Software Toolworks Open (US Open) in Long Beach. He had White and played the English opening 1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6 4.Nf3. Deep Thought tied for 1st place with Tony Miles.

From 1958 to 1990, Larsen took part in over 60 chess tournaments,

taking 1st place in 25 events and taking 2nd place in 10 events. He was known as "the tournament world champion."

In 1992, Larsen's book was reprinted by Batsford under the title Bent Larsen: Master of Counter-Attack. Larsen refused to autograph that book for anyone, stating that it was an unauthorized reprint of his book.

In 2009, his Elo rating was 2415.

From 1948 to 1985, he defeated seven World Champions: Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Fischer, and Karpov.

The opening 1.b3 is known as Larsen's Opening.

Grandmaster Raymond Keene considered Bent Larsen as the most cultured grandmaster.

When Larsen gave simultaneous exhibitions, he allowed half the games as White and half the games as Black. Most grandmasters only play White.

When on a winning streak,

Larsen refused to shave. As soon as he lost, he shaved.

Larsen's nickname was The Great Dane and The Danish Prince.

Larsen was the first native-born Danish grandmaster in chess history. Nimozwitsch was a Danish grandmaster, but he was born in Riga, Latvia.

At one time, to supplement his income, Larsen translated detective stories into Danish.

Larsen won the Interzonal three times (Amsterdam 1964, Sousse 1967, Biel 1976). The only other person to win three Interzonals was Mikhail Tal.

For many years, he wrote a chess column for Clarin, a Buenos Aires newspaper.

Bent Larsen is survived by his second wife, Laura Beatriz Benedini.

He once observed: "To win, it is necessary to accept lost positions."

Bent is a common name in Denmark. It is short for Benedictus.



**Bent Jorgen Larsen
1935-2010**

Chess News **Chess news from Around the World**

Albany, New York – The 132nd New York State Championship took place September 3-6, 2010. In the Open section, Grandmaster Joel Benjamin and International Master Mark Esserman tied for 1st, but neither were New York residents. In 3rd place was Aleksandr Ostrovsky from Brooklyn, so he is the new state champion.

Belgium – On October 12th, 2010, former world chess champion Garry Kasparov played a chess simul against 20 of the top Belgium CEOs and politicians, and a selection of children (10 kids selected out of more than 300 candidates). Kasparov won all his games.

Bilbao, Spain – Vladimir Kramnik won the Bilbao Masters Final ahead of world champion Viswanathan Anand, Alexei Shirov, and world's highest rated player, Magnus Carlsen. The event took place in Bilbao, Spain Oct 9th-15th, 2010.

Japan – The program Rybka, authored by International Master Vasik Rajlich, won the World Computer Chess Championship. Rybka won 7 games, drew 2 games and lost none. The event took place September 25th through October 1st.

Khanty-Mansiysak, Siberia – The Ukraine won the 39th Chess Olympiad, edging out Russia 1. 3rd place went to Israel on tie break over Hungary. Vassily Ivanchuk won the individual gold medal on board 1. The USA, ranked 9th, ended up in 9th place on tie break. There were 150 men's teams. For the women's teams, Russia 1 won with a perfect 11-0 score. 2nd went to China and 3rd went to Georgia. The USA women's team, ranked 6th, ended up in 5th place on tie break. There were 116 women's teams. The event took place from September 21st through October 3rd. During the Olympiad, the World Chess Federation (FIDE) met and re-elected Kirsan Ilyumzhinov as FIDE President. He won over former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov, 95-55.

Moscow – The Women's World Blitz Chess Championship took place in Moscow September 17-18. Kateryna Lahno took clear first place, followed by Tatiana Kosintseva and Valentina Gunina.

New York – The RAW World Chess Challenge under the tag line "Can you beat Magnus Carlsen?" took place at the Cooper Star Hotel in New York City on September 10. The challenge saw Carlsen take on viewers from throughout the world as they voted on a move from either Hikaru Nakamura from the USA or Judit Polgar from Hungary or Maxime Vachier-Lagrave from France. Carlsen won in 44 moves.

New York – 12-year-old Justus Williams went over 2200 at a tournament held at the Marshall Chess Club in New York in September. In doing so, he became the youngest African-American player to ever reach the master rating.

Pittsburgh – The 2010 US Blind championship was held October 11-12 in Pittsburgh. The winner was Daniel Steininger of Indiana, with a perfect 4-0 score.



San Francisco – Chess promoter and California Chess Hall of Famer Miked Goodall died on October 5, 2010. He was 64. I knew him for many years when I lived in the Bay area. He was a National Tournament Director and International Arbiter. He directed hundreds of chess tournaments in Northern California since 1965. He directed over a dozen California chess championships and several Golden Gate Opens.

Spain – Grandmaster Illescas Cordoba won the Spanish Championship, held in El Sauzal, Tenerife on September 4th through September 12th.

Tokyo – For the first time, a computer beat a professional shogi (Japanese chess) player. A computer program called Akara 2010 defeated the women's top shogi player, Ichiyo Shumizu in 6 hours, over the course of 86 moves. Shogi is considered more complicated and complex than chess.

Zurich – The 11th World University Chess Championship took place in Zurich, Switzerland on September 5th through September 11th. Wang Yue of China won the men's section. Batkhuyag Munguntuul of Mongolia won the women's section.



ODDITIES IN CHESS

In the 19th century, Cardinal Constantino Patrizi (1798-1876) challenged five other nobles to a pistol duel because they denied him membership in the Noble Chess Circle of Rome. (Chess Review, February 1951, p. 50)



In 1916, during World War I, Siegbert Tarrasch and Jacques Mieses played a chess match in Berlin in which the prize was ½ pound of butter. Tarrasch won the match and the butter with 7 wins, 2 losses, and 4 draws. At a New York chess tournament during the Depression, the first prize was a keg of schmaltz herring. (Chess Review, December 1947, p. 16)

Grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky (1911-1992) was a child prodigy in chess. He made his debut on radio singing a love song. His original name was Szmul Rzeszewski, but nobody could pronounce it. He was an accountant by profession. (Chess Review, October 1951, p. 288)

During the Bled 1931 International Chess Tournament, Geza Maroczy challenged Aron Nimzowitsch to a pistol duel at dawn after the two got in an argument. Nimzowitsch refused. Nimzowitsch took 3rd place (won by Alekhine). Maroczy took 11th place. (Chess Life, March 1988, p. 11)

World champion Alexander Alekhine (1892-1946) once was concentrating so hard on his game that he absent mindedly stirred his coffee with a pawn, then dropped a white pawn in his coffee, thinking it was a sugar cube. (Chess Review, March 1949, p. 74)



In 1939, Hollywood had an anti-Nazi chess league, mostly made up of Jewish players (Chess Review, May 1939, p. 104)



Benjamin Blumenfeld (1884-1947) was one of the best chess players in Moscow between the First and Second World Wars. He studied law at Moscow and Berlin Universities, then gave up law to devote himself to chess. He received a PhD in chess psychology from Moscow University. His dissertation was on the nature of blunders in chess. (Chess Review, May 1947, p. 8)

During World War II, it was reported that grandmaster Paul Keres (1916-1975) of Estonia was bombed by the Germans and had to have his leg amputated. Keres saved the lives of several radio operators after warning them that the NKVD (the Russian People's Commissariat for Internal Affairs) were looking for them. (Chess Review, February 1945, p. 9)

During World War II, postal chess was not allowed between civilians and servicemen because censors thought it might be secret code. (Chess Review, June 1946, p. 6)



During one of the later rounds of the U.S. chess championship, a room that was normally used for the tournament was reserved for a wedding. Someone posted on the door the following note for the chess players: "You will have to have your fun somewhere else tonight as the Bishop is mating..." (Chess Review, May 1955, p. 146)

ODDITIES IN CHESS (CONTINUED)

In the 1950s, a Louisiana law barred blacks from chess playing rooms in New Orleans. This prevented blacks from playing in the U.S. Open in 1954, which was held in New Orleans. (Chess Life, July 20, 1954)

In 1954, the Argentine Chess Federation called off the national tournament after a chess player punched a referee. (Chess Review, December 1954, p. 358)



The Rosenwald Trophy for the U.S. championship in the 1950s was engraved incorrectly. The engraving says Lavore Praetium Honoris (washing is the price of honor) instead of Labore Praetium Honoris (labor is the price of honor). Some chess players thought the prize might be a bar of soap. (Chess Life, January 5, 1955, p. 2)

Arkadijs Strazdins won the New Britain, Connecticut Chess Championship 23 years in a row. He also had been president of the chess club for over 25 years. He was a member of the club for over 50 years. His son, Andris, was the club treasurer for over 34 years. (Chess Life, June 1975, p. 379)

The wife of grandmaster Isaac Kashdan (1905-1985) was asked to join a harem for 150 English pounds by Umar Khan during one of the chess Olympiads. (Chess Life, May 1985, p. 12)



Kashdan appeared on You Bet Your Life with Groucho Marx and partnered with the mother of Tony Curtis, but lost. Groucho kept calling him Mr. Ash Can.

The 1980 Italian Chess Championship was postponed until 1981 because of an earthquake. The 1980 Irpinia earthquake took place in the Irpinia region in southern Italy on November 23, 1980, measuring 6.89 on the Richter Scale. (Chess Life, September 1981, p. 13)

In 1982, the Belle chess computer (PDP-11/23) was confiscated by the U.S. State Department while on a plane at Kennedy Airport going to the USSR to compete in a computer chess tournament. It was considered too high tech for the Soviets to see. It took over a month and a \$600 fine to get Belle out of customs. (Chess Life, September 1982, p. 12)



In 1986, Alex Chang took 1st place in the National Elementary Championship. His older sister, Angela, took 2nd place. (Chess Life, August 1986, p. 24)

In 1988, Jesse Tuggle (1928-1991) of Houston, played 771 USCF-rated games, the most rated games ever in on year. He was the most active chess player in the U.S. from 1985 to 1990.

John Penquite (1935-2007) had the highest chess rating ever recorded by the United States Chess Federation. In the 1990s his correspondence rating was 2939 with a perfect 58-0-0 score from correspondence play. He won the Iowa State Chess Championship 8 times between 1951 and 1973. (Chess Life, April 1993, p. 36)

44% of all chess grandmasters speak four or more languages. (Chess Life, March 1988, p. 10)

Perhaps the oldest person to finally make master (rated over 2200) was Bernard Friend of New Jersey. In 1991, at the age of 71, he became a master for the first time. (Chess Life, September 1991, p. 37)



Annotated Game

With the recent death of Bent Larsen, I wanted to find a good game that involved a Queen sacrifice to show his tactical skill. Here is a nice game where Larsen wins in 18 moves with a Queen sac.
-Bill Wall

Magnus Petersson – Bent Larsen Reykjavik, 1989

1.d4 Nf6 2.c3 [An unusual or rare opening move. Usual is 2.c4]

2...b6 [I have played 2...e6. There followed 3.f3? Nh5 4.e4? Qh4 5.g3? Nxg3! And Black won, Tony – Wall, Internet 1999]

3.Bg5 [3.Nf3 is a good alternative]
3...e6 [most common and natural is 3...Bb7 first.]

4.Nd2 [4.e4] **4...Bb7**

5.e3 [5.e4; 5.Ngf3; 5.Qc2] **5...Be7**

6.Ngf3 [6.f4 has also been played]
6...0-0

7.Bd3 [7.h3 is another alternative]
d5

8.h4 [8.Ne5 looks best; White can also castle] **8...Nbd7** [8...Ne4 9.Bf4 Nd7 10.Ne5, Trifan-Micsa, Romania 1999]

9.Ne5 [9.Qb1 Re8 10.Ne5 h6, Wittman-Grossmann, Germany 1989] **9...Ne4**

10.Bxe4 [A new move. Other moves that have been played include 10.f3, 10.Bf4, and 10.Bxe7] **10...dxe4**

11.Nxd7?! [11.Qg4 looks best, and if 11...f5, then 12.Qg3; White could

also play 11.Bxe7 Qxe7 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Qe2] **11...Qxd7**

12.Qc2?! [White attacks the Black e-pawn, but loses a tempo as Black attacks the bishop, then defends the threatened e4 pawn. 12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.h5 may be best] **12...f6**

13.Bf4 Qc6 [Black could also play 13...e5 14.dxe5 fxe5 15.Bxe5 Rad8 and have a good game]

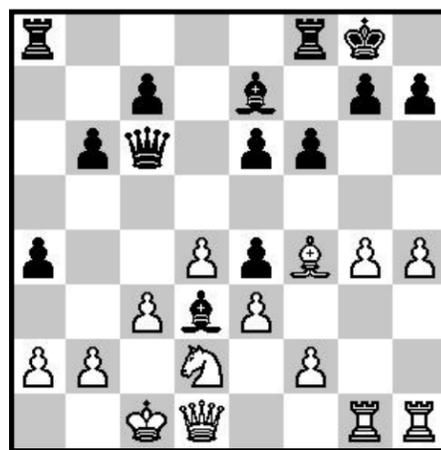
14.g4 [White is trying to get a kingside attack. Also playable are 14.h5 and 14.0-0-0] **14...a5** [Black counters with a queenside attack]

15.0-0-0?! [It seems that White is castling into the queenside attack. Better may be 15.g5] **15...a4**

16.Rdf1?! [Looks like a wasted move as the rook can be attacked and has to move again. 16.g5 or 16.a3 looks better] **16...Ba6** [Black is threatening 17...Bd3, which White does not see.]

17.Rfg1?? [The losing move. Best may be 17.Qxe4 Qxe4 18.Nxe4 Bxf1 19.Rxf1] **17...Bd3!**

18.Qd1 Diagram



18...Qxc3+!! [after 19.bxc3 Ba3 checkmate] and White resigns 0-1



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From chesskia: How do you decide when to take a knight with a bishop?

Chesskia, if it weakens the pawn structure, take the knight. If the bishops are open, keep the bishops, but trade a bishop for knight if the bishop is locked. If pawns are on both sides of the board, keep the knight. If pawns are all on one side of the board, keep the bishop. Knights are harder for weaker players to see and visualize, so keep the knight against weaker players. Mostly, I would avoid taking knights unless I have a clear endgame.

From Peter L: What are the ideas on the center squares of a chessboard? What does it mean by controlling the center?

Peter, the center squares are the d4, e4, d5, e5 squares of a chessboard. The first opening principle should be controlling the center, with such moves as 1.e4 or 1.d4 for White and 1.e4 e5 or 1.e4 c5 and 1.d4 d5 or 1.d4 Nf6 for Black. Controlling the center allows more mobility of the pieces such as knight and bishop, as well as easy access to all parts of the chess board. Control of the center by one player helps him to position his chess pieces more effectively while preventing the development of your opponent's pieces. Attacks in the center also tend to be more effective. You can also control the center and attack the center in a hypermodern way, such as 1.b3 followed by 2.Bb2 or 1.g3 and 2.Bg2. The bishops are not controlling the center and attacking the long diagonal. These factors often turn your opening into a battle for central control between the two sides.

From Danny H: Bill, I love your 500 Miniature series books. Why haven't you published more of your miniature books? And are they available in database format?

Danny, the problem is with the publishers and demand for databases, not chess book collections. After my books were published by Chess Enterprises in the 1980s and early 1990s, the databases came out and no one was buying any more chess book collections, at least not mine. I tried to get other publishers, and had hard copy, ready-to-print, as well as soft copy, pdf, and pgn files (and ChessBase format), but there wasn't any interest. I probably have collected over 100,000 miniatures, and published over 10,000 miniatures from my books and web sites. I could put all my miniatures from my books in pgn format, but it would take some time. I could also add thousands of new ones that have never been in a database as I have thousands of old chess books and magazines around the world full of short games that have never made it in a database. I put a few of my books online for free at db books, but it was without annotations. However, I am trying a new format with e-books and recently wrote *200 King's Gambit Declined Miniatures* and *200 King's Gambit Accepted Miniatures*. If they turn out successful, I can start creating some more miniature series chess books.

JMR: When is it a good time to castle and when can you not castle? Which side should I castle?

JMR, you should castle as soon as possible to get your king to safety and get your rook out in the game. If you are in check (king being attacked), you cannot castle. In fact, you cannot castle if your king moves either into or across check (it's OK if the rook moves across attacking squares, but not the king). You can castle if there are no other pieces between the king and the rook. You cannot castle if you had already moved your king or the rook that you want to castle with. Make sure you touch the king first when moving. Castling is a king's move, so slide it over two squares to the right if you are castling kingside (written as O-O), or two squares to the left if you are castling queenside (written as O-O-O). The question as which side to castle depends on your opening. Generally you want to castle kingside if that is the fastest way to castle and your developed your kingside pieces. Some openings develop the queenside pieces first, and you may want to castle queenside. Some people wait to see which side his opponent is castling, then castle the opposite side. Then they try to attack the castled king while protecting his castled king. If the queens come off the board and there is no mate threat, you may not want to castle at all. Castling queenside is sometimes more difficult as it takes more pieces to clear the squares for castling and the a2/a7 pawn most probably needs defending with an additional king move towards it. It is also more likely that the enemy pawns on the queenside will advance while the kingside pawns stay on their original squares or close to it.

Charvando: I was wondering how emotion affects your game. Can emotion enhance performance or have a positive effect in chess?

Charvando, I have been playing chess over 40 years and there is always emotion in the game that may affect my play, especially with stronger players (I peaked at 2215, or weak master). I think emotion is good as it gets you directly involved in a good move or not. I am not an ice cool, rational player, which may prevent me from getting better (or it may have helped me get where I am). Misplaced emotion may affect my thinking process, but I do think positions in my mind are lousy or good or beautiful or yucky or bad. This may come from intuition and pattern recognitions of thousands of patterns I have played or seen over the years. I play tactical chess, which is more emotional than positional chess where you must be cold and rational. Maybe I don't have a killer instinct, and I know I don't mind losing a good game. I have very few draws and would rather play a move that is risky and I had some emotional attachment to the move and lose than play a boring, drawish game. Does emotion enhance performance? Perhaps not, but it makes the game more fun and enjoyable and not feel like work and drudgery. However, emotion does make me find moves and play then that I would otherwise not. I have won (and lost) several brilliancy prize games because of my emotion, combinational, tactical move that would not have been played if I was cold as ice and logical. Mistakes in chess don't embarrass me, it makes me feel human - and the game can be funny or sad, depending if I won it or not. Hope that helps.

The House of Staunton

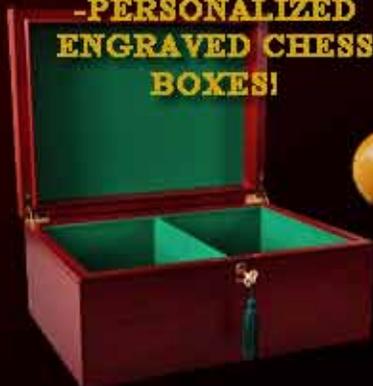
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