



John Donaldson
and Eric Tangborn

**Bobby
Fischer
in Action**

Simultaneous Exhibitions
and Blitz Games

Bobby Fischer in Action
Simultaneous Exhibitions and Blitz
Games

by John Donaldson and Eric
Tangborn

Bobby Fischer in Action

Copyright: John Donaldson and Eric Tangborn

Published: 8th January 2016

The right of John Donaldson and Eric Tangborn to be identified as author of this Work has been asserted by them in accordance with sections 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system, copied in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise transmitted without written permission from the publisher. You must not circulate this book in any format.

This book is licensed for your personal enjoyment only. This ebook may not be resold or given away to other people. If you would like to share this book with another person, please purchase an additional copy for each recipient.

Thank you for respecting the hard work of the authors. To contact the authors, email imwjd@aol.com.

Dedications

John: To National Master and three-time Washington State Chess Champion John Braley for 35 years of friendship.

Eric: To my wife Susan.

Introduction

This second of four volumes dedicated to Bobby Fischer covers his simultaneous games (except 1964) and blitz efforts. It represents the first attempt to systematically collect all of Fischer's non-tournament games and in so doing raises several questions.

The first is, why bother? After all these games, played with either the handicap of multiple opponents or limited time, can hardly compare in quality to those contested at a time control of 40 moves in 2 ½ hours against a single opponent. This is true, there is no denying it, but there are several reasons why Fischer's lesser efforts deserve to live.

The first is that some of them are not necessarily lesser. When Bobby selected games for his masterpiece *My 60 Memorable Games* one of those that made the cut was his win over Celle from a clock simul.

A second reason to save them is that Fischer's simultaneous and blitz efforts often contain interesting moments in games that might not be well-played by both players from beginning to end. While the entire games might not pass muster, often they contain a nice combination or pretty endgame that deserve to be remembered.

The third, is the reality that Fischer did not have a long career. To put things in perspective, Magnus Carlsen played more tournament games before his 21st birthday than Bobby did in his entire career! What this means is that if one wants to know how Fischer handled certain openings they are going to be out of luck if they rely solely on his tournament games,

One example is the position after 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4. Everyone remembers the games Bobby played with 9.Nh3 in the Two Knights, but what

about 3...Bc5? Fischer never faced this in a tournament, but we have over a dozen games where he played it in simuls. Was the quality of opposition Grandmaster strength? Hardly. Yet several were quite decent players that were strong enough to give us an idea of what Bobby's thoughts were on the Evans Gambit.

Bobby Fischer gave his first exhibition at the Manhattan Chess Club in late 1955 when he was only 12, and his last in early 1972 less than 20 miles away in New Rochelle. During the 16 years in between Fischer gave over 90 exhibitions. Most were one off events held after a tournament, but over half were held during two great tours.

The first, covered in book one of this series (*Legend on the Road*, 3rd edition) took place during the first half of 1964 and saw Bobby visit much of the United States and the Canadian cities of Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City. The second was held in Argentina in November-December 1971, immediately after the Fischer-Petrosian Candidates Match.

While the former is well-documented, the latter until recently was a mystery with only a handful of exhibitions and games known. We know that Bobby considered it important in light of his comments during one of his interviews with Eugene Torre on Filipino radio:

In 1999, Bobby Fischer gave an interview on Philippine radio. He has this to say about his simuls in Argentina.

“When I played in Argentina [in 1971], I played Tigran Petrosian a Candidates Match and beat him to qualify to play Spassky in Iceland the next year, you know. After I played, I gave an exhibition tour down there, a simul exhibition tour. I don't remember exactly how many I played. I have to check the record, twenty-five, thirty simul exhibitions.

“And before every simultaneous exhibition it was announced that all the players had to give me their copy of the score. So I had a complete record. They didn't give me the carbon copy, I insisted on the original copy. I've got hundreds and hundreds... I don't know, maybe about between six hundred and a thousand scores. None of these games have ever been published anywhere. And I, only I had the original scores. What the hell are they worth? Thousands, millions of dollars.

“I'll tell you something else. I don't like to brag, but those were great, great

simultaneous games. I was in great form. And they played the openings badly down there, 'cause you know they're pretty far from Europe, nowadays, of course, it doesn't matter. Everybody can get literature pretty superfast. But then they didn't get the latest theoretical journals and books on chess. So they didn't know the openings well at all. But if you didn't smash them down in the openings, watch out, 'cause later on they got stronger and stronger. So I knew this. I learned this real fast. So I made a real attempt to make sure I completely got an overwhelming game before they got into the middlegame, so I could be sure to win. These games were so instructive."

The theft that Fischer refers to occurred in the late 1990s when the rent for the locker where many of his treasures were stored was not paid and the items were auctioned off. Twenty five plus years later many items have surfaced from the auction but not a single scoresheet from this exhibition tour which included at least seventeen cities.

It's difficult to know what to make of this. If Fischer had been given the carbon copies the mystery would be solved. Whoever discovered them in the storage locker, close to thirty years after the games were recorded, would likely have found only very faint marks on the scoresheets if anything at all. That's just how it is with carbons. But note, Bobby said he was given the originals. These would last much longer and we can only hope they will surface someday.

As to Bobby's claim the games were worth millions. To put it mildly, this is a bit of exaggeration. While the discovery of these games (likely around 340 – Fischer limited himself to playing no more than 20 boards an exhibition at this stage of his career) would be a great blessing for chess history it wouldn't lead to any great riches. Part of Fischer's personal library sold for \$61,000 in 2009, while in 2011 one of the chess sets used during the 1972 match went for \$76, 275. A year later handwritten notes by Bobby to his blitz games from Herceg Novi sold for \$25,800.

All this strongly contradicts Fischer's estimation of their commercial wealth, particularly if one considers that the afore-mentioned sales all had items that were connected to Bobby and that he had often personalized. That wouldn't be the case here beyond him signing the scoresheet.

What is interesting from Bobby's interview is the high regard he held for the games which he deemed "instructive". Unfortunately Bobby's performance on the tour was almost too good. Fischer scored over 94 percent, losing only 9

games in a month. Typically the only games that are saved from simuls are those in which the exhibitor is beaten or drawn and that is the case here as the authors were only able to find roughly five percent of the games (+7,-4, =7 for Bobby).

What of Bobby's claim that he played twenty five to thirty exhibitions and six hundred to one thousand games? One possible explanation is that Bobby had the Argentine exhibitions from 1970 and 1971 combined in his mind. Although we only know of two exhibitions that Bobby gave after Buenos Aires 1970, it is conceivable there might be more. Ditto an exhibition or two might possibly be missing from 1971 although we don't think so.

One thing is certain, the Argentineans treated Bobby really well - all accounts suggest the tour was exceptionally well organized. Today the glory days of Argentine chess in the 1950s and 1960s are but a distant memory, but it was a real powerhouse then. It's important to remember Buenos Aires was an important chess capital in the early 1970s hosting a great tournament in 1970 and the Fischer-Petrosian match the year after.

This book not only includes an accounting of Fischer's exhibition games (excluding 1964), it also has all of his known blitz games (including a few new ones) except for Herceg Novi 1970. The latter will be included in volume three (Chess Writings of Bobby Fischer) as he annotated many of them.

What the reader will not find in this volume is Fischer's stand-alone games from team matches (Darga and Sliwa), his games from the 1967 challenge in Manila or against Pascual (Davao 1967). All were played one on one as if in a tournament. This was not the case for the five board clock simul in Athens in 1968. It should be considered the same sort of event as Fischer clock simuls in Montreal and Davis in 1964 and accordingly is found in this volume.

In preparing this book the authors were greatly assisted in their reconstruction of Fischer's 1971 tour of Argentina by Christian Sánchez and Eduardo Bauzá Mercére. Both went well beyond the call of duty in finding information in old newspapers and magazines and contacting players who participated in the exhibitions.

We are also particularly indebted to Michael Negele and Gunther Langhanke for piecing together Fischer's exhibitions in Münster and Solingen immediately after the Chess Olympiad in Siegen.

The authors would also like to thank the staff of the Mechanics' Institute (San Francisco), the World Chess Hall of Fame (St. Louis) and the John G. White collection of the Cleveland Public Library for their assistance.

Thanks to Andy Soltis, Sal Matera, Walter Shipman, Neil McKelvie, Jeffrey Kastner, Sam Sloan and Bruce Pandolfini for answering questions and providing background information about the Manhattan Chess Club blitz tournament held in August 1971.

As always, Edward Winter's Chess Notes www.chesshistory.com is the site for anyone interested in chess history and we have found it to be continually helpful.

We would also like to thank Carlos Almarza-Mato, Ken Hense, the late Jerry Hanken, Palle Henriksen, Zoran Ilic, Allen Jensen, Bragi Kristjánsson, Bruce Monson, the late Jack O'Keefe, Leon Schorr, Predrag Nikolic and Carlos Garcia-Palermo.

It goes without saying that any errors are the fault of the authors who would greatly appreciate any mistakes and new material being brought to their attention. They can be contacted at imwjd@aol.com.

This is book two of a four part series with book one consisting of Fischer's 1964 exhibition tour (*Legend on the Road*), book three a collection of Fischer's chess writings and book four a biography on Bobby designed to complement existing works such as *Profile of a Prodigy* and *Endgame*.

John Donaldson and Eric Tangborn

January 8th, 2016

Bobby Fischer's Simuls (except 1964)

1. **New York** November 26, 1955 (simul) 12 (+12, -0, =0)
2. **Havana** February 26, 1956 (simul) 12 (+10, -0, =2)
3. **Hollywood** Florida March 1, 1956 8 (+7, -0, =1)
4. **Jersey City** March 29, 1956 (simul) 21 (+19, -1, =1)
5. **Montreal** September 5, 1956 (simul) 19 (+18, -0, =1)
6. **New York** (Jamaica Chess and Checker Club) October 14, 1956 (simul) 12 (+11, -0, =1)
7. **New York** (Marshall Chess Club) February 1958 (simul) 25 (+24, -0, =1)
8. **New York** (WNTA) March 11, 1958 (simul) 13 (+12, -0, =1)
9. **Caracas** August 2, 1960 (simul) 47 (+39, -2, =6)
10. **Caracas** August 1960 (simul) 39 (+36, -1, =2)
11. **Valencia** August 1960 (simul) 25 games, finished unbeaten
12. **Caracas** August 1960 (simul) 25 (+20, -2, =3)
13. **New York** (Rikers Island) September 1960 (simul) 20 (+20, -0, =0)
14. **New York** 1960 (tandem simul with Larry Evans) result unknown
15. **Los Angeles** (Ambassador Hotel) February 1, 1961 (simul) 50 (+40, -3, =7)
16. **Los Angeles** (Knickerbocker Hotel) February 8, 1961 (simul) result unknown
17. **Copenhagen** (YMCA) March 11, 1962 (simul) 41 (+27, -7, =7)
18. **New York** (UN Exhibition) May 21, 1965 (simul) 26 (+21, -3, =2)
19. **Athens** July 31, 1968 (clock simul) 5 (+4, -0, =1)
20. **Sarajevo** May 11, 1970 (simul) 20 (+15, -1, =4)
21. **Sarajevo** May, 1970 (simul) 20 (+19, -1, =0)
22. **Mostar** May, 1970 (simul) 20 (+19, -0, =1)
23. **Buenos Aires** August 16, 1970 (simul) +20 (+20, -0, = 0)
24. **La Plata** August 20, 1970 (simul) 25 (+22, -3, =0)
25. **Münster** September 15, 1970 (simul) 20 (+15, -1, =4)
26. **Solingen** September 29, 1970 (simul) 20 (+12, -5, =3)
27. **Madrid** December 16, 1970 (simul) 20 (+18, -0, =2)
28. **Madrid** December 19, 1970 (simul) 20 (+19, -0, =1)
29. **Seville** December 23, 1970 (simul) 20 (+19, -1, =0)
30. **Rosario** November 7, 1971 (simul) 20 (+15, -1, =4)
31. **Paraná** November 8, 1971 (simul) 22 (+22, -0, =0)
32. **Tucumán** November 9, 1971 (simul) 20 (+17, -2, =1)
33. **Buenos Aires** November 14, 1971 (simul) 17 (+14, -0, =3)

34. **Corrientes** November 16, 1971 (simul) 20 (+20, -0, =0)
35. **Resistencia** November 17, 1971 (simul) 20 (+19, -0, =1)
36. **Salta** November 18, 1971 (simul) 20 (+17, -0, =3)
37. **Jujuy** November 1971 (simul) result unknown
38. **Córdoba** November 21, 1971 (simul) 20 (+16, -1, =3)
39. **San Juan** November 22, 1971 (simul) 20 (+20, -0, =0)
40. **Mendoza** November 24, 1971 (simul) 20 (+19, -0, =1)
41. **Neuquén** November 25, 1971 (simul) 20 (+18, -1 =1)
42. **General Roca** November 29, 1971 (simul) 20 (+19, -0, =1)
43. **Bahia Blanca** November 30, 1971 (simul) 20 (+20, =0, -0)
44. **Balcarce** December 1, 1971 (simul) 20 (+17, -2, =1)
45. **Mar del Plata** December 5, 1971 (simul) 20 (+17, -2, =1)
46. **La Plata** December 1971 (simul) result unknown
47. **New Rochelle** January 9, 1972 (simul) 20 (20, -0, =0)

New York, November 26, 1955

+12, -0, =0

CHESS REVIEW

the picture chess magazine

JANUARY
1956

SMALL TIME
BIG TIME

(See page 6)

50 CENTS

Subscription Rate
ONE YEAR \$5.50



Bobby's first simul, held at the Manhattan Chess Club, put him on the cover of *Chess Review* (January 1956) for the first time under the heading of *Small Time, Big Time*. The *New York Times* for December 11, 1955, featured a

montage of photos captioned "Chess War on 12 Fronts." The largest photograph has Bobby playing twelve of the eighty-six members of the youth group (ages 7-12) of the Yorktown Chess Club on November 26. Bobby took two hours and twenty minutes to score 12-0. 12-year-old Stuart Siepser lasted the longest.



Bobby in action while Bill Lombardy (directly under the clock) watches.

Chess Review January 1956

The astonished members of the oldest American Chess Club - the Manhattan Chess Club of Central Park South of New York City - witnessed the most unusual and unique chess exhibition, November 26, 1955.

Bobby Fisher, age 12, the chess prodigy of the Manhattan Chess Club, played simultaneously twelve members of the Youth Group (age 7 to 12) of the Yorktown Chess Club. Bobby won all games, eliminating the first opponent in 50 minutes and the last one in two hours and twenty minutes. Chess is recognized as the foremost game of intellectual skill - it is most cosmopolitan of all games and it develops the mind to face occasions as they arise, it

demands foresight, brilliancy and resource. Up to now, it was considered a game for adults, and the occasional appearance of a child player was an exception to the general rule.

A year ago, the Yorktown Chess Club sponsored the first known Youth Group. The membership has rapidly grown and there are now 86 active children between the ages of 7 and 12 who meet regularly once a week to receive instructions and to play regular tournament games. It was 12 youths of this unusual group that Bobby Fischer played, opening the door to chess to the youth of America.

Bobby Fischer, who played White, opened on 12 boards with 1. e4, followed by 2.Nf3, 3. Bc4.

The Yorktowners who were expecting Bobby to play the Queen's or King's Gambit, were caught by surprise and five of them made the error of replying with 1...e5, 2...Nc6 (which is good) and 3...Nf6 (instead of 3...Bc5).

That naturally gave Bobby five winning games as he promptly followed with 4. Ng5 and then 5. Nxf6. From that point on, however, the youngsters got real busy, setting up the strongest defense possible and fighting to the bitter end. The other seven players put up good opening resistance to the middle game.

Bobby played a strong offensive game with his Pawns and basically used the technique praised by the famous Steiner. He received from the Manhattan Chess Club a watch with an inscription and a check from the Yorktown Chess Club.

Stuart Slepser of Yorktown received a chess book from the Manhattan C. C., inscribed by Hans Kmoch, Director and Secretary, for having put up the best defense.

The following is the official classification of the Yorktown Chess players, based on the best defense (with ages):

1. Stuart Slepser, Yorktown Heights Age 12
2. Peter Foley, Peekskill Age 12
3. Walter Nitz, Yorktown Heights Age 12
4. Billy David, Yorktown Heights Age 11

5. Henry Brooks, Yorktown Heights Age 9
6. Jimmy Rice, Peekskill Age 9
7. Marc Budwig, Shrub Oak Age 7
8. Leonard Bergstein, Yorktown Heights Age 10
9. Evanna Nelson, Yorktown Heights Age 12
10. Linda Villator, Yorktown Heights Age 7
11. Eric Mynttinen, Croton Lake Age 11
12. Michael Foley, Peekskill Age 10

Mr. Hyman Rotkin, President of the Yorktown C. C. and Mr. John Bischoff, Vice-President, complimented Bobby on his excellent technique and predicted that within a few years he will be competing with chess champions.

Mr. Hans Kmoch was joined by the president and other officers of the Manhattan C. C. in complimenting the Yorktown C. C. for its initiative in developing chess among the youth, and all expressed high hopes that other communities will follow this example.

Mr. Joseph Brooks, Manager of the Youth Group admitted that the children had played an excellent defensive game as per instructions received, and Billy David was the surprise of the day. He was selected to represent the beginners of the seventh grade. He had received only a few hours of instruction and had played no more than 10 practice games. Billy had faithfully followed the instructions during the first 14 moves and was the only player, among 12, to have, at that point, a stronger game than Bobby Fischer. In fact, after the exhibition games were completed, Bobby looked up Billy David, replayed the first 14 moves and showed him the error made on the fifteenth.

The arrangements for this exhibition were made by Mr. Joseph Davis, Secretary of the Yorktown C. C. and special training and supervision was provided by two club chess members, Mrs. John Foley, MR. Henry Budwig, and the comely, Miss Shoshana David, Billy's 19 year-old sister.

Not told in the foregoing story is one of interest. Bobby Fischer is a Brooklyn product, lives not too far from the Brooklyn Dodgers' Ebbets Field. When Dr. Harold Sussman started to teach chess to his own son, he collected a group of youngsters for livelier interest in learning competitively. Brightest light of the

group was - you guessed it - Bobby Fischer!

(*Chess Review* editor)

Havana, February 26, 1956

+10, -0, =2

Fischer's first major road trip occurred in the beginning of 1958 when he and his mother accompanied E. Forry Laucks and the Log Cabin Chess Club on a tour from New York down to Cuba. Along the way the Log Cabineers played local teams and Bobby gave some informal simuls. While in Havana Bobby gave an exhibition at the Capablanca Chess Club which was first reported on in English by David Levy in his book *How Fischer Wins*.

Ed Tassinari, writing in *Chess Notes* (No. 1306), gives the most comprehensive coverage to the highlight of the Log Cabin Chess Club's 3,500-mile road trip, the visit to Cuba

The 28th February issue of El Mundo had a picture of Fischer giving the simultaneous exhibition and in Palacio's chess column of the same date there is a picture of Fischer playing Jose A. Gelabert in a skittles encounter, together with a reference to an article that appeared in Chess Review for January 1956 (which was actually a reprint of New York Times piece describing a Fischer simultaneous exhibition against twelve members of the Yorktown Chess Club (N.Y.) given at the Manhattan Chess Club in November 1955). A list of Fischer's opponents and the result of the 26th February simultaneous display are also given: Raimundo Plasencia, Sergey Pavol, Rogelio Ferrer, E. Houghton, E. Forry Laucks, Dr. Luis F. de Almagro, Antonio Higuera, Dr. Armando Bermudez, Alberto Reyes and Raul Martin all lost; Jose Arango Casado and Ramon Merendez Bermudez drew.

Unfortunately no game scores were given by Palacio, nor in any of his columns for the following weeks. Mention of the Log Cabin aggregation was made by the then Cuban champion Dr. Juan Gonzalez in his column (26th February 1956) which occasionally appeared in the Diario de la Marina (Havana). He gave the line-up for the team match, but nothing beyond what appeared in Palacio's column.

I also scanned several weeks of the New York Times for February and March

1956 in the hopes of locating something about the Log Cabin tour and/or Fischer's game scores; the only mention apparently was on 5th March 1956, p.26, which noted that the three-week Log Cabin Chess Club tour had ended; the team had played matches with Miami, Tampa, St. Petersburg and Hollywood, Florida, Clinton, North Carolina and Havana, with a result of twenty-three and a half to twenty-six and a half. It was noted that Norman Whitaker played first board for Log Cabin and won five, lost one and drew one. Fischer made exactly the same result on second board.”



Fischer at the age of 12 giving a simultaneous display at the Capablanca Chess Club in Havana, February 1956. (See p. 11) Photo C. Palacio.

Here is the sole surviving game of Fischer's first trip to Cuba.

(1) Sicilian B32

Fischer – Jose Arango Casado

Havana (simul), February 26, 1956

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nxd4 5.Qxd4 d6 6.c4 e5 7.Qd3 Nf6
 8.Nc3 Be6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Be2 a6 11.b3 O-O 12.O-O Re8 13.Rad1 Qa5
 14.Rd2 Rac8 15.Bxf6 Bxf6 16.Rfd1 Red8 17.Nd5?!

White throws away most of his advantage with the text.



17...Bxd5 18.Qxd5 Qxd5 19.Rxd5 Be7 20.f3?!

This just blocks in the bishop.

20... g6 21.c5?

This blunders a pawn.

21...Rc6?

This blunders right back. The position is still a draw after 21...Rxc5 (Bobby's idea must have been 21...dxc5 22.Rxe5.) 22.Rxc5 dxc5 23.Rxd8+ Bxd8. Black's extra pawn gives him encouragement to play on, but White should be able to hold without difficulty.

The primary source for this game, David Levy's *How Fischer Wins*, gives the score as 21...Kg7 22.Kf2 Rc6. This would mean that both players overlooked the simple 22.cxd6. We tend to think that the sequence given is more logical.

22.Kf2 Kg7 23.g3 f6 24.f4 Kf7 25.Ke1 b5 26.b4 Ke8 27.fxe5 dxc5 28.exf6 Bxf6 29.bxc5 Be7 30.Rxd8+ Bxd8 31.Rd6 Rxd6 32.cxd6 Ba5+ 33.Kd1 Bb4 34.e5 Bc3 35.e6 Be5 36.d7+ Ke7 37.Bg4 Bc7 38.Kc2 b4 39.Kd3 Kf6 40.Kc4 a5 41.Kc5 h5 42.Bh3 g5 43.Kc6 Bd8 44.Bg2 a4 45.Bd5 Ba5 46.Kb7 a3 47.Kc8 Ke7 48.Bc4 Bd8 Draw (*How Fischer Wins*)



At the Club Capablanca (Havana), Log Cabin President E. Forry Laucks slips into exhibition (facing Bobby Fischer). Besides Laucks and Fischer, Log Cabin ensemble included Wm. Walbrecht, Sec. New Jersey State Chess Association; N. T. Whitaker, Director of Washington Chess Divan; Team Captain Ted Miller of Fool's Mate C. C. in Newark; Robert Houghton of the Public Service C. C. in Newark; and E. R. Glover, President of Mercantile Library C. C. The trip extended 3500 miles: Philadelphia; Hollywood, St. Petersburg, Miami, Tampa (Fla.); Havana; and Clinton, N. C.

Hollywood, Florida - March 1, 1956

+7, -1, =0

R. E. Burry's chess column in the *Ft. Lauderdale Sunday News* for March 4, 1956, ends with: Bob Fischer, the 15-year-old (sic) whiz of the Log Cabin Chess Club, played some eight or more of our players simultaneously, winning all but one game, which was a draw. Some additional games were not completed.

The authors were prompted to try to find out information about this exhibition after seeing a photo in the April 1956 issue of *Chess Review* which showed Fischer standing with four players seated in front of him, all with the black pieces. One of them was R.E. Burry. Regrettably no games appear to have been published from this impromptu exhibition.

Jersey City, March 29, 1956

+19, -1, =1

Frank Brady, in *Endgame*, writes that this exhibition was held to raise travel expenses for Bobby's trip to the 1956 US Open. While 100 spectators watched the simul in the lobby of the Jersey City YMCA, it didn't provide much money as each player paid only a dollar to play, and with two free entries, it netted just \$19! Note that the results for this exhibition and several others Bobby gave pre-1959 are given in the biographical section of *The Games of Bobby Fischer*.



Bobby in action during his simul in Jersey City.

Montreal - September 5, 1956

+18, -0, =1

Excepting local events and the 1964 tour, pretty much all of Fischer's

exhibitions during his career were tied to tournaments he was competing in. That's easy to understand as the fees for the events until the 1970s wouldn't have justified independent travel costs. Bobby's exhibition in Montreal was held immediately after the first Canadian Open won by Larry Evans and William Lombardy. Fischer's one draw was with William Oaker who lost to Bobby in a clock simul in the same city eight years later.

New York, October 14, 1956

+11, -0, =1

This exhibition was held at the Jamaica Chess and Checker Club in Queens. According to *Bobby Fischer's Games of Chess* this exhibition was held at the Jamaica Chess and Checker Club in Queens. Despite checking *Chess Review*, *Chess Life* and the *American Chess Bulletin* we were unable to find any additional information.

The Jamaica Chess and Checker Club should not be confused with New York's oldest continuously operating chess club the Queen's Chess Club which celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2014. A year older than the Marshall, the Queen's C.C. now meets in Jamaica, but it was founded in Woodside in 1914. It later moved to the Flushing Y.M.C.A in the early 1950s according to an article published in the *New York Times* on July 9, 1972. All three sites (Woodside, Flushing and Jamaica) are located in different locations in Queens.

Brian Lawson remembers that the Jamaica Chess and Checkers Club was located at the YMCA on Parsons Blvd. in Queens and run by Archie Waters from the 1950s to 1970s. Waters, who was an expert at Spanish pool checkers and introduced Bobby to the game, was a mentor to the young Fischer. One can easily imagine a small informal exhibition being arranged by the two friends that would explain the lack of publicity.

Archie Waters, who died in 2001 at the age of 83, was a man of many talents. Born in Brooklyn, Waters served in World War II in New Guinea as a battalion sergeant-major of personnel. After the war, he attended Columbia University and later became the first black member of the prestigious Marshall Chess Club of New York.

Waters worked as a reporter for close to thirty years writing for the *People's Voice*, the *Harlem Daily*, the *Long Island Daily Press*, and later wrote a civic

affairs column for the *New York Daily News* - he was long active in the civil rights movement. He moved to El Paso in 1980 and worked for many years as a columnist for the *El Paso Times*.



Archie Waters studying the game of the century (D.Byrne-Fischer, Third Rosenwald Tournament) where Black has just played 17...Be6! (Photo credit C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department at the University of Texas at El Paso Library.)

To our knowledge the oldest continuously active chess clubs in the United

States are:

1. Mechanics' Institute Chess Club of San Francisco (1855 to present)
2. Seattle Chess Club (1879 to present)
3. Franklin-Mercantile Chess Club of Philadelphia (1885 to present) The Franklin Club started in 1885 and the Mercantile in 1896. The two clubs merged in 1955.
4. Portland (Oregon) Chess Club (1911 to present)
5. Queen's Chess Club (NYC) (1914 to present)
6. Marshall Chess Club (NYC) (1915 to present)

"Continuously active" can be a tricky term. The Mechanics' and Marshall have been very fortunate to own their meeting place. Witness the Manhattan Chess Club, founded in 1879 but closed in 2002 after having 19 homes during its existence according to International Master Walter Shipman. New York had clubs founded even earlier but which closed their doors long ago.

The Seattle Chess Club was definitely founded in 1879 (December 20th according to Charles Bagley's *History of Seattle from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time*, volume 2), but has moved at least a dozen times in its existence. It is difficult to track the Seattle C.C.'s activities its first two decades to confirm continuous activity. We do know the Seattle Chess Club played a cable match with San Francisco in 1899.

New York - February 1958

24, -0, =1

This simul was held at the Marshall Chess Club to celebrate Fischer's victory in the recently concluded US Championship. Before the exhibition Bobby showed his famous win over James Sherwin from the event. A small video of this exhibition is available on YouTube and other locations. Fischer making the winning move on the demo board (31.Qf1!) and the Marshall Chess Club in the background makes it easy to identify.

Aben Rudy in his account of the event (*Chess Life*, March 1958, page 9)

confirms that "only one player, who probably will never forget the occasion, escaped with a draw". Unfortunately the authors have been unable to find the name of this player.

Rudy observes that Bobby in early 1958 was not only a great player, but already a first rate lecturer, something he was well-known for in later years (for example his 1964 simul tour of the United States and Canada).

As if a four hour exhibition were not tiring enough, Bobby also consented to giving a lecture. He held the many spectators breathless as he relived the last moments of his prize-winning game with Jimmy Sherwin. Even rank amateurs were made to understand the wonders of the game, and in understanding, to feel the great tensions usually reserved for chess masters deep in the throes of battle.

New York, March 11, 1958

+12, -0, =1

T.V. Chess

On May 11, 1958, WNTA (Channel 13) had a live telecast of Bobby Fischer playing 13 opponents simultaneously. When he did not finish in the allotted time, the station allowed the games to be played to a conclusion by delaying the next program for a few minutes. Fischer scored +12 =1-0, with the lone draw going to Walter Harris.

"Bobby Fischer conducted a simultaneous exhibition on Channel 13 Television, Sunday, May 11. He scored 12.5 - .5. Ken Harkness was the announcer. I believe the show made a very favorable public impression. There were some technical flaws. Harkness was stationed where he found it very difficult to see the boards to follow the play. It is true the camera itself could hardly keep up with the racing Bobby. Harkness was also announced as an official of the "American" Chess Federation. Oh, well".

(Morton Siegel writing in Chess Life in New York, *Chess Life*, June 5, 1958, pg. 4.)

The *New York Times* for May 18, 1958, notes that Walter Harris, who was 16 at the time of the exhibition, had also recently drawn Najdorf in a simul. He and

Hebert Selensky, both junior members of the Marshall Chess Club, were judged to have put up the best resistance. Rated around 1850 at the time this game was played, Walter Harris would later become the first African-American master in the early 1960s.

(2) Danish Gambit Declined C21

Fischer – Walter Harris

New York (simul) 1958

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.c3 d5 4.Qxd4

The text is very unusual. White usually plays 4.exd5, but Bobby goes back to the past.

4...c6

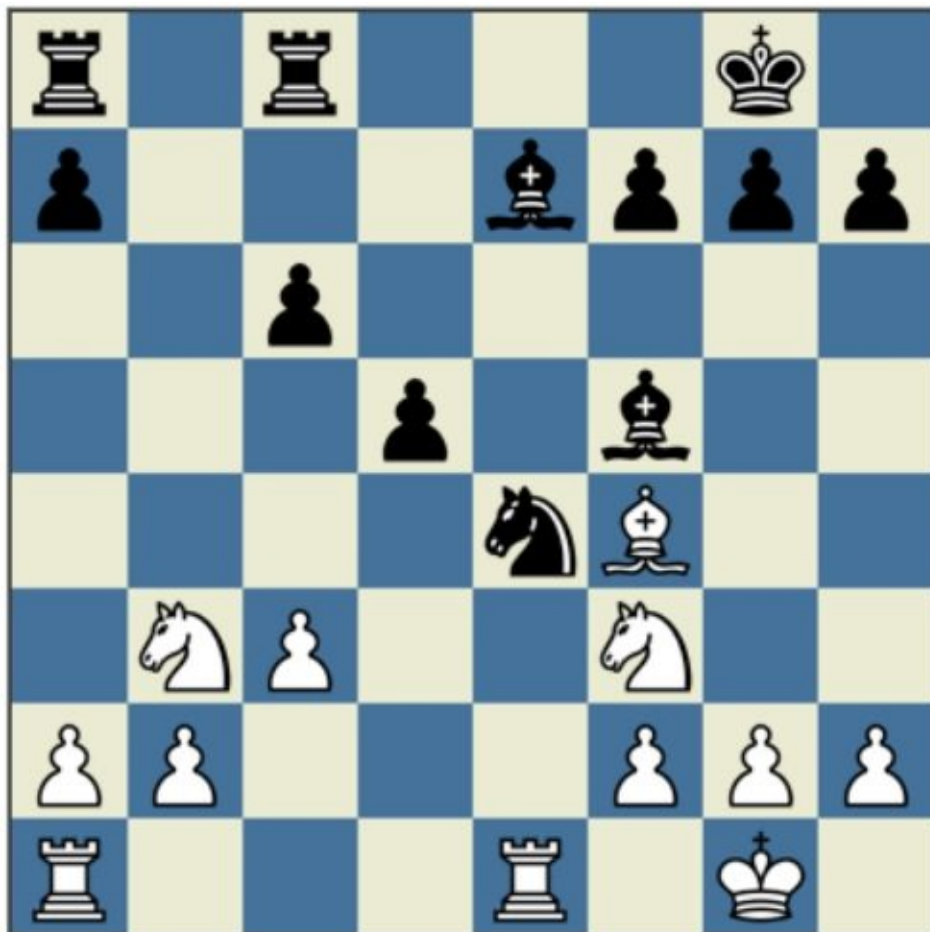
Black has a wide range of choices here, including 4...dxe4, 4...Nf6, 4...Ne7, 4...Qe7, 4...Nc6 and 4...Be6. The latter was Alekhine's choice in his game against Gambin from Melilla 1945 which continued 5.Bb5+ c6 6.Bd3 Nd7 7.Nf3 Nc5 8.Bc2 dxe4 9.Ng5 Nf6 10.Be3 Qc7 with a clear advantage for Black. Harris' move leaves White with a small advantage due to Black's isolated Queen pawn.

5.exd5 Qxd5 6.Qxd5 cxd5 7.Nf3 Nf6 8.Bf4 Nc6 9.Nbd2 Bf5 10.Nb3 Be7 11.Bb5 O-O 12.Bxc6

The plan of Bb5xc6 is debatable here as White has no clear way to blockade the c5-square.

12...bxc6 13.O-O Rfc8 14.Rfe1 Ne4?!

Black would be doing fine after 14...Bf8 intending ...c6-c5.



15.Nfd4 Be6 16.f3

The immediate capture on e6 gives White a big advantage; 16.Nxe6 fxe6 17.Nd4 Kf7 18.f3 Nc5 19.Re3 threatening 20.Rae1 and 20.b4.

16...Nc5 17.Nxe6 Nxe6 18.Nd4 Bc5 19.Be3 Bxd4 20.Bxd4 Nxd4 21.cxd4 Re8 22.Kf2 Rxe1 23.Rxe1 Kf8 24.Rc1 Rc8 25.Ke3 g5

This and Black's next move, grabbing space on the kingside, was a good idea. Black won't lose if he can confine himself to one weakness (c6).

26.Rc5 f5 27.b4 f4 28.Kd2 Ke7 29.Ra5 Rc7 30.a4 Kd6 31.Ra6 Ke7 32.Ra5 Kd7 33.g3 Kd6 34.gxf4 gxf4 35.Rc5 a6 36.Ra5 Ra7?

This walks into a nasty pin. The right way to defend was the more active 36...Rb7 37.Kc3 Rb6.

37.b5 cxb5 38.axb5 Kc7 39.Rxa6?

The king and pawn endgame is only a draw. 39.bxa6 Kb6 40.Rxd5 Kxa6

41.Kd3 leaves Black hard pressed to draw

**39...Rxa6 40.bxa6 Kb6 41.Kc3 Kxa6 42.Kb4 Kb6 43.Ka4 Ka6 44.h3
h6 45.Kb4 Kb6 46.Ka4 Ka6 47.h4 h5 Draw**

Venezuela, August 1960

Fischer played in several round robins in South America during 1959 and 1960. While he never participated in a tournament in Venezuela, Bobby did give a series of exhibitions there and also played in a blitz tournament after Buenos Aires 1960 which ended July 21st.

Caracas, August 2, 1960 47 (+39, -2, =6) lost to Pablo Galarraga and Salvador Palmero

Caracas, August 6, 1960 39 (+36, -1, =2) lost to Roberik Vicenetz who won in 27 moves

Valencia, August 1960 25 (results unknown, finished unbeaten)

Caracas, August 1960 25 (+20, -2, =3) lost to Frank Perret Gentil and Honorio González

Caracas, August 2, 1960

+39, -2, =6

The first and largest of the four exhibitions started at 8:30 pm on August 2nd and ran until 1:40 AM the following morning with Fischer taking 5 hours and 10 minutes to play 47 boards. He ended up scoring over 90 percent with 39 wins, losses to Pedro Galarraga and Salvador Palmero and draws with Frank Perret Gentil, Preben Magnussen, Angel Ramírez, John Fuerth, Joaquín Yunes and Adolfo González who was only 9 years old.

Go to http://www.zeitnot.com.ve/articulo_238.htm for more information.

(3) Sicilian Dragon B77

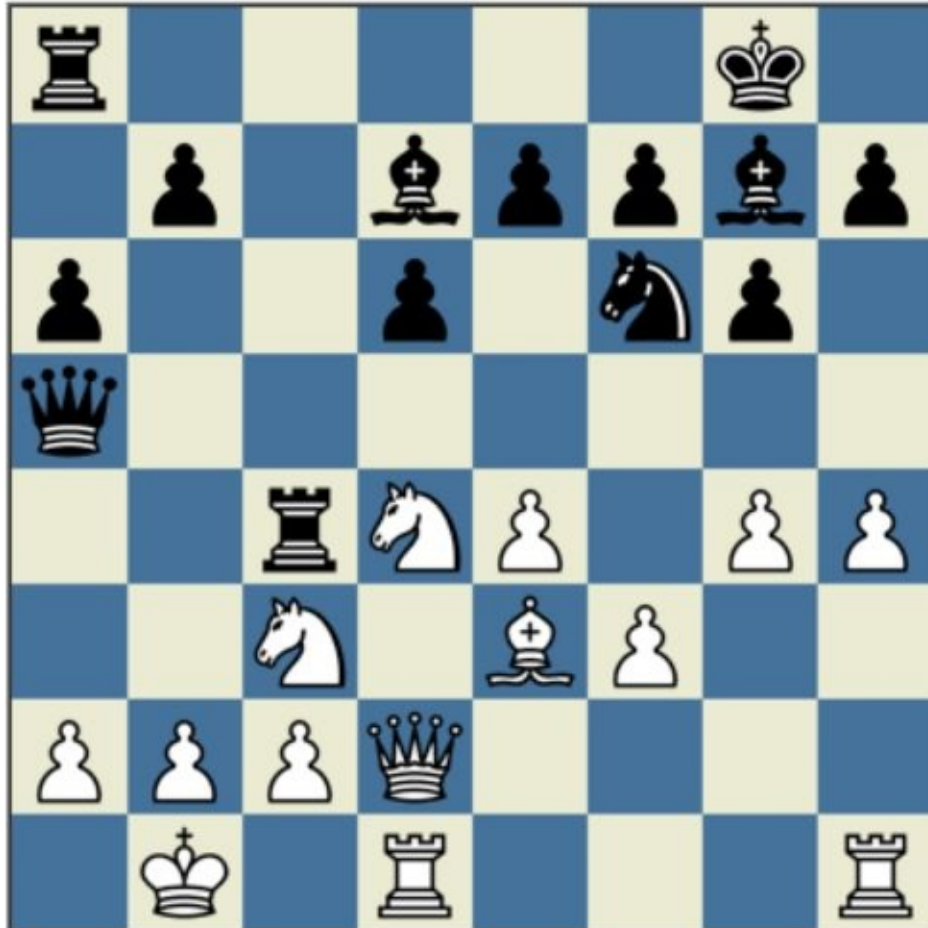
Fischer – Pedro Galarraga

Caracas (simul), August 2, 1960

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.Bc4 a6?!

This just loses time.

10.Bb3 Bd7 11.0-0-0 Qa5 12.Kb1 Rfc8 13.g4 Ne5 14.h4 Nc4 15.Bxc4 Rxc4



16.Bh6?

This is a terrible blunder. Correct was 16.h5! Rac8 17.hxg6 fxg6 18.Nb3 Qe5 (18...Qc7 and 18...Qd8 are both strongly met by 19.e5!) 19.Bd4 leaves Black in a very difficult situation after 19...Qe6 (or 19...Qg3 20.g5 Nh5 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.e5 Bf5 23.exd6 Qxd6 24.Nd4) 20.Rhe1, intending e5 or g5 depending on how Black responds.

16...Nxe4 17.Nxe4 Qxd2 18.Rxd2?!

18.Nxd2 Rxd4 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.h5 was a slightly better try for White although he is a pawn down with no compensation.

18...Rxd4

18...Bxh6! was even stronger.

19.Rxd4 Bxd4 20.c3 Be5 21.f4?

This was not Bobby's day.

21...Bxg4 22.fxe5 Bf5 23.Re1 d5 24.c4 Bxe4+ 25.Kc1 Rc8 26.b3 b5 27.Kb2 bxc4 28.bxc4 Rxc4 29.Re2 Rc6 30.Be3 f6 31.Bd4 h6 32.Rf2 Kf7 and Black won on move 37. **0-1**

Digital archive of Gerardo Palacios of Caracas (1997).

On August 1st, at the offices of the "El Nacional" newspaper, an informal game was arranged against Pedro Fong, the most enthusiastic and strongest player in the organization. Bobby won in 12 moves (a picture was published the following day).

New York, September 1960

+20, -0, =0

This event, held at Rikers Island, the main prison jail complex in New York, was a fundraiser for the 1960 US Olympic team.

Captive Audience Sees Bobby Fischer's Magic

Bobby Fischer, United States Chess Champion, played before his largest American audience yesterday at Rikers Island.

About 2,400 inmates of the City Penitentiary watched as the 17-year-old champion took on twenty challengers simultaneously. As was expected Mr. Fischer won all matches.

The crowd, gathered on the recreational field, cheered enthusiastically as the gangling six-foot-one-inch champion walked the length of a forty-foot table,

pausing only momentarily in front of each opponent to make a move.

The only thing that bothered the champion were his feet.

"They're beginning to hurt", he said. "I can play a hundred persons at once and it wouldn't make any difference, except to my feet." Harold Wildstein, program director for the penitentiary, said that chess was the most popular sport at the prison.

"It's a great game", commented one of the challengers. "It takes a lot of time to play - and that's what we have a lot of."



Fischer caricatured in the early 1960s.

New York - 1960

Date and result unknown

Tandem Simul

The following games are rarities. They appear to be from Bobby's only tandem simul (where the two exhibitors alternate moves).

Sometimes two brains aren't better than one! The two simul givers can often have different ideas about the position which leads to strange situations. One of the authors (J.D.) gave a team simul at a chess camp in Bloomington, Illinois,

with GM Alex Yermolinsky and IMs Jeremy Silman and Josh Manion. Many games were comical, with the masters engaged in a fair amount of muttering as their lines got crossed. Here Bobby and GM Larry Evans face a strong opponent and after a series of indifferent moves find themselves in a very unpleasant situation.

How do you rate the tandem performance of (say) Fischer (2664) and Evans (2553) against say Gersch (2198)? If Gersch wins, is it an upset, or is Gersch "up" for the encounter, or is there more art than logic in chess? Tandem chess certainly shouldn't detract from the logic of a game and according to Bobby, he and Evans weren't just fooling around that night, "Gersch just played a good game." Actually, this is the way the facts read and you can't get more factual than the score. The following is the well-played positional game Gersch won against the team of Fischer and Evans. – Chess Life Editor J.F. Reinhardt.

(Chess Life, September 1963, p. 220)

Larry Evans believes these games were played at John Fursa's Chess and Checker Club (aka the Fleahouse) near Times Square (corroborated by Carl Wagner). We do not know when this tandem simul was held, or what the final results were.

Chess Life provides no first name for Gersch but based on the rating provided (2198) we believe it was Charles who was rated around 2100 when this game was played (and was almost a master when it was published three years later).

(4) Queen's Gambit D52

Fischer and Larry Evans – Charles Gersch

New York (tandem simul), 1960

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Nbd7 5.Nf3 c6 6.e3 Qa5

The venerable Cambridge Springs, named after a western Pennsylvania resort town, is still popular over one hundred years after its debut.

7.Nd2

This is the traditional answer to Black's counterplay based on ...Bb4 and ...Ne4, but more critical is 7.cxd5. If Black answers 7...exd5 he finds himself in a QGD Exchange Variation where his queen on a5 is misplaced.

7...Bb4

Grandmaster Yasser Seirawan is a big fan of 7...dxc4 winning the bishop pair.

After 8.Bxf6 Nxf6 9.Nxc4 Qc7, both sides have chances.

8.Qc2 Ne4

Ivanchuk prefers the more fluid 8...c5.

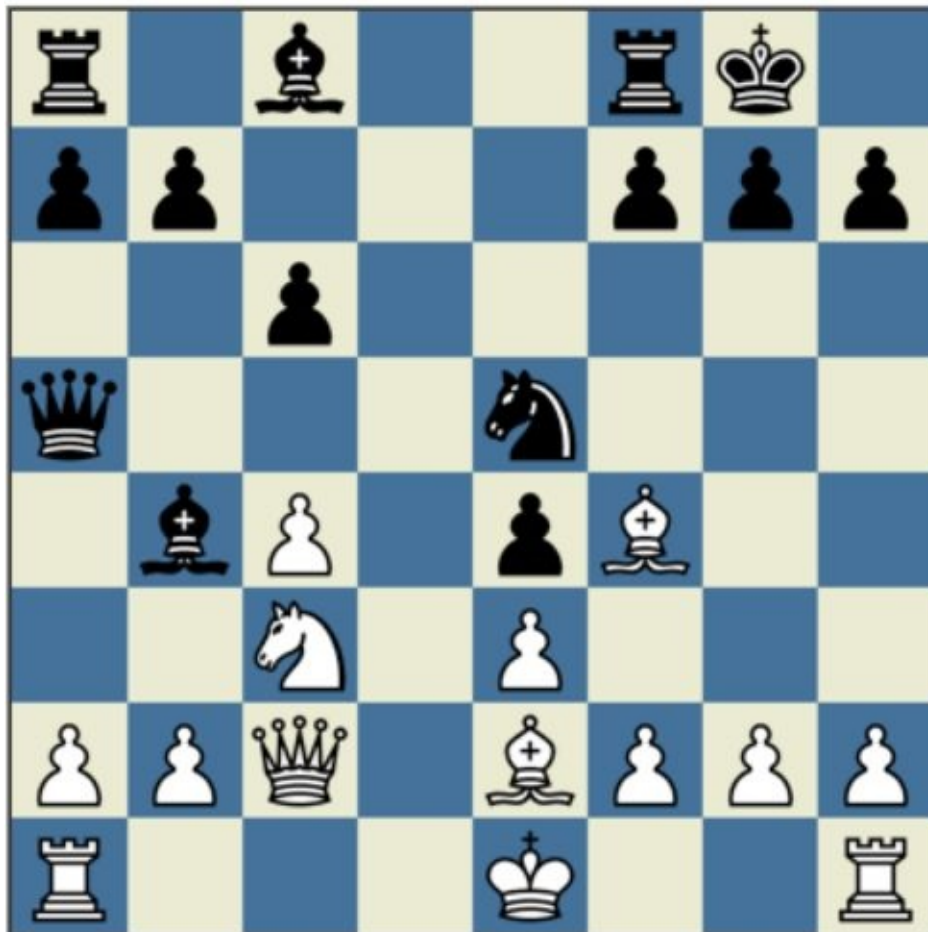
9.Ndxe4 dxe4 10.Bf4

The retreat to h4 is more popular as White doesn't want to have to answer ...e5 with dxe5.

10...O-O 11.Be2 e5 12.dxe5?!

This natural looking move spoils White's game as it takes all the pawn tension out of the position. Correct was 12.Bg3.

12...Nxe5



13.O-O Bxc3 14.bxc3

This position has seldom been reached, and for good reason. White's bishops

have few prospects and his queenside pawns are weak.

Ed. Lasker—Em.Lasker, New York 1924, varied with 14.Qxc3 but White fared no better as his pawns are easy targets in the endgame: 14...Qxc3 15.bxc3 Re8 16.c5 Nd7 17.Bd6 b6 18.cxb6 axb6 19.Rfd1 Ba6 20.Bxa6 Rxa6 21.a4 Rea8 22.Kf1 f5 23.Rab1 R8a7 24.g4 (Desperation. Black threatened to make a few more consolidating moves and then take some pawns for free.) 24...fxg4 25.Rb4 Nf6 26.Bb8 Ra8 27.Rd8+ Kf7 28.Bc7 Rxa4 29.Rxa8 Rxa8 30.Rxb6 Nd5 31.Rb7 Ke6 32.c4 Ne7 with a winning endgame.

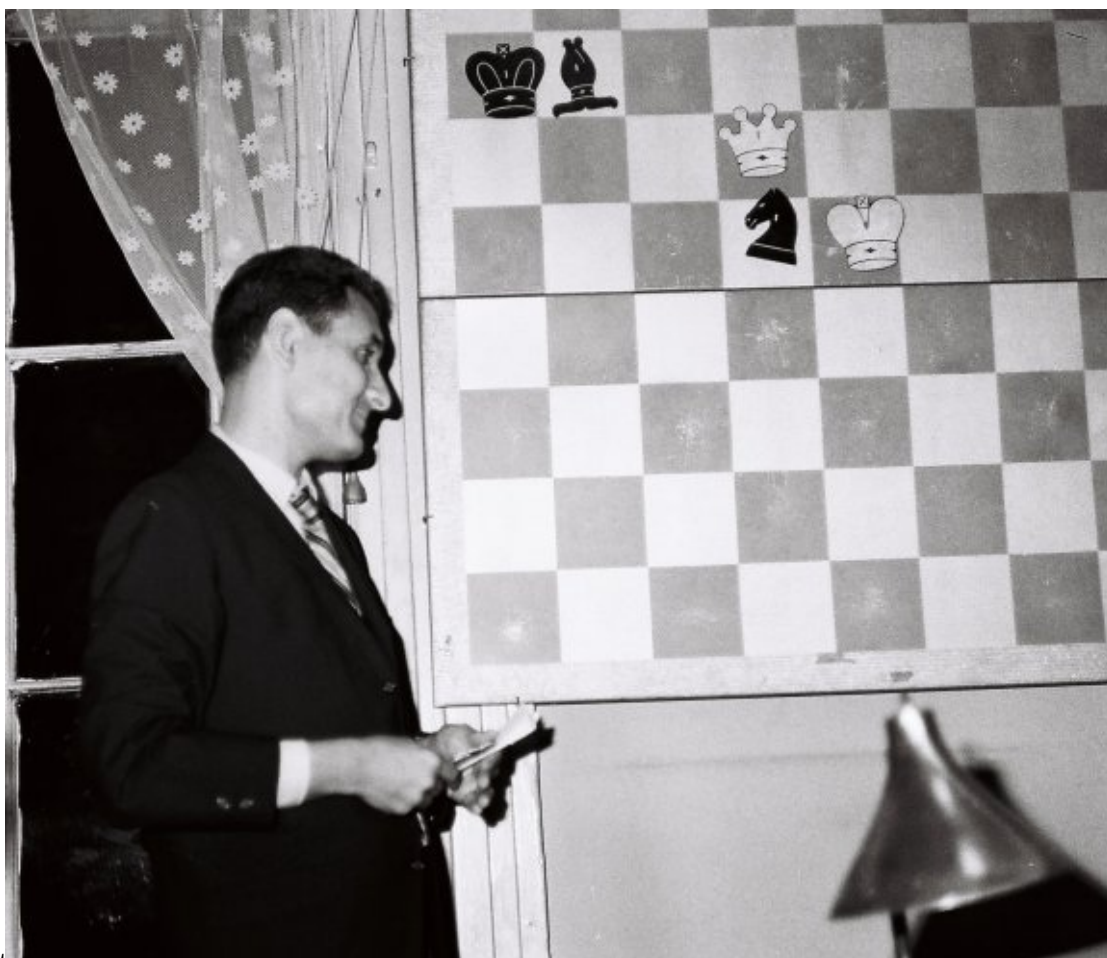
14...Bf5 15.Qb3 b6 16.Rfd1 Rfd8 17.Rd4 Nd3 18.Bg3 c5 19.Rd5 Be6 20.f3

The White partners had to play 20.Rxd8+, but after 20...Rxd8 their position is far from pleasant.

20...Bxd5 21.cxd5 c4! 22.Qxc4 Qxd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5 24.fxe4

When Tarrasch said that two bishops and a rook are equal to two rooks and a knight, he wasn't thinking of this position! Gersch mops up in efficient fashion.

24...R5d8 25.e5 Rac8 26.Rd1 Rxc3 27.Bh4 Rd7 28.Be1 Rc1 29.Rxc1 Nxc1 30.Bc4 Rc7 31.Bd5 Nd3 32.Bd2 Rc2 33.e6 Rxd2 34.e7 Rd1# 0-1 (*Chess Life*, September 1963, p.220)



Larry Evans giving a lecture at the Marshall Chess Club. The position on the board is a draw. Black to move maintains a fortress with ...Ka8 or ...Ba8 as the White king cannot approach. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

Carl B. Wagner (not to become confused with the strong Master and twice future U.S. Senior champion Carl E. Wagner) sent the following game to Evans on Chess, GM Larry Evans' monthly question and answer column in *Chess Life*. Wagner, then a 19-year-old college student, recalled that Bobby played the odd-numbered moves and later in the game when the ranks thinned the speed of play was almost like blitz.

(5) Guioco Piano C56

Fischer and Evans – Carl Wagner

New York (tandem simul), 1960

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.c3 0-0?

Black has to capture the e-pawn. The position after 5...Nxe4 has a surprising old history dating back to at least the early 1860s. Today it's still seen on rare occasions.

One example is Okhotnik-Eisterer, Balatonbereny 1996, which continued 6.Bd5 (Best, 6.d4 is easier for Black to meet, e.g., Keres-Raud, Tallinn 1935: (6.d4 d5 7.Qe2 exd4 8.cxd4 Nxd4 9.Nxd4 Bxd4 10.Nc3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Be6 and White doesn't have compensation for the missing material.) 6...Nf6 7.Bxc6 dxc6 8.Nxe5 0-0 9.d4 Bd6 (9...Be7 10.Nd2 Be6 11.Ndf3 equal, Barua-Koshy, Calcutta 1996) 10.Bg5 Bxe5 11.dxe5 Qxd1 12.Rxd1 Nd7 with equal chances.

6.d4

Now White is allowed to build a classical center for free.

6...exd4 7.cxd4 Bb6 8.e5?!

Much better is 8.d5 Na5 9.Bd3 c5 10.Nc3 with a large advantage.

8...Ne8

Correct is 8...d5 9.exf6 dxc4 10.d5 Nb4 11.fxc7 Kxc7 with a playable position for Black.

9.d5 Ne7 10.Nc3 d6 11.e6 fxe6 12.dxe6 d5

A better try is 12...Nf6, but after 13.Bg5 h6 14.Bh4 White is still on top.

13.Nxd5 Bxe6 14.Nxe7+? Qxe7 15.Re1?

Correct is 15.Qe2 Rf6 16.Re1 Bxf2+ 17.Qxf2 Qf7 18.Bxe6 Rxe6 19.Bg5 with a winning position.

15...Bxf2+ 16.Kxf2?

The momentum is changing hands in drastic fashion. White could have kept an equal position by 16.Kh1 Bxe1 17.Qxe1 Rf6 18.Bg5 Qd6 19.Bxf6 Bxc4 with compensation for the pawn.



16...Qc5+ 17.Be3 Qxc4 18.Kg1 c6 19.Ng5 Bg4

Somewhat better is 19...Bf5.

20.Qb3

An interesting alternative was 20.Rc1 Bxd1 21.Rxc4 Bh5 22.Rb4 trying to maintain White's pawn structure and activate the rook.

20...Qxb3 21.axb3 a6 22.h3 Bh5 23.Ne6 Rf7 24.Bd4 Nc7?

This walks straight into a tactic. Much better was 24...Bg6.

25.Nxg7 Nb5 26.Nxh5 Nxd4 27.Rad1 Nxb3 28.Re5 b6

28...Raf8 is much more active. The text weakens Black's queenside pawns.

29.Rd6 Na5?

The correct way to defend the c-pawn is 29...Rc8.

30.b4 Nc4 31.Rg5+ Kh8 32.Rxc6 b5 33.Rgc5 Rff8 34.Rh6 Rf7??

Black overlooks the weakness of his back rank. He was very much in the game after 34...Ra7.

35.Rxa6 Rff8 36.Rxa8 Rxa8 37.Rxb5 1–0 (*Chess Life*, August 1999, p. 12)



Larry Evans around 1965. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

Los Angeles, February 1961

February 1 (Ambassador Hotel)

+40, =7, -3

February 8 (Knickerbocker Hotel)

(Result Unknown)

Bobby's trip to Southern California in the summer of 1961, for the second half of his match with Sammy Reshevsky, is well known. What is not is that he made a visit to the Southland earlier in the year. The main purpose of the trip was to negotiate conditions for the match with Reshevsky, but Bobby also found time to give one and very likely two simuls and a talk. Andy Sacks remembers Bobby lectured the Steiner Juniors (a group of promising teenage players who met at the Steiner Chess Club) on one of his wins against a tail-ender from the '58 Portoroz Interzonal.

The March 20, 1961, issue of *Chess Life* (p. 88) reports, "Bobby was in California briefly last month and was a guest at USCF Membership Chairman Lina Grumette's home." A few issues later (May, p. 148), "Jerome B. Hanken writes that he is now teaching in a camp for wayward children and that Bobby Fischer visited the boys and gave an exhibition while in California."

National Master Hanken told us that Bobby was interested in prisoners and prisons at the time. Camp Afflerbaugh in Laverne, just outside Pomona, wasn't exactly a prison, and the youths weren't really prisoners, but the 18-year-old Fischer seemed satisfied and was a big hit with the kids.



Jerry Hanken 1934-2009. (Photo by John Hillery)

Bobby gave a public performance at the Ambassador Hotel on February 1. Facing 50 players, with an equal number turned away for lack of space, Fischer scored (+40, -3, =7). The winners were Antonio Loera, D.C. McKenna and Robert W. Moore with Robert Cooper, Hebert Goldhammer, Kenneth Hense, Robert Katz, Tauno Saila, Wasily Skriabin and Kurt Smith splitting the point. NM Harry Borochow served as the referee. Players paid \$3.50 for the privilege of facing Bobby and spectators \$1.50.

Ken Hense, rated 1965 on the April 1961 USCF rating list, provides this up and down struggle.

(6) Ruy Lopez Steinitz Deferred C76

Fischer – Kenneth Hense

Los Angeles (simul), February 1, 1961

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.c3 Bd7 6.O-O g6 7.d4 Bg7 8.d5 Nb8

Black can play 8...Nce7 and after 9.c4 Nf6 10.Nc3 O-O 11.Bxd7 Nxd7 we reach the same position as in the game after Black's 11th move.

9.c4 Ne7

ECO gives only 9...Nf6, but the text has been tried a few times.

10.Nc3 O-O 11.Bxd7

An alternative plan for White is 11.b4 followed by 12.c5.

11...Nxd7 12.Ne1 f5 13.Nd3 f4

13...Nf6 14.f3 fxe4 15.fxe4 Qd7 16.Bg5 was better for White in Leko-Veroci, Sydney 1992.

14.f3 g5

This position resembles a typical King's Indian position, but the exchange of light squared bishops favors White. His bad bishop is gone, while Black has difficulties getting in ...g5-g4.



15.Bd2 Qe8

Black plans to transfer his queen to g6 to support the advance ...g5-g4. The alternative was 15...Rf7 intending ...Bf8 and ...Rg7.

16.b4 Qg6 17.c5 h5 18.Rc1

Bobby provokes complications. He could have maintained a safe advantage with 18.Nf2 Nf6 19.h3, shutting down ...g5-g4.

18...g4 19.c6 bxc6 20.dxc6 Nf6 21.Kh1 h4 22.Rg1 Nh5 23.h3

“I was hoping for 23.fxg4? Ng3+! 24.hxg3 hxg3 with a terrific attack down the h-file” - Hense.

23...gxh3 24.gxh3 Qe6 25.Rg4 Nf6 26.Rg2 Nxc6?!

26...Qxh3+ 27.Rh2 is about equal.

27.Nd5 Nxe4?

This combination ends up costing Black a piece. The best chance is 27...Nd4. White gets nothing after 28.Nxc7 Qxh3+ 29.Rh2 Qxf3+. Critical is 28.N3xf4 exf4 29.Nxf4 Qf7 30.Bc3 Ne6 31.Ne6 Rfb8 32.Qe1 with a strong attack. White will follow up with Qxh4 and Rcg1.

28.fxe4 Qxh3+ 29.Kg1 Qxd3 30.Rxc6 Rf7 31.Rxc7 Rxc7 32.Nxc7 Ra7 33.Ne8?!

33.Ne6! f3 34.Rg4 Rf7 35.Kf2 should win.

33...h3?

Instead 33...f3! offered practical chances. For example: 34.Rf2 Re7 35.Nxg7 Rxc7+ 36.Kh2 Rg3 37.Qb3+ Qxb3 38.axb3 Kf7 39.Be3 Kg6 40.Bb6 Kg5 41.Bc7 Kf4 42.Bxd6 Kxe4 with good drawing possibilities.

34.Rg5 Kf8 35.Qh5 Qd4+ 36.Kh1 Qxd2 37.Nxg7 Qe1+ 38.Kh2 Qf2+ 39.Kxh3 Qf1+ 40.Kg4?!

Correct is 40.Kh2 Qf2+ 41.Rg2 completely winning. But the text cannot be criticized too severely since White is still winning.

40...Qe2+ 41.Kh4?

White could have returned to the winning path with 41.Kh3 Qf1+ 42.Kh2 Qf2+ 43.Rg2.

41...Qh2+ 42.Kg4 Qe2+

White must repeat moves with 43.Kh4 Qh2+, as 43.Kf5 is met by 43...Rf7+.

Draw (O.G.)

The *LA Times* of February 5, 1961, in GM Isaac Kashdan's column reports:

U.S. chess champion Bobby Fischer, extending his visit to Los Angeles, will play simultaneously in the Hollywood Room of the Knickerbocker Hotel starting 7:30 pm Tuesday. The charge for players will be \$3.50 and for spectators \$1.50...

That Tuesday would be February 8th, just three days after Kashdan's announcement in the *LA Times*. It seems hard to believe the exhibition would not have been held but we have found no further information despite extensive

checking in *Chess Life*, *Chess Review*, *The California Chess Reporter* and *The Los Angeles Times*.



Harry Borochow and Bobby Fischer at the Ambassador Hotel. (Archives of

Bruce Monson)

Copenhagen, March 11, 1962

+27, -7, =7

This simul, held in the Y.M.C.A. on Rosenborgstreet in Copenhagen, may have been Fischer's first in Europe. The year before, on a one day stopover in the Danish capital on the way back from Bled, Bobby had agreed to a two event program involving an exhibition game with Bent Larsen and a simul. Luckily for the Danes they negotiated Fischer's fee of \$600 at the time and not after his fantastic result at the Stockholm Interzonal (an undefeated 17.5 from 22 – 2.5 points ahead of Geller and Petrosian).

The marathon Interzonal ran from January 27th to March 6th and Fischer was likely a little tired when he sat down to play Bent Larsen on March 9th in a game that went from 7 p.m. to midnight. The following day the players worked from 1 to 7 pm preparing commentary to the game for Danish TV and radio. It would be interesting to know if this material was preserved.



Fischer and Larsen just before the start of their exhibition game. Photo credit (Johs. Christiansen from *Skak Spilleren : Handsbog I Skakspil*)

All this work meant that Fischer was not exactly fresh when he began what was to be a marathon 41 board, 6 hour exhibition. FM Bragi Kristjánsson, recounting the simul in *Bobby Fischer: From Chess Genius to Legend*, points to two things that made this an especially difficult event for Bobby: a large number of strong players in the field and open consultation between participants and spectators. The latter was flagrant enough that Kristjánsson estimated that Fischer was actually facing close to 100 (not 41) participants and some of them had no qualms about moving the pieces!

If that wasn't bad enough one only has to look at the list of winners to spot some ringers:

K.B. Schou, E. Poulsen, Ole Illum Truelsen, Finn Petersen, Peter Nørby, Poul E. Hansen and an Icelandic student of architecture, Sverrir Nordfjord.

Allan Jensen, in his recollections of the event, points out that Finn Petersen and Peter Nørby later became strong national masters and Olympiad players.

Jorgen Hvenekilde, who drew, later became champion of Copenhagen.

“Binnerup”, whose account in *Skakbladet* (April 1962, pages 55-56) formed the basis for Kristjánsson’s remembrance, gives the following list of players who drew: Olesen, Juhl, Holt, Jensen, Børresen, Hvenekilde and Lange.

(7) Sicilian Lowenthal B32

Fischer – Palle Henriksen

Copenhagen (simul) March 11, 1962

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 a6 6.Nd6+ Bxd6 7.Qxd6 Qf6 8.Qd1 Qg6 9.Nc3 Nge7 10.h4 h5 11.Rh3?!

11.Bg5 is the main line.



11...Qg4?!

The way to exploit 11.Rh3 is 11...d5!

12.f3 Qg6 13.Kf2 Nd4 14.Be3 d5 15.Rg3 Qf6 16.exd5?

16.Qd2 0-0 17.Bd3 would have preserved White's advantage.

16...Nef5 17.Ne4 Qb6 18.Bxd4 exd4 19.Bd3 Nxc3 20.Nxc3

Fischer has sufficient compensation for the exchange in part because his pieces coordinate much better than Black's.

20...Bd7 21.Qe2+ Kf8 22.b3 Qf6 23.Qd2 g6 24.Qg5 Kg7 25.Ne4 Qxc5

26.hxc5 Bf5 27.Nf6 Bxd3 28.cxd3 Rac8 29.Re1 Rc2+?

Instead 29...Rhd8 was better with the idea 30.d6 Rxd6 31.Ne8+ Rxe8 32.Rxe8 Rc6 drawing.

30.Kg3 Rd8.

30...Rxa2? 31.d6 Rd8 32.d7 winning.

31.Re7?

This natural move is rather slow. Fischer should have played his main trump card immediately: 31.d6! Rc6 (31...Rxa2?? 32.d7 winning) 32.Kf4 and White's position is preferable – Karsten Müller.

31...b5 32.a4 bxa4?

Exchanging pawns on the queenside plays into White's hands. Black could try to play for more than a draw with 32...Rc3.

33.bxa4 Rc5?

Mistakes always seem to come in pairs. By retreating his active rook Henriksen creates problems for himself. 33...Ra2 was necessary: 34.Re5 Rxa4 35.d6 Ra3 36.d7 Rb3 37.Re8 Rbb8 draws – Müller.

34.Ra7 Ra5 35.Kf4 Rxa4 36.Nd7 Ra2 37.Ne5 Rxd5 38.Rxf7+ Kg8 39.Rf6 a5

40.Nxc6!? Rd7! 41.Ne5 Ra7 42.g4 h4 43.Rh6 Rh7 44.Ra6 h3 45.Ra8+ Kg7

46.g6 Rh6?

The final error, as the rook is badly misplaced. 46...Rh8 47.Ra7+ Kf6 leads to a draw.

47.Kg5 h2 48.Ra7+Kf8 49.Kf6. Rxc6+ 50.Nxc6+ Ke8 51.Ne5 Kd8 52.Rh7 1-0

(This game is extensively analyzed by Grandmaster Karsten Müller as part of the Great Chessbase Simul Hunt at <http://www.chessbase.com/newsdetail.asp?newsid=4823> .)

The loser of the battle, Palle Henriksen (Birkerød, Denmark), provided the following photograph taken as Fischer was about to play 16 exd5.



Bobby Fischer, Copenhagen, March 11, 1962.

(8) Ruy Lopez Steinitz Deferred C75

Fischer – Allan Jensen

Copenhagen (simul), March 11, 1962

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.c3

Fischer played this line five times (+4, -1) in his career against the solid Steinitz Deferred.

5...Bd7 6.d4 Nge7 7.Bb3 h6 8.Nbd2



Fischer varied with 8.Qe2 later in the year at the Varna Olympiad to win a miniature: 8...Ng6 9.Qc4 Qf6 10.d5 b5 11.Qe2 Na5 12.Bd1 Be7 13.g3 0–0 14.h4 Rfc8?? 15.Bg5 and 1–0 shortly, (Fischer-Ciocaltea).

In the June 1963 issue of *Chess Life* Bobby refuted Boleslavsky's suggestion of 9...Be6 with 10.d5 Na5 11.Qa4+ c6 12.dxe6 b5 13.exf7+ Kd7 14.Qb4! (Bobby's improvement) 14...d5 (14...c5 15.Qa3 c4 16.Bd1 d5 17.b4 cxb3 18.Qb2 dxe4 19.axb3 exf3 20.Bxf3 and Black can resign.) 15.Nxe5+ Nxe5 16.Qd4 and White is two pawns ahead and has an easily won game. Black is completely disorganized. Note that while Bobby won this miniature against Ciocaltea in the prelims, the Rumanian got his revenge in the finals.

8...Ng6 9.Nc4 Be7 10.Ne3 0–0

Black often plays 10...Bg5 to get rid of his bad bishop.

11.0–0 Re8 12.Nd5 Bf8 13.dxe5 Ncxe5

This position is not well-known to theory. The three examples we were able to track down saw Black answer 13.dxe5 with 13...dxe5. Trupan-Steinsapir, USSR 1949, went 14.a4 Nce7? 15.Bxh6 Nxd5 16.Qxd5 Be6 17.Qxd8 Raxd8 18.Bxe6 gxh6 19.Bc4 and White emerged with an extra pawn.

14.Nxe5 Nxe5

If 14...dxe5 then 15.Be3 gives White a pull.

15.f4

15.Re1, maintaining the small central advantage, looks better for White.

15...Ng4

Black's plan is to trade off knights, as he has less space.

16.Qf3

On 16.h3 Nf6 Black is ready to swap knights.

16...c6 17.Ne3 Nxe3 18.Bxe3 Qe7 19.Bc2!?

This leads to some troubles for White. Instead 19.Qh5, or the sharp 19.e5 dxe5 20.fxe5 Be6 21.Bxe6 Qxe6 22.Bb6 keeps the position unclear.

19...Bf5

This isn't a bad move, but much better was 19...f5!, when 20.e5 dxe5 21.fxe5 Qxe5 22.Bb3+ Be6 23.Bxe6+ Rxe6 24.Bd4 Bc5 leaves Black on top with a clear pawn ahead.

20.exf5 Qxe3+ 21.Qxe3 Rxe3 22.Bd1?!

A better way to hold the position was 22.Rfe1 Rae8 23.Rxe3 Rxe3 24.Kf2 Re8 25.Re1 with the draw in sight.

22...d5 23.Bf3 Bc5 24.Kh1 Rae8 25.Rad1 a5 26.g3 Kf8 27.Kg2 Bb6 Draw

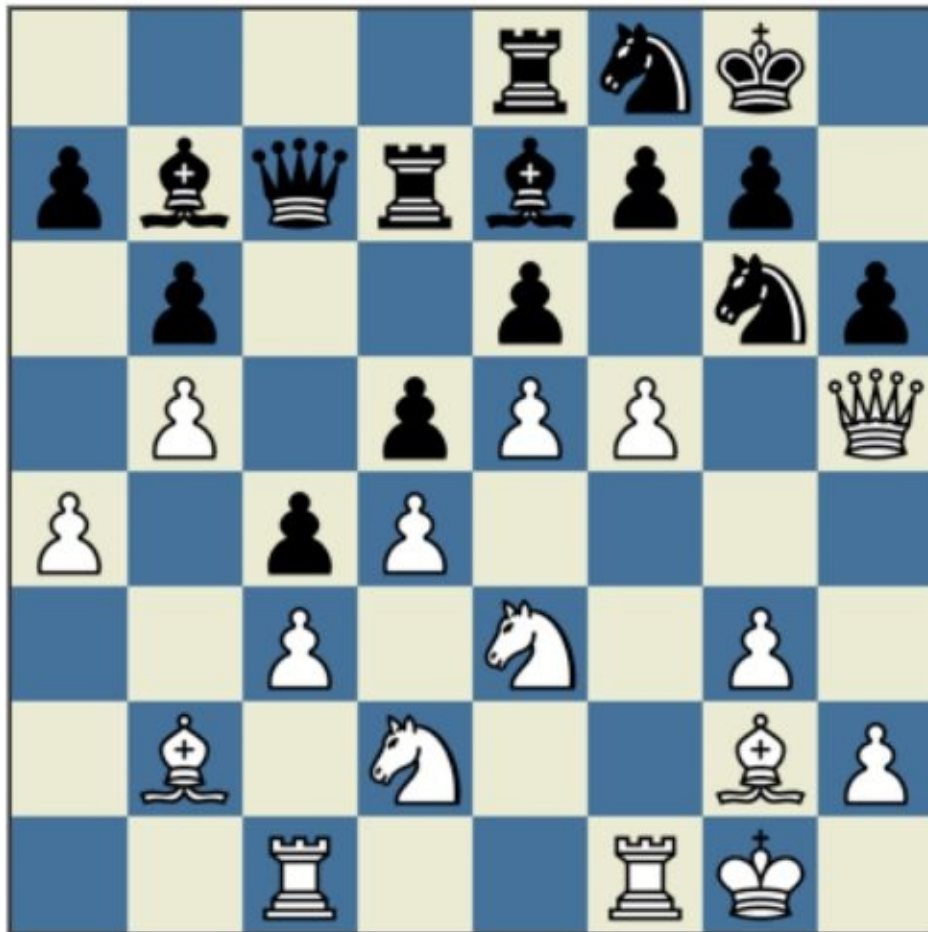
Black is slightly better (especially after 27...a4), but converting his advantage against Fischer would have been a difficult task. (O.G.)

(9) King's Indian Attack A05

Fischer – Sverrir Nordfjord

Copenhagen (simul), March 11, 1962

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 b6 3.Bg2 Bb7 4.0-0 e6 5.d3 c5 6.e4 d6 7.Nbd2 Be7 8.Qe2 0-0
9.c3 Nc6 10.a3 Qc7 11.b4 Rad8 12.Bb2 Nd7 13.Nc4 Rfe8 14.b5 Nce5 15.Ne3
d5 16.Nd2 Nf6 17.f4 Ng6 18.e5 Nd7 19.d4 Ndf8 20.a4 h6 21.Rac1 c4 22.Qh5
Rd7 23.f5?



This is too hasty. Instead 23.Rce1 followed by Bc1, Bh3 and only then f5 would have been very difficult to meet.

23...Bg5 24.Qe2 Nxe5! 25.dxe5 Qxe5 26.Rf3??

26.Rfe1 exf5 27.Ndf1 f4 28.gxf4 Qxf4 29.Rcd1 would have held the balance.

26...exf5 27.Ndf1 d4!

Winning!

**28.cxd4 Bxf3 29.Qxf3 Bxe3+ 30.Nxe3 Qxe3+ 31.Qxe3 Rxe3 32.Rxc4 Rb3
33.Rc2 Ne6 34.d5 Nc5 35.Bd4 Ne4 0-1** (*Bobby Fischer: From Chess Genius to Legend*, pages 166-67).



Fischer mid 1960s.

United Nations Simul, May 21, 1965

+21, -2, =3

One of Bobby's more unusual exhibitions was held at the Church Center of the United Nations on May 21, 1965. Results for the event are contradictory. *Chess Review* has Bobby facing 26 players with a score of 23 wins plus losses to Vladimir Vakula of the USSR and club secretary Luis Loayza of Peru, and a draw with Evgeny Zhukov of the USSR. *Chess Life* and Zhukov have it +18, =1, -2. Neither of these may be right, as the two of the games from the event which have surfaced are draws! It doesn't make things any clearer to know that *Chess Life* gives Ivan Grischenko, not Vakula, as a winner.

We think that the *New York Times* report on June 24, 1965, provides the most accurate results: “Fischer played 1.P-K4 on every board and ended with 21 wins, three draws and two losses, to the club secretary Luis Loayza of Peru, and to Vladimir Vakula of the Soviet Union.”

The event was sponsored by the games manufacturer TAG Inc., and its newly designed Manchurian chess tables and chessmen were used. From the look of the photo published on page 196 of the July 1965 issue of *Chess Review*, Bobby must have finished the exhibition with an aching back: the tables were less than two feet off the ground! His eyes might also have been sore – the Manchurian pieces were definitely not based on the Staunton design.

(10) Caro Kann B19

Fischer - Luis Loayza

New York (simul), May 21, 1965

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nf6 7.h4 h6 8.Bd3 Bxd3 9.Qxd3 e6 10.Bf4 Nbd7 11.0–0–0 Be7 12.Kb1 0–0 13.Bc1 Qa5 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.Qxe4 Nf6 16.Qe2 Rfd8 17.Ne5 c5 18.g4 cxd4 19.g5 Nd5 20. gxh6 Nc3+ 21.bxc3 Rd5 22.Qe4 Rb5+. 23.Ka1??

23.Bb2 Rxb2+ 24.Kc1 f5 25.Qe2 draws (White will play h7+ followed by Qh5+ and Qf7+ with perpetual check).

23...Qxc3+ 0–1 (*New York Times*, June 24, 1965)

(11) French C01

Fischer – Gerardo Martinez

New York (simul), May 21, 1965

1.e4 e6 2.d4 Bb4+ 3.c3 Ba5 4.a4 c6 5.e5 Ne7 6.Nd2 d5 7.exd6 Qxd6 8.Nc4 Qd5 9.Nxa5 Qxa5 10.Nf3 b5 11.Bd3 Nd7 12.0–0 Nd5 13.Ng5 N7f6 14.f4 b4 15.c4 Ne7 16.f5 Nxf5 17.Bxf5 exf5 18.Qe1+ Kf8 19.Bd2 Rb8 20.Bf4 Rb7 21.Bd6+ Kg8 22.Be5 Qd8 23.Bxf6 gxf6 24.Nf3 h6 25.Kh1 Kh7 26.Rd1 Be6 27.d5 cxd5 28.Nd4 Qc8 29.Qh4 dxc4 30.Qxf6 Rg8 31.Nxf5 Rg6 32.Qe5 Qc6 33.Nh4 Bh3 34.Rf2 Rg5 35.Qf4 Re7 36.Nf3 Be6 37.Nxg5+ hxg5 38.Qxg5 1–0 (*New York Times*, June 24, 1965)



ON THE COVER: Robert J. Fischer played 21 United Nations Chess Club members and 5 other experts in a simultaneous in June at the UN. He lost to Vladimir Vakula of the USSR and Luis Loaya of Peru (Secretary of the Club) and drew with E. Zhukov of the USSR, but won all the rest. The event was sponsored by TAG, manufacturer of adult games, played on TAG's Mandarin chess tables and its new Mandarin chessmen. On the cover, Fischer is interviewed by Jean Parr of CBS-TV (Channel 2). Fischer, as usual, played 1 P-K4 on each and every board.

Fred Snitzer's (1929-2012) obituary at <http://www.uschess.org/content/view/11981/512/> by Michael Bast indicates he was a real lover of the game.

He was a USCF rated expert and played regularly at all the standard chess hangouts of New York including the Marshall Chess Club, Washington Square Park, and the chess shops in Greenwich Village. He was a long time member of the Kingsmen Chess Club which met for many years at the Brooklyn War Memorial Youth Center. He played in the National Chess League, the Commercial Chess League, the Banker's League, and the Metropolitan Chess League. He also played in the parks, the clubs, the diners, the buses, the senior citizens center and in department stores.

Snitzer was a lifelong collector of chess literature and memorabilia some of which he donated to the New York Public Library -

<http://archives.nypl.org/mss/2802> When he died his library was auctioned off for the benefit of the chess program of I.S. 318 of Brooklyn.

(12) Ruy Lopez C78

Fischer – Fred Snitzer

New York (simul), May 21, 1965

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O b5 6.Bb3 Bc5

Snitzer is 30 years ahead of his time. This sequence became very popular in the mid-1990's.

7.Nxe5 Nxe5 8.d4 d6?

This isn't the reason for the popularity of 6...Bc5. Correct is 8...Bxd4 9.Qxd4 d6 10.f4 Nc6 11.Qc3 Bb7 12.e5 Ne4 13.Qe3 Na5 14.Nd2 Nxb3 15.axb3 Nxd2 16.Bxd2 Draw, Svidler-Shirov, Groningen 1996.

9.dxc5 dxc5 10.f4?!

10.Qxd8+ Kxd8 11.f4 Neg4 12.e5 c4 13.exf6 is clearly better for White.

10...Qxd1 11.Rxd1 c4 12.fxe5 cxb3 13.Nc3

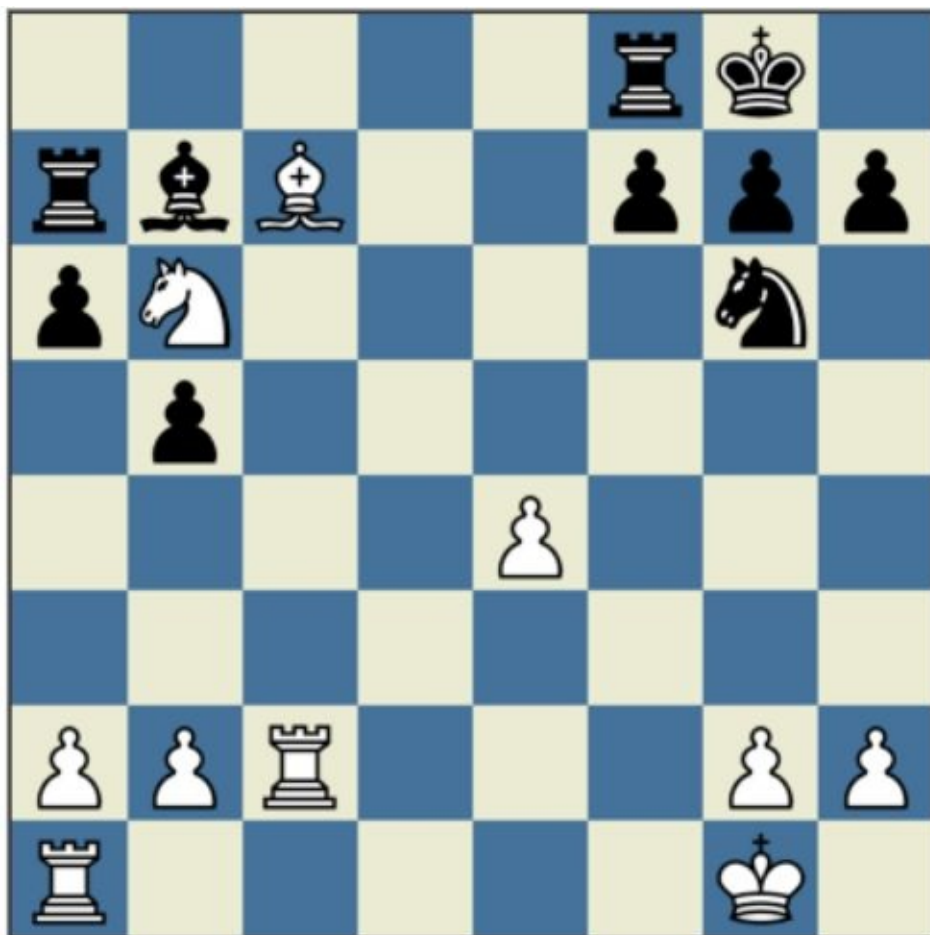
This leads to a completely equal position, but 13.exf6 bxc2 14.Re1 cxb1=Q 15.fxg7 Rg8 16.Rxb1 Rxc7 is only at most slightly better for White.

13...bxc2 14.Rd2 Ng4 15.Nd5 O-O 16.Rxc2 Nxe5 17.Bf4 Ng6 18.Bxc7 Bb7 19.Nb6?

19.Rae1 is equal.

19...Ra7?

Correct is 19...Bxe4!



20.e5 Re8 21.Re1 Nf4 22.Bd6 Bxg2??!

22...Nd5 is equal. The text is extremely resourceful, but unfortunately not quite sound.

23.Rxg2??

Correct is 23.e6! Nxe6 24.Kxg2 winning material.

23...Rb7 24.Rg4 Rxb6 25.Rd1 Ng6 26.Rc1 h6 27.Re4

27.Rc5 is better although Black has a big advantage.

27...f6 28.Rc7 Nxe5 29.Bxe5 Rxe5 30.Rxe5 fxe5

The position should be an easy technical win for Black, but...

31.Kf2 Re6 32.Ke3 e4 33.Ra7 Kh7 34.b3 h5 35.a4 bxa4 36.bxa4 Kg6 37.a5 Kf6 38.Rb7 g5 39.h3 g4 40.hxg4 hxg4 41.Rb6 Ke5?

41...g3! wins.

42.Rb8?

There was nothing wrong with 42.Rxe6+ Kxe6 43.Kxe4 with a drawn pawn ending. The text should lose.

42...Rc6 43.Rg8 Rc3+ 44.Ke2 Draw

44...g3 is still winning.

(*New York Times*, July 1, 1965)

Evgeny Zhukov remembered the U.N. Secretariat had a pretty strong chess club and that Fischer impressed him as being modest, but confident.

(13) French Rubinstein C10

Fischer – Evgeny Zhukov

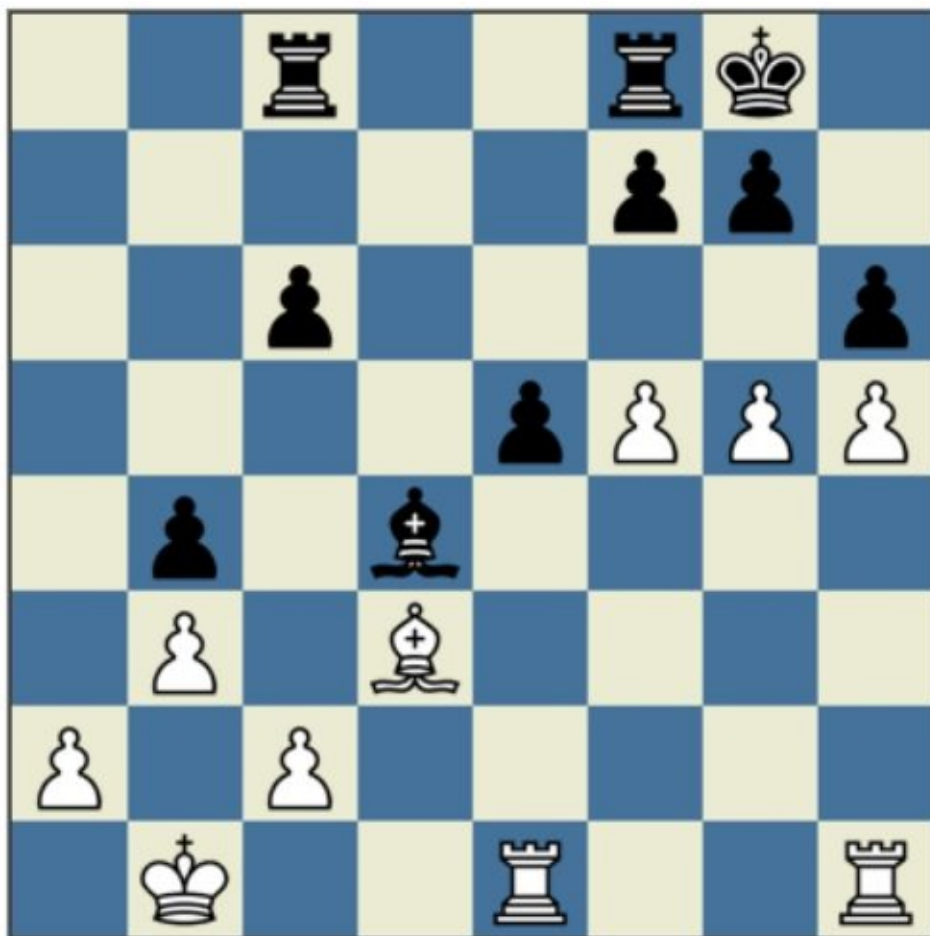
New York (simul), May 21, 1965

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.Qe2 c5
8.Nxf6+ Nxf6 9.dxc5 Qa5+ 10.Bd2 Qxc5 11.O-O-O Bd7**

Black deviates from the theoretical path which gives preference to 11...O-O.

**12.Ne5 Ba4 13.g4 Rc8 14.b3 Bc6 15.Nxc6 bxc6 16.g5 Nd5 17.Qe5 O-O
18.Kb1 a5 19.h4 Nb4 20.Qxc5 Bxc5 21.Bxb4 axb4 22.f4 Be3 23.f5 e5
24.Rde1 Bd4 25.h5 h6**

Black should have tried 25...Bc3 (or the immediate 25...Ra8) 26.Re4 Ra8 (threatening 27...Rxa2!), hoping for 27.Rc4? Rxa2! 28.Rxc3 Rfa8 winning. White has to play 27.a4 bxa3 28.Ka2 with drawing chances.



26.gxh6 gxh6 27.f6 Kh8 28.Bc4 Rc7 Draw

Black should have played 28...Ra8, intending to double rooks, leaving Bobby to deal with the threats against his a-pawn. (*Shakhmatny Vestnik*, 1993, #11, p. 15)

One fundamental question that compilers of Fischer complete game collections have had to resolve is how to organize his games. That tournament and match games belong in one section and simul, blitz and skittles games in another is clear enough. But what does one do with clock simuls? These involve playing more than one opponent simultaneously, but the number of players involved is typically less than a dozen. The use of clocks makes the events more serious than normal simuls.

Because some of these events are less well known, and the conditions under which they were played sometimes not understood, there have been some inconsistencies. You will find the clock simuls Fischer gave in the Philippines and Greece in many Fischer game anthologies, but those played in Montreal

and Davis during his 1964 tour treated as simul.



Christos Kokkoris, only an ensign in the Greek navy, is called Admiral Kokkoris by chess friends. He meets Robert J. Fischer as a veritable Boreas, but his ship goes down after a fiery fight. In the corner, Anastasopoulos, three time Greek Champion, is discussing a Ruy Lopez in his game with R. J. Fischer.

Bobby Fischer gave three clock simul in his career. The two held during his 1964 tour of North America, in Montreal and Davis, California, are documented, but the following exhibition is not as well known. It was held in Athens in July of 1968 and written up by Yugoslav Grandmaster Petar Trifunovic, then coach of the Greek national team.

Note that the games Fischer played against Filipino masters in 1967 were not from a clock simul as Bobby played them individually one after another. They should be more properly considered exhibition games as Bobby faced them one on one. Likewise the game against Pascual from Davao 1967 was also played one on one and is an exhibition game and not from a simul as commonly given.

The following article appeared in *Chess Review* in December of 1968.

A VISIT BY FISCHER

Recounted by Dr. Petar Trifunovic

The Invitation

As must be known by now, Robert J. Fischer took first place in a tournament in Netanya, Israel.

One might say “Of course, for the tournament was not major in its international ranking and Fischer had no opponent of his own class.” But his success ought not to be underestimated. For it must be kept in mind that it is not easy continually to take absolute first in tournaments, even in comparatively minor ones. That Fischer does so is one more proof of his ambition, combativeness and skill in constantly maintaining himself in good chess form.

Shortly after that tournament, Fischer suddenly appeared in Athens. He was the guest of the Greek Chess Federation which had invited him to undertake a handicap match with clocks against the best players in Athens.

Fischer’s Performance

The commentator had never thought to be discussing a production like a handicap exhibition. But Fischer’s performance is worthy of mention. His attitude, the importance which he gives to the exhibition, his style and manner of play, all is so different from that of other chess professionals.

Here *Chess Review* founder I.A. Horowitz made an editorial observation.

It was remarked by many that Bent Larsen on his recent exhibition tour here showed comparatively little concern over losing a few games, played rather for fun and excitement than for precision, score-swelling tactics. Most American exhibitors try, indeed, to amass a convincing score. But Fischer is such an absolute idealist, that he resents anything, anything at all which might detract from the topmost quality of his play.

Editors – We note that Emanuel Lasker, like Larsen, was more interested in having some fun in his exhibitions than making a perfect score. As Horowitz mentions, the latter is what most exhibitors strive for, but we know of one

American International Master who was booed in the Netherlands for making a 100 percent score against a group of Dutch school children. His simul was of many held in conjunction with the Wijk aan Zee tournament and all the exhibitors lost or drew at least one game. This was expected and considered a positive thing to encourage the kids, but no one told the poor American IM.

First of all, he refused to play more than five boards, though everywhere a handicap match with clocks is customarily on at least eight boards. This limit has to make for an easier exhibition. But, though many aspired to meet him, Fischer refused. When asked for the reason, he answered that he did not wish to become overtired. And this commentator was astonished: how could a few more boards be so tiring? But, as play proceeded, Fischer's reasons became understandable.

Fischer regard the exhibition as a seriously as he might an actual tournament. He sought for a perfect score, fought for every advantage, even the least trifle. On five boards, either the exhibitor or his opponents must have the odd White game. Fischer fought for that, and it came down to drawing for it by lots. The opponents were greatly disappointed, especially Anastasopoulos who told the narrator: "If I had white, I'd beat Fischer," for he counts heavily on White even against such a great in chess as Fischer.

Other grandmasters enter a handicap match as an exhibition in the popular sense, as an encouragement of chess play. And they are not so anxious about the result, not regarding one defeat as any catastrophe which might diminish their chess authoritativeness. They play somewhat superficially and quickly, trusting to their greater knowledge of the openings and their positional "feeling". And they resort to exact calculation only for actual combinations, usually also winding up the game quickly when required to combine. So they play readily and quickly and are hardly fatigued by ten or twelve boards.

In the Fischer exhibition, all appeared otherwise. Every board soon presented all the earmarks of a veritable tournament game. On every one was an opening styled on the latest fashion and practice. In every game, Fischer tried always for the best and strongest move. At each board, he had a chair ready lest he should need deep thought – and he often did. (This commentator, like other exhibitors, has never had time to use the chair, certainly not through the openings with all the players and the clocks on the march.)

So now it was clear why Fischer would play only five boards. He intended to conduct five tournament games and to achieve a score of 5-0! To take on such a handicap in such style and with such ambition is not easy.

Nor did Fischer give any thought to honoring anyone with a draw. Perhaps Vizantiades, his guide in Greece, expected something of the sort; but he didn't live to see that moment. Of course, the fighting became much more interesting in this way. Fischer faced the strongest masters: Vizantiadis, Anastasopoulos, Ornithopoulos, Kokkoris and Trikaliotis. Only Siaperas, the master from Thessaly who won the qualification tournament for the Olympic team, was missing.

Fischer intended to beat them all; but Trikaliotis escaped with a draw. The result was excellent, but it must not be forgotten that it was achieved with a small number of boards. Fischer's "tournament style" was proved uneconomical: he needed too much time and energy always to find the very strongest move. So the games did shape up like a tournament games but left the impression that Fischer cannot play five good tournament games simultaneously. In each game, something important eluded him. If his opponents had been more ready for combat, they might have reversed the result. For he gave them chances.

The point may be seen in these games.

Vizantiadis was Greek national champion in 1965 and 1966 and represented his country in every Chess Olympiad from 1962 to 1974. He received the International Master title in 1968.

(14) Queen's Gambit D50

Lazaros Vizantiadis - Fischer

Athens (clock simul) 1968

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c5 5.Bg5

It is naive to expect to surprise Fischer in the opening - (Trifunovic).

Fischer, for much of his career, met 1.d4 with the King's Indian. Yes, there was occasional use of the Grunfeld which produced some memorable games. Bobby also dabbled with 1.d4 d5 (and 1.e4 e5) in the early 1960s when he was

going through a classical chess phase. All this said, the KID was his bread and butter answer to 1.d4. Unlike Kasparov, who ditched the KID and Grunfeld in his last years, chiefly because of Kramnik, Fischer kept these dynamic weapons in his repertoire throughout his career, but by his run for the World Championship the Modern Benoni and Nimzo-Indian were also seen frequently in Bobby's practice. This flexible approach extended to the position after 1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 where besides 3...c5 Fischer also played 3...d5 heading for the Semi-Tarrasch of the Queen's Gambit.

The choice of which system to use was often dictated by the competitive situation with the Semi-Tarrasch reserved for games where Bobby did not have to go all out for a win. Fischer was never fond of the Queen's Indian.

5.cxd5 is the traditional approach to 4...c5. After 5...Nxd5 White has two major choices with one typically leading to IQP positions and the other a classical center (e4 and d4). In the second case Black's tries to undermine White's center and has a queenside pawn majority. Both of these pawn structures were to Bobby's liking.

(a1) 6.e3 Nc6

7.Bd3 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a3 cxd4 10.exd4 Nf6 11.Bc2 b6 12.Qd3 Bb7 13.Bg5 g6 14.Rfe1 Re8 15.h4 with equal chances (but ultimately a win for Black) in Reshevsky-Fischer, Los Angeles (m/5) 1961.

7.Bc4 cxd4

(7...Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Qe2 b6 11.Rd1 Qc7 12.e4 Bb7 13.Be3 Rac8 14.Bd3 cxd4 15.cxd4 Ba3 16.e5 Nb4 17.Ng5 h6 18.Bh7+ Kh8 19.Qh5 Nd5 20.Bd3 Qe7 21.Nh7 led to an exciting draw in R. Byrne-Fischer, USA (ch) 1959/60.)

8.exd4 Be7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Re1 a6 11.Bd3

(11.a3 b5 12.Bd3 Bb7 13.Nxd5 Qxd5 14.Be4 Qd7 15.Bf4 Rfd8 16.Qc2 g6 17.Rad1 Rac8 18.Qe2 Bf6 19.Ne5 Bxe5 20.dxe5 Nd4 21.Qe3 Bxe4 22.Qxe4 Qd5 23.Qxd5 Rxd5= Najdorf-Fischer, Buenos Aires 1970.

11...Bd7 12.a3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Rc8 14.Qc2 g6 15.Bh6 Re8 16.Re4 and sharp play soon commenced in Reshevsky-Fischer, USA (ch) 1959/60.

(a2) 6.e4 Nxc3 7.bxc3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nc6

8...Bb4+ 9.Bd2 Bxd2+ 10.Qxd2 0-0 11.Bd3 b6 12.0-0 Bb7 13.Rfd1 Nc6 14.Qb2 Qf6 15.Rac1 Rfd8= Berliner-Fischer, Bay City (Western Open) 1963.

9.Bc4 b5 10.Bd3 Bb4+ 11.Bd2 Bxd2+ 12.Qxd2 a6 13.a4 0-0 14.Qc3 Bb7 15.axb5 axb5 16.0-0 Qb6 17.Rab1 b4 18.Qd2 Nxd4 19.Nxd4 Qxd4 20.Rxb4 Qd7 21.Qe3 Rfd8 22.Rfb1 Qxd3 23.Qxd3 Rxd3 24.Rxb7 g5 25.Rb8+ Rxb8 26.Rxb8+ Kg7 27.f3 Rd2 28.h4 h6 29.hxg5 hxg5 Spassky-Fischer, Reykjavik (m/9) 1972.

5.e3 Nc6 6.a3 Ne4 7.Qc2 Nxc3 8.bxc3 Be7 9.Bb2 0-0 10.Bd3 h6 11.0-0 Na5 12.Nd2 dxc4 13.Nxc4 Nxc4 14.Bxc4 b6 15.e4 Bb7 16.Qe2 Rc8= Petrosian-Fischer, Buenos Aires (m/8) 1971.

5...cxd4 6.Nxd4 e5 7.Nf3

7.Ndb5 a6 8.Qa4 (8.Nxd5 axb5 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6!) can be very dangerous for White:

8...Bd7 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.cxd5 Bxb5 11.Nxb5 axb5 12.Qxa8 Bb4+ 13.Kd1 Qxd5+ leads to mate.

12.Qxb5+ Nd7 13.a3 Qa5+ 14.Qxa5 Rxa5 15.0-0-0 f5 16.g3 Bh6+ 17.Kb1 Nf6 18.Bh3?! Ne4 19.Rc1? Bxc1 20.Rxc1 Rxd5 21.Rc7 Nd6 22.Bxf5 Nxf5 0-1 Reshevsky-Christiansen, Los Angeles 1984

White can also try 7.Nc2 d4 8.Nd5 Be6 9.e4 and; 7.Nb3 d4 8.Nd5 Be6 9.e4, but neither should lead to anything.

7...d4 8.Nd5 Be7

8...Nc6 9.e4 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.b4 0-0 12.Bd3 a5 13.a3 Be6 14.Rb1 axb4 15.axb4 Be7 16.0-0 led to a win for White in Euwe-Alekhine, Netherlands 1937.

9.Bxf6 Bxf6 10.g3 (!)

Here, however, is a new move and a better one than the theoretical 10.e4 dxe3 11.Nxe3 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 e4! 13.Nd4 Nc6! which favors Black. So the Greek guide did really surprise his American guest – (Trifunovic).

10...Nc6 11.Nd2

White prevents 11...e4! – (Trifunovic). 11.Bg2 e4? (11...Be6 12.Nd2 Bg5 13.0–0 0–0) 12.Nd2 e3 13.fxe3 dxe3 14.Nxf6+ Qxf6 15.Ne4 followed by Nd6+.

11...Bg5 12.Bg2

Here White fears 12...Qa5; but, on 13.a3, he stands better – (Trifunovic).

12...0–0 13.0–0 Kh8 14.Qc2

14.Ne4 Bh6 15.Nc5 f5 16.b4 was another approach.

14...f5 15.f4 (!)

White must not wait on ...e4 – (Trifunovic).

Vizantiadis correctly breaks up Black's center. The text creates some weaknesses in White's pawn structure but his pieces are sufficiently active to prevent Black taking advantage of this.

15...Bh6 16.Rad1 exf4

On 16...e4 White now has 17.Nb3 – (Trifunovic).

17.gxf4 g6

Black prepares ...Bg7 to reinforce the defense of the d-pawn - (Trifunovic).

18.Nb3 Bg7 19.e3 dxe3 20.Nxe3 Qf6 21.Rf2 Rb8 22.Nd5 Qh4 23.Qd3 Be6 24.Qg3 Qd8

The correct 24...Qxg3 gives equality.

25.Rfd2 Bg8 26.Qf2 Re8 27.Nc5

(!) White's knights are very unpleasant. The threat is 28.Nxb7 Rxb7 29.Nb4 – (Trifunovic).

27...Qa5 28.Nd7 Rbd8 29.N7f6 Qxa2?

29...Bxf6 30.Nxf6 Rxd2 31.Rxd2 Rd8 32.Nd7! with capturing on c6 and Qd4+ soon to follow leaves Black without a good defense – (Trifunovic).

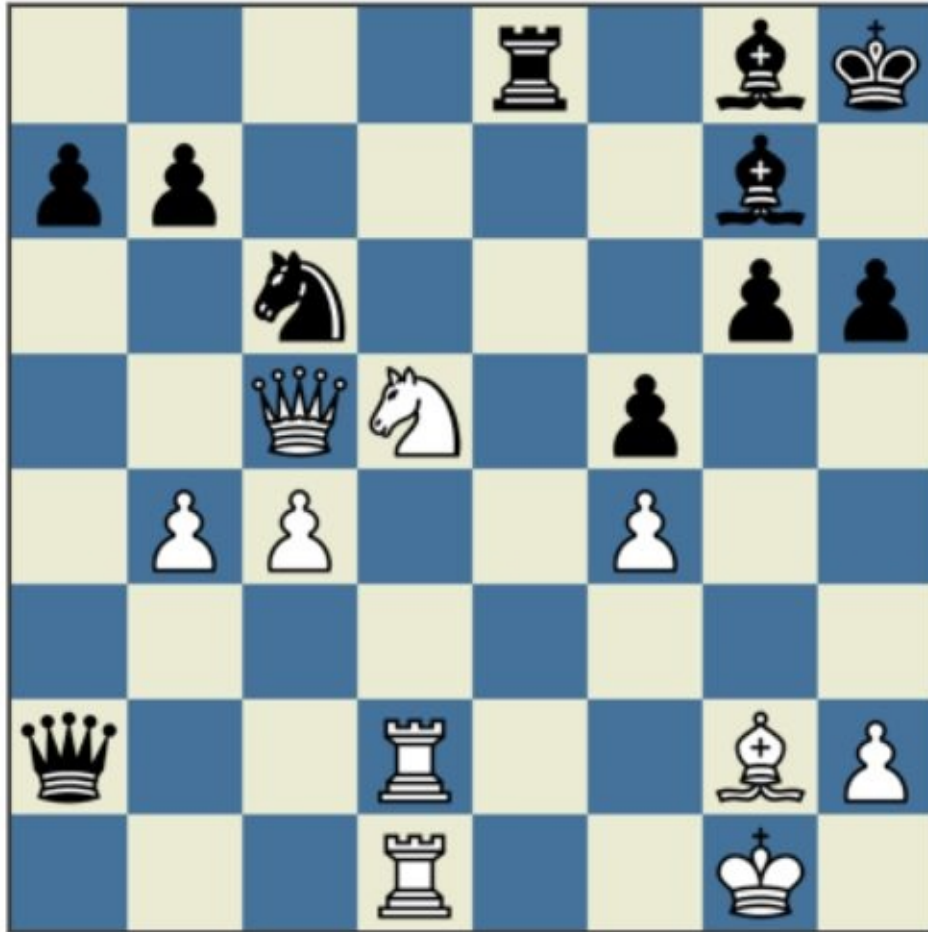
This sacrifice is unsound, and now Black ought to lose. Houdini 4 suggests 29...Rf8 30.Nxg8 Rxg8 31.b4 Qa3 (31...Nxb4? 32.Nxb4 Rxd2 33.Qxd2) 32.Rd3 Qb2 33.Qxb2 Bxb2 34.b5 Na5 keeping White's advantage to a minimum.

30.Nxe8 Rxe8 31.Qc5

Also to be considered was 31.Bf1 (intending 32.b4). After 31...Qa5 32.b3, with the idea of 33.Ra2 and 33.Bg2, White is starting to consolidate his advantage although Black can still put up a lot of resistance.

31...h6 32.b4

32.Qb5 and 32.Nb4 were strong alternatives. White finds himself in terrible time pressure and sees nothing more. He can force a position with excellent winning chances by 32.Nc3! Qxc4 33.Qxc4 Bxc4 34.Bxc6 bxc6 35.Rd8 – (Trifunovic).



32...Qb3 33.b5 Na5 34.Ne7! Bf7 35.Rd8?

35.Rd3! Qxc4 36.Qxc4 Nxc4 37.Rd8 Rxd8 38.Rxd8+ Kh7 39.Bxb7 would have left Bobby fighting for a draw.

Note that avoiding the trade of queens loses right away: 35...Qc2 36.Qc7! Qxc4 37.Rd7 Qb4 38.h4 (better than 38.Nxg6+ Bxg6 39.Rxg7 Re1+ 40.Bf1 Rxd1 41.Rxg6 Qf8 42.Kg2 which favors White but not nearly to the extent the game continuation does) 38...h5 39.Nxg6+ Bxg6 40.Rxg7 Re1+ 41.Kh2 Rxd1 42.Rxg6 Qf8 43.Rg5 winning.

35...Kh7 36.Rxe8??

36.R8d3 Qxc4 37.Qxc4 Bxc4 38.Rd7 Bxb5 39.Rc7 and a draw seems the likely result.

36...Qxd1+ 0–1

White might have actually won – (Trifunovic).

Bobby's opponent in the following game was Greek champion in 1960, 1961 and 1967 and represented his country in five Chess Olympiads.

(15) Ruy Lopez Exchange C69

Fischer - Anastasios Anastasopoulos

Athens (clock simul) 1968

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0–0

Who knows how many points Fischer has amassed with this simple variation? This commentator remembers that Fischer won successively from Gligoric, Portisch and Jimenez in Havana 1966. Everyone fears Fischer - (Trifunovic).

5...f6 6.d4 exd4 7.Nxd4 c5

7...Ne7 8.Be3 Ng6 9.Nd2 Bd6 10.Nc4 0–0 11.Qd3 Ne5 12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.f4 Bd6 14.f5 Qe7 15.Bf4 Bxf4 16.Rxf4 Bd7 17.Re1 Qc5? 18.c3 Rae8 19.g4 with a substantial edge in Fischer-Unzicker, Siegen (ol) 1970.

8.Nb3

8.Ne2 Qxd1 9.Rxd1 Bd7 10.Nbc3 Ne7 11.Bf4 0–0–0 12.Rd2 with equal chances in Fischer-Spassky, Sveti Stefan/Belgrade (m/27) 1992.

8...Qxd1

8...Bd6? 9.Nxc5!

9.Rxd1 Bd7

9...Bd6 10.Na5 b5 11.c4 Ne7 12.Be3 f5 13.Nc3 f4 14.e5! favored White in Fischer-Portisch, Havana (ol) 1966.

9...Bg4 10.f3 Be6 11.Nc3 Bd6 12.Be3 b6 13.a4 0–0–0 14.a5 Kb7 15.e5 Be7 16.Rxd8 Bxd8 17.Ne4 Kc6 18.axb6 cxb6 19.Nbxc5 Bc8 20.Nxa6 fxe5 21.Nb4+

1-0 Fischer-Spassky, Sveti Stefan/Belgrade (m/9) 1992.

10.a4

10.Bf4 0-0-0 11.Nc3 is the current approach.

10...0-0-0 11.Be3 b6 12.Nc3 Bd6 13.a5

The text looks a Herculean move - (Trifunovic).

13...c4!

But, if Gligoric, Portisch and Jimenez were afraid, the "doctor" here goes bravely forward - (Trifunovic).

14.axb6!?

This may be a home-brewed poison but it could be that the brewer dies from it. Yet, what else can White do, if he intends to force a win? After 14.Nd2 b5, he can say "adios" to the win. (Trifunovic)

14...cxb3 15.Rxa6 Ne7!

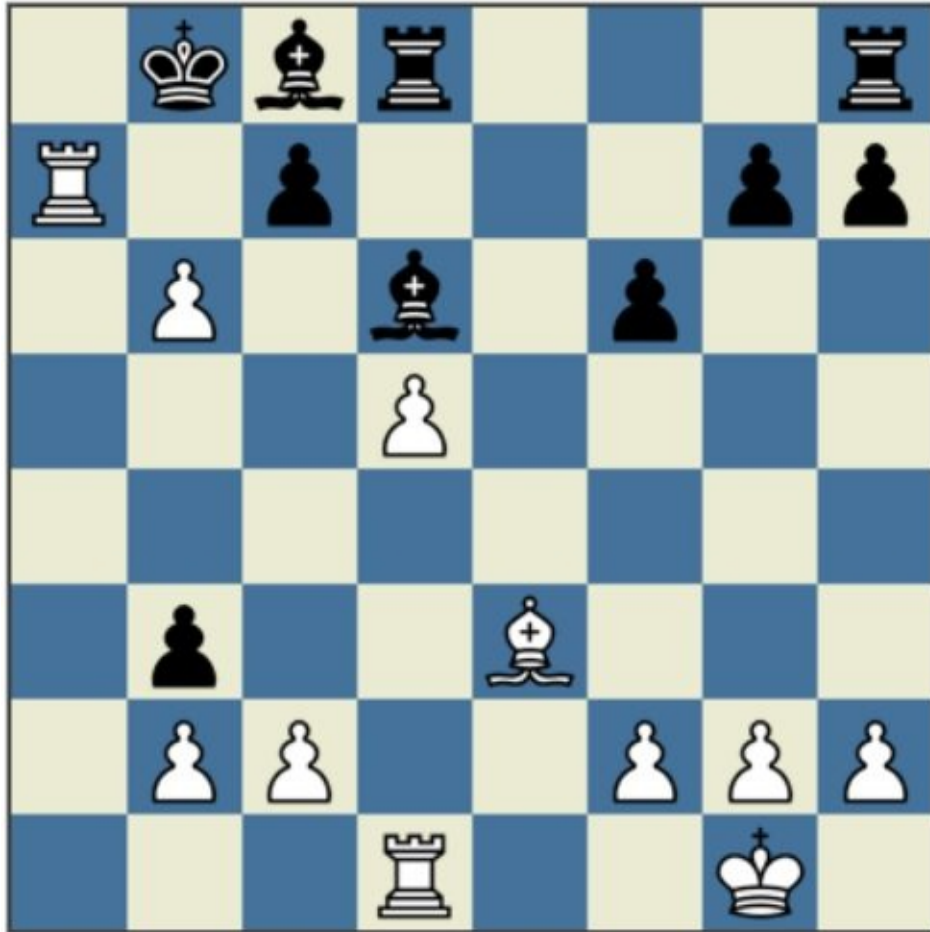
The knight joins in just in time. Black intends 16...Nc6 after which everything is defended - (Trifunovic).

16.Ra8+ Kb7 17.Ra7+ Kb8 18.Nd5?

White has found nothing better. Yet the text ought to lose - (Trifunovic).

18...Nxd5 19.exd5 Bc8?

19...bxc2 20.Rda1 c5 wins for Black.



20.bxc7+ Bxc7 21.c4

(!) It seems incredible, but despite the too little time and the other adverse conditions of a handicap match, however, Fischer sees too much. Now he has two good pawns, and another will soon fall. Perhaps Black can save himself but doesn't defend in the best way - (Trifunovic).

Less clear is 21.Rd3 when the more or less forced sequence of best moves: 21...bxc2 22.Rb3+ Bb6! 23.Rxg7 Rxd5 24.Rxb6+ Ka8 25.h3 Rd1+ 26.Kh2 c1Q 27.Bxc1 Rxc1 28.Rg3 Rc7 29.Ra3+ Ra7 30.Rxf6 h5 leads to a position that is better for White, but with significant chances of ending in a draw.

21...Bb7 22.Rd3 Rd7 23.Rxb3 Bd6 24.Ra5 Kc8 25.Rab5 Bb8?!

Black is starting to drift into trouble. Better was 25...Re8.

26.g3

26.c5! was more precise.

26...Re8?

26...Be5 would have allowed Black to continue the fight.

27.c5! Ba7 28.c6 Bxc6 29.dxc6 Rc7 30.Rb7 1–0

Anecdotes

Cicerone and guide to Fischer, Master Vizantiades recounted some interesting stories from his short role.

Fischer stayed in Athens for only seven days, and he changed hotels “only” four times (or is it, three?). He was lodged in good hotels – but always “the noise, the noise...” For Fischer, a hotel must be like a tournament hall, or a church.

Fischer ordered two “portokaladas” (orange juice) from a street seller, drank the two glasses immediately, without drawing breath. Vizantiades now expects they will go on; but Fischer stands apparently expecting something and, when asked, says he is waiting the second portokalada. When informed by Master Vizantiades that he has already drunken the second glass, Fischer smiles skeptically and says: “Really?”

The Greek Chess Federation collects chess rarities. So it has a bust of Capablanca, a chess board from Havana, and now treasures as a souvenir one pair of trousers and three shirts which Fischer forgot in Athens.

Here are the remaining games which were not included by Trifunovic in his article.

Nikolaos Ornithopoulos played in three Chess Olympiads for Greece, scoring 61 percent on board two at Havana 1966.

(16) Sicilian Four Knights B45

Fischer - Nikolaos Ornithopoulos

Athens (clock simul) 1968

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nge2 e6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6

The venerable Four Knights Variation of the Sicilian gives Black a solid position with easy development, but concedes White a small but enduring advantage.

6.Ndb5 Bb4 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.Nxc3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5

More common is 9...exd5 10.Bd3 0-0 11.0-0 d4 12.Ne2 Bg4, 12...Re8 and 12...Qd5. In all cases White has an uncontested small advantage with best play which explains why the Four Knights is not seen more often in the games of elite players.

10.Bd2

Trading pieces only helps Black: 10.Nxd5 exd5 11.Bd3 Qe7+ 12.Qe2 Qxe2+ 13.Kxe2 Ne5 14.Bb5+ Bd7 15.Bxd7+ Kxd7 and White's advantage is microscopic at best.

10...Nxc3 11.Bxc3 Qxd1+ 12.Rxd1 f6 13.f4 Bd7 14.Bc4 0-0-0 15.0-0 Rhe8

15...Kc7 16.Rde1 Rhe8 17.Rf3 Bc8 18.Rg3 Re7 19.Rge3 Rd6 20.b4 favored White in Fischer-Addison, USA (ch) 1962/63. This is a typical example of what happens in this line (9...Nxd5) - Black is solid but has no activity.

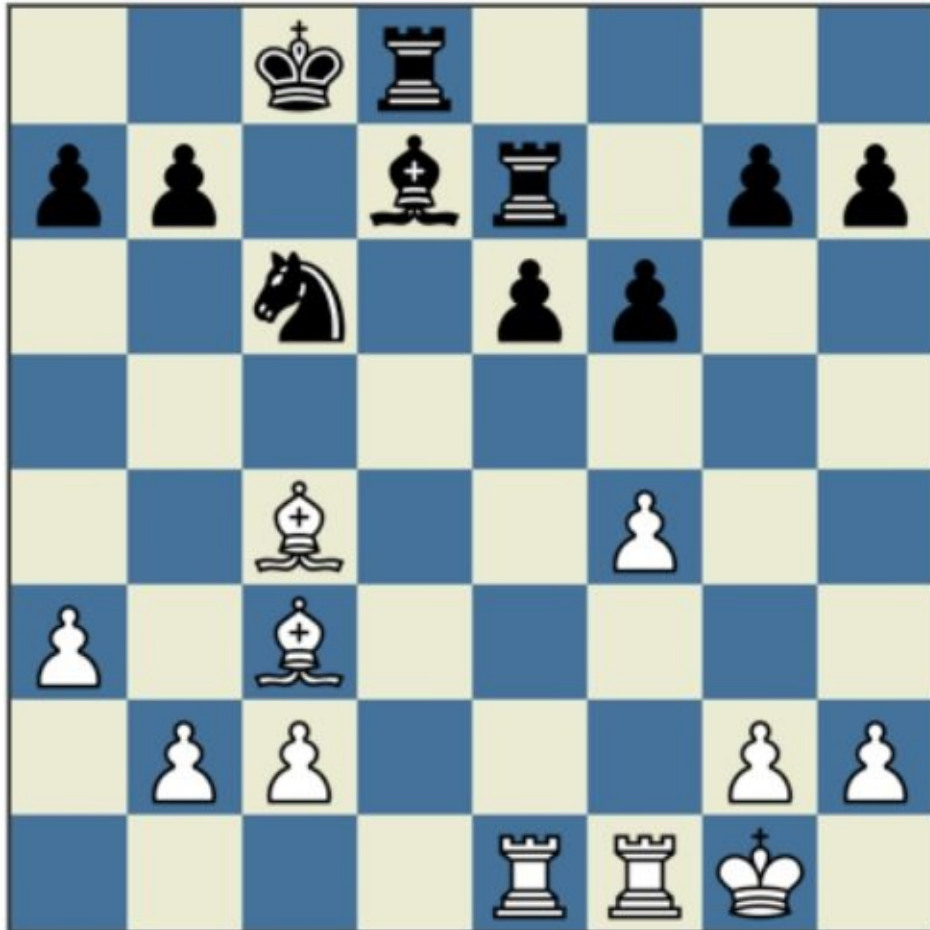
16.Rde1!

Bobby avoids trades on the d-file and aims to prevent the advance ...e6-e5. On 16.Rfe1 Black has 16...e5! 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Rxe5 fxe5 with equal chances.

16...Re7?!

16...e5 is an interesting attempt to avoid the passive position Black's soon finds himself in. 17.fxe5 Nxe5 18.Bxe5 Rxe5 19.Rxe5 fxe5 20.Bd3 g6 21.Rf7 Bc6 22.Re7 (22.Rxh7 e4 23.Bf1 Rd2 gives Black enough play) 22...Re8 23.Rxh7 e4 24.Bf1 e3 25.Be2 leaves White only a slight edge.

Unfortunately for Black, White has better in 17.Bd3 g6 18.fxe5 Nxe5 19.Be4 maintaining his advantage.



17.b4! Kc7?

17...a6 18.a4 leaves Black with the same problem of how to deal with the threat of b4-b5. On 17...Ree8, 18.Rf3 preserves White's pressure. Note the hasty 18.b5 allows 18...Ne7 19.Bxe6 Bxe6 20.Rxe6 Nd5 21.Rxe8 Rxe8 22.Bd4 Re2 23.c3 Rc2 when Black has plenty of counterplay.

18.b5 Nb8 19.Bb4

White has a strong alternative in 19.Rf3 which is the start of a probing campaign to provoke weaknesses in Black's position. One sample line might run 19...Rc8 20.Ba5+ b6 21.Bb4 Ree8 22.Rg3 g6 23.Rh3 h5 24.Rg3 and

Black's position is collapsing.

19...Ree8 20.Rf3 Kb6 21.a4 a5

Or 21...a6 22.Rb3 maintaining the pressure.

22.Ba3 Bc8 23.Bb3

23.Rg3 g6 24.Rh3 Rd7 25.Bb2 e5 26.Rhe3 wins material right away.

23...h6 24.Rc3 Ka7 25.Rc7 Rd7 26.Bc5+ Ka8 27.Bb6 e5 28.fxe5 fxe5 29.Bxa5 e4 30.Rc4 e3 31.Rc7 g6 32.Bb6 Rxc7 33.Bxc7 Nd7 34.a5 Nc5 35.Bd5 Ne6 36.Bxe6

36.Be5 Nc5 37.Rxe3 was simpler.

36...Rxe6 37.Bb6 Bd7 38.c4 Re4 39.Rxe3 Rxc4

Or 39...Rxe3 40.Bxe3 h5 41.Kf2 Be6 42.c5 Bd7 43.b6 winning.

40.Rd3 Rc1+ 41.Kf2 Rc2+ 42.Kg3 Bf5 43.Rf3 Bd7 44.Rf7 Be8 45.Rh7 h5 46.Rh8 Rc8 47.Be3 h4+?

47...Bd7 was the only way to prolong the struggle.

48.Kf2 1-0

White also wins after 48.Kxh4 Rc4+ 49.Kg3 Re4 50.Kf3 Re7. The game continuation leaves Black tied up and facing the loss of his h-pawn.

Georgios Trikaliotis played in six Olympiads for Greece between 1968 and 1982.

(17) Sicilian Rossolimo B30
Fischer - Georgios Trikaliotis
Athens (clock simul) 1968

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6?!

Fischer used the Rossolimo to good effect in his return match with Boris Spassky:

3...g6 4.Bxc6 bxc6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.Re1 e5?!

6...f6!? 7.c3 Nh6 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 0-0 10.Nc3 d6 11.Qa4 Qb6! 12.Nd2 Nf7 13.Nc4 Qa6 14.Be3 Qxa4 15.Nxa4 f5! with equal chances in Fischer-Spassky, Sveti Stefan/Belgrade (m/13) 1992 was the 10th World Champion's improvement on his play two games earlier.

7.b4!? cxb4 8.a3 c5!? 9.axb4 cxb4 10.d4 exd4 11.Bb2 d6 12.Nxd4! Qd7 13.Nd2 Bb7 14.Nc4 Nh6 (14...Nf6? 15.Nxd6+!) 15.Nf5! Bxb2 16.Ncxd6+ Kf8 17.Nxh6 f6? 18.Ndf7! Qxd1 19.Raxd1 Ke7 20.Nxh8 Rxh8 21.Nf5+!! led to a brilliant victory for White in Fischer-Spassky, Sveti Stefan/Belgrade (m/11) 1992. This and the first game of the match showed that Bobby could still play at the same level as he had twenty years before, albeit not as consistently.

4.c3 Nf6 5.Qe2 Bg7 6.e5?! Nd5 7.Qc4 is a grubby approach by Bobby that has never been repeated by a top player. Matulovic got excellent compensation for the pawn in their game from the 1970 Palma de Mallorca Interzonal after 7...Nc7 8.Bxc6 dxc6 9.Qxc5 Qd3 10.Qe3 Bf5 11.Qxd3 Bxd3.

4.Bxc6 bxc6?!

4...dxc6 is a more logical follow up with ...Qc7 and ...e5 soon to come.

5.Nc3

Building a strong pawn center with 5.0-0 g6 6.c3 is a strong alternative.

5...d5 6.b3 Bg4 7.h3 Bxf3?!

Preserving the bishop pair with 7...Bh5 makes more sense.

8.Qxf3 e6 9.0-0 Nf6 10.d3 Be7 11.Na4 0-0 12.Re1 Nd7 13.Ba3 Qa5 14.Qg3

14.c4 with play similar to the Samisch variation of the Nimzo-Indian with colors reversed.



**14...Rfc8 15.f4 Nb6 16.Bb2 d4 17.Nxb6 Qxb6 18.Bc1 Qd8 19.Qf3 Qd7
20.Bd2 Re8 21.Rec1 Rac8 22.Kh1 Bf8 23.Rd1 f6 24.c3 e5 25.f5 Kh8 26.cxd4**

26.g4, intending h4, Rg1 and g5 to follow, was a plausible alternative. 26.c4, with the same idea of aiming for g5, was another choice. In both cases Black can only sit and wait where after the text, and especially when White trades on d4, the plan of ...a5-a4 becomes more effective.

**26...cxd4 27.g4 c5 28.Rg1 Rc6 29.g5 fxg5 30.Rxg5 Qf7 31.Rag1 a5 32.Be1
Ra6 33.Qg4 Rc6 34.Bxa5 Ra6 35.b4 cxb4 36.Bxb4 h6 37.Bxf8?**

White over reaches. Instead 37.Rg6 Rxg6 38.fxg6 Qxa2 39.Qd7 Ra8 40.Bxf8 Rxf8 41.Rc1 maintained equality.

37...hxg5 38.Bb4 Rh6 39.Rg3 Qh5

39...Qxa2 40.Qxg5 Qf7 was an alternative approach staying in the middlegame with a clear advantage but no definite win.

40.Qxh5 Rxh5 41.Kg2 Kg8 42.Bd2 Ra8 43.Bxg5 Rxa2+ 44.Kf3 Kf7 45.h4 Ra3 46.Kg4 Rh8 47.Rg2 Rc8 48.Rb2 Rac3

More challenging was 48...Rxd3 49.Rb7+ Kg8, although White should be able to draw after 50.f6 gxf6 51.Bxf6

49.Rb5 R3c5 50.Rb7+ R5c7 Draw

Note that some sources give the first name of White in the next game as Haralambos. We use the name given by Trifunovic in his report of the event – Hristos (or Christos). Kokkoris was Greek champion in 1962, 1969 and 1970 and represented his country in three Chess Olympiads.

(18) Sicilian Najdorf B95

Hristos Kokkoris - Fischer

Athens (clock simul) Athens, 1968

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.Nf3 d6 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Bc4 h6 8.Bh4 b5 9.Bb3 g5 10.Bg3 b4 11.Na4 Nxe4 12.Qf3 Bb7 13.0-0-0

White has a very dangerous initiative for the sacrificed pawn.

13...Nd7? 14.Rhe1

Kokkoris misses a golden opportunity for glory. 14.Nxe6! fxe6 15.Bxe6! leaves Black in serious trouble.

For example: 15...Qe7 (or 15...Ndf6 16.Rhe1 Be7 17.Be5 dxe5 18.Rxd8+ Rxd8 19.Qf5 Kf8 20.Qg6 Rh7 21.f3 Nd6 22.Nc5 winning.) 16.Bxd7+ Qxd7 17.Nb6 Qe6 18.Rhe1 Ra7 19.Rd4 d5 20.Rxd5 Bxd5 21.Nxd5 Qxd5 22.Rxe4+ Kd8 23.Qf6+ would have left Fischer defenseless.

14...g4!

Fischer alertly returns his extra pawn to exchange queens.

15.Qxg4 Qg5+ 16.Qxg5 hxg5 17.f3

White had a sharp alternative in 17.Bxe6!? which begins a long forcing sequence that leads to an unbalanced ending with equal chances after 17...fxe6 18.Nxe6 Nxg3 19.hxg3 Kf7 20.Nxg5+ Kg6 21.Ne6 Bc6 22.b3 Bxa4 23.bxa4 Nc5 24.Nxf8+ Raxf8 25.Rxd6+ Rf6. This probably should have been preferred as after the text Black's position has more long-term potential.



17...Nxg3 18.hxg3 0-0-0

Bobby's many positional advantages - his two bishops, control of the h-file and

central pawn majority - allow him to gradually outplay his opponent.

**19.Bc4 d5 20.Bd3 Bd6 21.g4 Rh2 22.Re2 Kb8 23.c3 Rc8 24.Kb1 bxc3
25.Nxc3 Be5 26.Bc2 Bg7 27.a3?**

27.Rf2 Rc4 28.Nce2 would have allowed White to continue to fight.

**27...Rc4! 28.Red2 Rxd4 29.Rxd4 Bxd4 30.Rxd4 Rxd4 31.Bd1 Ne5 32.f4
Nxd4 33.fxd4 Ne5 34.Na4 Rxd4 35.Nc5 Bc8 36.Be2 a5 37.Ra4 Rg1+ 38.Kc2
Rg2 39.Kd1 Nc6 40.Nb3 e5 41.Nxa5 Nd4 42.Bh5 Be6 43.Rb4+ Kc8 44.Nb7
Kc7 45.a4 Rg5 0-1**

Fischer Simuls 1970 and 1971

Fischer appears to have given no simuls in the five years between May 1965 and May 1970, but then he became quite active at the same time he resumed playing in tournaments in 1970.

Interestingly at this stage in his career Bobby normally limited his exhibitions to 20 boards.

Yugoslavia, May 1970

Sarajevo May 11th (+15, -1, =4)

Sarajevo May (unknown) (+19, -1, =0)

Mostar May (unknown) (+19, -0, =1)

Fischer loved Yugoslavia and the Yugoslavs loved Bobby. He played there many times including matches with Matulovic and Janosevic in 1958, Portoroz Interzonal 1958, Bled/Zagreb/Belgrade Candidates 1959, Bled 1961, Skopje 1967, Vinkovci 1968, USSR versus the World 1970, Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970, Rovinj/Zagreb 1970 and Sveti Stefan 1992.

Considering all this it is surprising that there are not better accounts of Fischer's simuls in Yugoslavia. We were only able to find three events from 1970 that were only briefly covered in *Sahovski Glasnik*. It seems likely that

Fischer would have given exhibitions during prior visits but we were unable to find any information.

Sarajevo, May 11, 1970

+15, -1, =4

This exhibition was played at the Sportsclub Skenderija and lasted 5 hours. Fischer lost to Branko Bergoc and drew with Sretko Avram (a blind chess player), Edin Sprecko (a soccer player for the club Zeleznicar), Miroslav Jurisic and Milivoje Susic.

This exhibition was written up as Fischer's first ever simultaneous exhibition in Europe, but in fact Copenhagen 1962 was.

(Sahovski Glasnik, September 1970, p. 290)

Mostar, May 1970

+19, -0, =1

The draw was with Branko Peric.

Sarajevo, May 1970

+ 18, -0, =2

Sponsored by the power company Energoinvest, this exhibition was actually held in the nearby small town of Lukavica. Bobby drew with Anton Legatom and Izetom Pilavom.

(Sahovski Glasnik, September 1970, p. 290)

This information is supplemented by the following oral history from Grandmaster Predrag Nikolic. He writes:

I talked to IM Ekrem Cekro who remembers the period of about two months which Fischer spent in Sarajevo. His main host was Dimitrije Bjelica, so he

may have some written material.

Cekro remembers very well that there were 2 simuls. The first was played mainly against members of the Chess Club Zeljeznicar and was played on 20 boards. Cekro is very positive that result was 19-1 for Fischer, because Cekro played in the simul himself.

But, the very first game to be finished was against Nikifor Kostic, which Fischer lost very quickly (maybe only 11 moves) with the final move being ...Bc2 trapping White's queen on d1. Fischer immediately resigned. Cekro even claims that he saw this game published in some chess book, chess encyclopedia, or something, in French language. Fischer won the remaining 19 games.

The second simul was mainly against members of the Chess Club August Cesarec which included people with impaired vision. It was played on about 25 boards, but Cekro is not sure, with one or 2 draws. One draw was against the professional soccer player of the FC Zeljeznicar, maybe it was (Edin) Spreco.

All this is from personal memory, not written record.



Grandmaster Predrag Nikolic
New York 1994
Photo by Jerome Bibuld.

Fischer included the following game(s) in his commentary on Yugoslav television when he presented the historic encounter between Morphy and the team of the German noble Duke Karl of Brunswick and the French aristocrat

Count Isouard.

(19) Philidor C41

Fischer - N.N

Sarajevo (simul), May, 1970

Notes by Fischer taken from his TV presentation.

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Bg4?

This is a serious mistake. Later Steinitz made the rule that knights should be developed before bishops.

4.dxe5 Bxf3 5.Qxf3

5.gxf3 dxe5 6.Qxd8+ Kxd8 7.f4 Nf6 8.fxe5 Nxe4 9.Bg2 Nc5 10.b4 winning, is an old analysis of Steinitz.

5...dxe5 6.Bc4 Qf6 7.Qb3 b6 8.Nc3 c6 9.Bg5 Qg6

On 9...Qxg5 10.Bxf7+ Kd8 11.Bxg8 leaves White with a winning position.

10.Rd1 Be7

I planned to meet 10...Nd7 with 11.Bxf7+ Qxf7 12.Qxf7+ Kxf7 13.Rxd7+ but my opponents saw this threat while missing another.

11.Bxe7 Nxe7 12.Bxf7+ Qxf7 13.Rd8+ Kxd8 14.Qxf7

Fischer explained during his show: “during the exhibitions I gave in Sarajevo I had two games that varied only at this stage when I was already winning”.

... 1-0

(1970 chess program on Yugoslav television featuring Bobby Fischer and Dimitrije Bjelica preserved on *The Fischer Interviews* (1995).)



During Bobby Fischer's visit to Yugoslavia in 1961 to play in Bled he found time to pose for Mostar based sculptor Florijan Mićković in Rudolf Matutinovic's atelier in Zagreb. Svetozar Gligoric brought the finished bust to New York where he gave it to Bobby.

Buenos Aires, August 1970

+20, -0, =0

Besides Yugoslavia, the other country Bobby was especially fond of for chess was Argentina. He played there five times (Mar del Plata 1959, Mar del Plata 1960, Buenos Aires 1960, Buenos Aires 1970 and a Candidates Final Match with Petrosian in 1971). We know that he gave at least two simultaneous exhibitions in 1970 and many in 1971.

Eduardo Bauzá Mercére writes: "I remember that while in Argentina Bobby played at least one simul after the end of the 1970 Buenos Aires tournament. It was a large session in Florida Street or nearby, at Plaza San Martín (almost

sure), with many masters involved. I was paired against Pilnik (a big letdown). The following game was played immediately after the Buenos Aires tournament ended (August 15th) and before the Olympiad in Siegen began (September 5th).

(20) Caro Kann Two Knight B10

Fischer-Roberto Padula

Buenos Aires (simul) August 16, 1970

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5?

Black confuses the position with 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5. The text is a known opening mistake.

5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Ne5 Bh7 8.Qh5

This is quite good for White, but 8.Qf3 (8...Nf6 9.Qb3 hitting f7) may be even stronger.

8...g6 9.Bc4

The extra tempo (2.Nc3 instead of 2.d4) really helps White. Once again the text is quite natural, though 9.Qf3, forcing 9...f6 is interesting.

9...e6 10.Qe2 Qe7 11.d4 Bg7 12.c3 Nd7 13.Bf4 Ngf6 14.O-O-O O-O 15.f3

White starts to drift and eventually loses his advantage. More convincing is 15.Qd2.

15...Nd5 16.Bxd5 cxd5 17.Nxd7 Qxd7 18.Qd2 h5 19.Bh6 Rfc8 20.Bxg7 Kxg7

Optically the position looks really terrific for White (The Black bishop on h7 is especially bad.) but it's not so easy to prove an advantage.

21.Kb1 Rc6 22.Qg5 Kf8 23.Rhe1 Rac8 24.Re5?

This move, in conjunction with White's next, is a mistaken strategy.

The correct plan was to bring the knight to the queenside by Ng3-e2-c1.

The knight on c1 would be an excellent defender for the king.

24...Rb6 25.Qf6? Rxc3

Black has another good move in 25...Qb5.

26.Qh8+ Bg8 27.Qh6+ Ke8 28.Qg7 Qa4!

The threat of 29...Qc2+ is a winner.

29.Qxg8+ Ke7 30.Nf5+ gxf5 31.Qg5+ Kd7 32.Qd2 Ra3!

This should win instantly.

33.Qc2 Qxc2+?!

This misses an easy victory with 33...Rxb2+ (34.Qxb2 Qxd1+; 34.Kxb2 Rxa2+). Even so, Black is still easily winning after the text.

34.Kxc2 Rxa2 35.Rb1 Ra4 36.g4 fxe4 37.fxe4 Rxd4

Black could have taken on g4 and then brought his king over to g7. How he wins here is more a question of taste.

38.Rf1 Rxe4 39.Rxf7+ Kd6 40.Rxe5 Rg2+ 41.Kc3 Rxb2 42.Rhh7 Rgc2+ 43.Kd3 Rd2+ 44.Ke3 d4+?

This hasty check drives White's king to where it could only dream of going. The correct plan was 44...Re2+ which either forces White to exchange rooks (45.Kf3 Rf2+) or allows his king to be driven to the queenside.

45.Ke4 e5?

Compounding his error Black starts to go on tilt. Instead 45...b5 46.Rxa7 Kc5 47.Rhc7+ Kb4 48.h5 Re2+ 49.Kf4 e5+ 50.Kg4 d3 51.Rd7 e4 was still winning, but after the text the game is equal.

46.Rh6+ Kc5 47.Rc7+ Kb4 48.Rxb7+ Kc5 49.Rxa7?

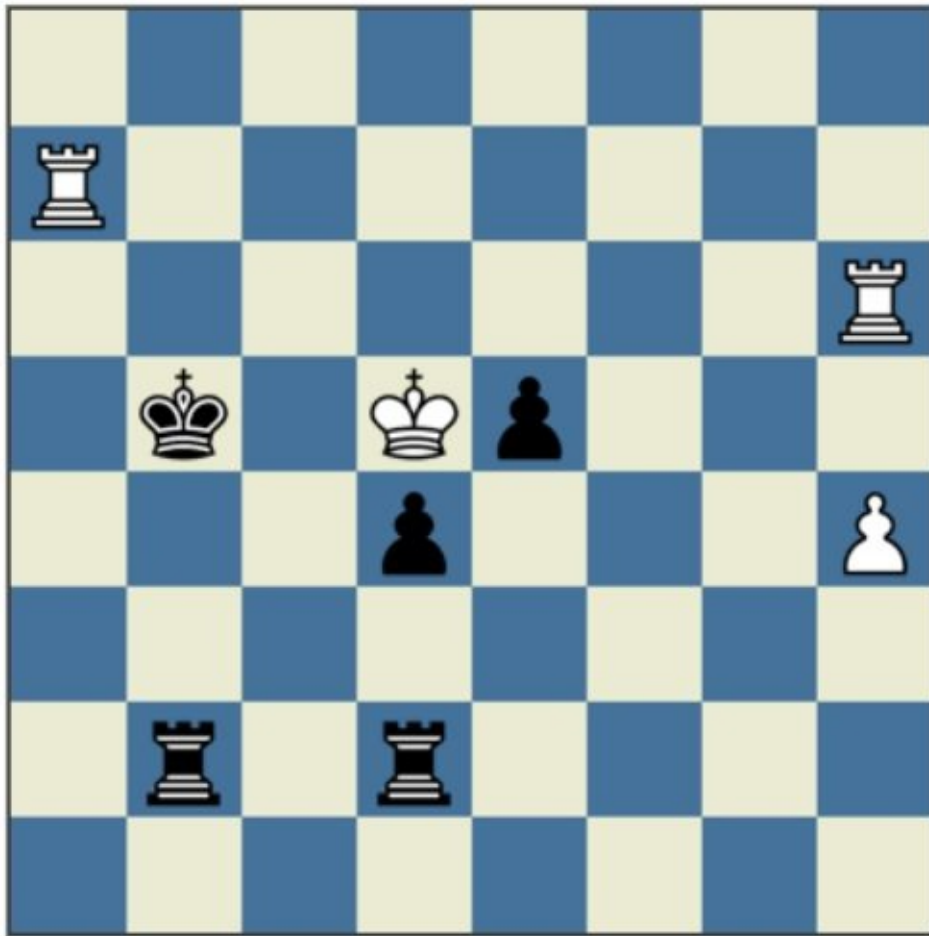
Bobby blunders, perhaps feeling some fatigue. The correct move was 49.Rc7+ forcing a draw after 49...Kb5 50.Rb7+. Black will get mated if he tries for more: 50...Kc5 51.Rc7+ Kb4 52.Rb7+ Kc3?? 53.Rc6 mate.

49... Kb5?

Black blunders back. He could have obtained a big advantage after 49...Re2+ 50.Kf5 Rf2+ 51.Kg4 Rf4+ 52.Kg3 Rb3+ 53.Kg2 d3. Missing his chance to drive away the White king, he again loses his advantage.

50.Kd5

Bobby plays for the win. He could have drawn with 50.Rb7+ Kc5 51.Rc7+.



50...Rbc2??

This should be the losing move. Black could still have held the balance with the far from obvious 50...Re2. For example: 51.Rc6 Kb4 52.Rb7+ Ka5 53.Ra7+ Kb4 with a draw by perpetual check. Black must keep his rook on the b-line to avoid mating threats.

51.Rb7+ Ka5 52.Rh8 Ka6 53.Rb4?

This wasn't Bobby's night. White could have played 53.Rhh7 forcing mate or the win of a rook (53...Ka5 54.Ra7+ Kb4 55.Rhb7+ Kc3 56.Ra3 mate).

53...Ka5??

The final error. Black was only slightly worse after 53...Ka7 54.Rh7+ Ka8 (forced as 54...Ka6 allows 55.Rbb7 as in the previous note.) 55.Kxe5 Rc5+ 56.Ke4 Rc8 57.Rd7 (57.Rxd4? Re8+ picks up a rook) 57...Re8+ 58.Kd5 d3, though after 59.Kd4 White can still play on.

54.Rb3 Ka4 55.Rb7 1-0

There is no defense against 56.Ra8 mate.



Fischer in action. (Buenos Aires 1970)

La Plata, August 20, 1970

+ 22, -3, =0

The following game has caused some confusion as to when it was played, in

part because it was published in the Argentine magazine *Ajedrez Revista Mensual* in issue 12 of 1971 (p. 490). Since Fischer's visit to La Plata in 1971 was in early December it inevitably raises the question of how the game score found its way into the magazine so quickly. The answer is that it didn't, that this game was played during Fischer's previous tour the year before and took a while to appear in print.

The following encounter is one of the worst defeats Bobby suffered in the many simuls he gave. His opponent, 16-year-old Carlos Garcia Palermo, later went on to become a Grandmaster and beat Anatoly Karpov at Mar del Plata in 1982, while only an International Master. The only other IM we know who beat Karpov during his reign as World Champion was Igor Ivanov.

Note that Garcia Palermo faced Fischer again in Buenos Aires in a simul in 1971, drawing with him. There were very few occasions that Bobby did not get his revenge in return encounters against players who beat or drew with him the first time around. They might have been simuls but Bobby was always a competitor!

The simul was played at the in La Plata Student Club with one source having Bobby scoring 24 wins losing only the following game. Another has him scoring 22 wins and 3 losses with Jorge Barros and Eduardo Fernandez the other two players to defeat Bobby.

(21) King's Gambit C31
Fischer - Carlos Garcia Palermo
La Plata (simul) August 20, 1970

1.e4 e5 2.f4

Bobby invariably played 2.Nf3 in tournament games, but he did essay the King's Gambit three times in his career. His record was 3-0, with wins over GM's Evans and Minic and IM Wade. The sole time he defended the King's Gambit, he lost a memorable game to Boris Spassky.

2...d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Bb5+

Bobby met the Falkbeer (2...d5, 3...e4) a few times in simuls, but played the main line 4.d3.

4...c6 5.dxc6 Nxc6

ECO prefers 5...bxc6 giving the line 6.Bc4 Bc5 7.Ne2 Nf6 8.d4 exd3 9.Qxd3 Qe7 10.Nc3 O-O 11.h3 Rd8 12.Qf3 Bf5 with a better position for Black (Kortchnoi).

Robert Byrne varied with 11.Bd2 in two little known games from the 1946 US Open in Pittsburg. Weaver Adams, of *White to Play and Win* fame, chose 11...Rd8 and after 12.Qf3 Bg4 13.Qg3 Bxe2 14.Bxe2 Ne4 15.Nxe4 Qxe4 16.Bc3 Bf8 17.Rd1 Nd7 18.Qf3 Qxc2 19.O-O White had a small advantage. Gordon tried 11...Ng4 12.Rf1 Rd8 13.Qe4 Qf6 14.Bd3 Bg6 15.Qc4 Be3 but after 16.O-O-O White still had some advantage.

6.d3

If 4.Bb5+ is uncommon, then the text is a real rarity. We could only find a single game out of a million game database. Typically, the one example was played by the great Mikhail Chigorin, a player Bobby respected for his creativity.

6...Nf6 7.dxe4

A novelty. Chigorin-Marco, Vienna 1898 saw 7.Qe2.

7...Qa5+?!

Black should play 7...Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Nxe4 9.Bxc6+ bxc6 10.Be3 Bg4+ 11.Nf3 O-O-O+ with good compensation for the pawn.

8.Nc3 Bg4 9.Qd4

Here 9.Nf3 was safer, but Fischer still has a significant advantage.

9...Be7 10.Qa4 Qb6 11.h3?!

This loses valuable time. 11.e5 is much better.

11...O-O-O?!

The text is tricky, but ultimately unsound. Black should have played 11...Bd7.

12.Bxc6??

Fischer walks right into an uppercut. He should have played 12.hxg4 and Black has insufficient compensation for the piece.



12...Nxe4!

This is a real bolt from the blue by the future Grandmaster. Now Bobby has to give up his queen to stop mate. The threats of 13...Bh4+ and 13...Qf2+ are impossible to meet.

13.Bd7+

13.Nxe4 is met by 13...Rd1 mate.

13...Rxd7 14.Qxd7+ Bxd7 15.Nxe4 Bc6 0-1



Bobby Fischer is studying the position after 10...Qb6.
(Photo courtesy of Carlos Garcia Palermo)

There is evidence to suggest that Bobby gave two other simuls in Argentina, on August 26th and 27th, but we have not been able to confirm this.

Germany, September 1970

Fischer was very busy during the Siegen Olympiad which ran for much of September. The U.S. team came to Siegen with big hopes, playing for the first and only time with both Bobby and Sammy Reshevsky. The supporting cast included excellent team players William Lombardy and Larry Evans, but in the end the Americans finished a disappointing fourth. Losses to East Germany in the last round of the preliminary section (which carried over as round one of the finals as both teams advanced to Group A) and to the Soviet Union (at one point it looked like the US might win 3-1) were especially hard to bear.

William Lombardy had the best percentage score for the USA team, an outstanding 11 from 14, which won him the gold medal as best reserve player. Bobby also did more than his share scoring 10 from 13, the second best result on board one behind Boris Spassky.

This was the last time Fischer was to play for the U.S. GM Lubosh Kavalek

remembers that Bobby almost played in 1972 for an American team that would likely have included Kavalek (representing the stars and stripes for the first time), Robert Byrne, William Lombardy, Larry Evans and Sammy Reshevsky. This lineup would have been the strongest the US had fielded since the 1930s, but fell apart when Fischer's financial requirements were not met.

Bobby did not confine his stay in Germany to just the Olympiad. He also found time to play an exhibition game and two simul. Finding information about these events is not easy and the two main German magazines, *Deutsche Schachzeitung* and *Schach Echo*, are surprisingly unhelpful.

Bobby's win in an exhibition game against Ulf Andersson, where he opened with 1.b3 and play soon transposed into a reverse hedgehog, is well-known and a model example of a plan (Kh1, Rg1, g4) that was previously little known. Surprisingly, the details surrounding this game have not been publicized. The exact day it was played remains a mystery in 2012. One might also wonder what Fischer was doing playing the 19-year-old Andersson, who had only recently acquired his IM title and would only become a legend years down the road.

The well-known Swedish chess journalist Lars Grahn, founder and long-time editor of the magazine *Schacknytt*, talked with Ulf Andersson about his exhibition game with Fischer and is able to provide some background information. Grahn recalls Ulf telling him that the game was played in a hotel room in Siegen and that he was not paid to play and does not know what Bobby received. The Swedish newspaper *Expressen* published the game with one half-move a day, a so called "teleparti". According to Grahn, publishing games this way is still popular in Swedish papers.



Ulf Andersson at Wijk aan Zee in 2012. (Photo by Michael Negele)

Michael Negele spoke to Ulf Andersson in January 2012 during the annual chess festival in Wijk aan Zee and was able to add a few more details:

Miguel Quinteros and the Swedes Holt and Berglund were the only spectators. (Authors - the latter was almost certainly the well-known journalist Jan Berglund).

Ulf spoke in high terms of Fischer, who was very correct during the game and afterwards. This was the only time Ulf ever met Bobby.

All sources indicate the game with Andersson was played immediately after the Olympiad (Fischer did not play the last round). With that event running September 5-27th it is likely the game was played September 28th and the following day Bobby gave an exhibition in Solingen.

This all fits together nicely (note but when the other exhibition was held, in Münster, is less clear. What we do know is that some online sources give the event as being played October 20th. This is highly unlikely.

Frank Brady, in the second edition of *Profile of a Prodigy* (p. 174), writes: "Before returning to the United States, Fischer traveled from Siegen to Frankfurt, purchasing the latest chess literature, and then flew back to New York." All this plus the fact the Palma Interzonal did not start until November 9th strongly rules out Fischer spending nearly a month in Germany after the Olympiad, especially when many details regarding his participation in the Interzonal still needed to be ironed out.

Michael Negele has done extensive research in trying to track the exact date the Münster exhibition was played. Here are his findings:

1. The last round of Siegen was held on September 25th (10 am), all other rounds at 3 pm, but the event ended on 27th of September.
2. The only official free day was September 15th, after the preliminaries.
3. There can be no confusing October 20th for September 20th as Fischer lost against Spassky that day.
4. Fischer played rounds 2 to 6 - September 6th to 11th - and round 9 (September 14th) of the preliminaries. Round 1 started on September 5th.

So the simul in Münster could have been played on the 12th /13th or 15th. On the 16th Fischer played in the 2nd (!) round of the final against Gheorghiu (round one of the final was a carryover from the prelims saving a playing day). The next day (the 17th) he played against Najdorf. On the 18th and 19th he had a break (against Canada and Bulgaria), and on the 20th he played against Spassky as previously mentioned. After this he played all remaining rounds except the last (against Spain) on the 25th in the morning.

Taking all this information into account the simul in Münster could have been played September 12th and 13th, the 15th, possibly the 18th and 19th as well as the 25th to 28th.

We have chosen the official free day on September 15th, but this is just a guess.

Münster, September 15, 1970

+15, -1, =4

Günter Langhanke was entrusted with taking Fischer from the hotel at 3pm to travel by train to Münster (about a 90 minute journey). In his reminiscences about the event he remembers the staff was reluctant to ring Fischer's room at that hour. Clearly Bobby made an impression on them!

The article doesn't make it clear whether Langhanke won or drew in the exhibition. It can be found at: http://www.westfaelische-nachrichten.de/lokalsport/kreis_steinfurt/rheine/242096_Schach_Der_Mann_de

(22) Sicilian Najdorf B87

Fischer - Ferdinand Middendorf

Münster (simul), September 15, 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Re1 Nbd7 10.Bg5 Qa5?!

Black's innovation is supposed to lead to a lost game. To our knowledge 10...Qa5?! has never been repeated, but it might not be that bad. Theory is 10...h6 11.Bh4 (11.Bxf6 is also popular.) 11...g5 (11...Nc5? 12.Bd5! gave White a terrific attack in Fischer-Rubinetti, Palma de Mallorca (izt) 1970) 12.Bg3 Ne5. Russian GM Semyon Dvoiris has had good success on the Black side of this variation.



11.Bxf6

The chess engine Houdini likes 11.Nd5!? when accepting the gift leads to trouble after 11...exd5 12.exd5+ Kd8 (12...Be7 13.Nf5 recovers the piece with advantage) 13.Nc6+ Bxc6 14.dxc6 Nc5 15.Qf3 winning due to the double threats of capturing on f6 and playing c7+.

11...Nxf6 12.e5

Fischer goes straight for the throat but Black should be able to defend.

12...dxe5 13.Nxe6 b4?

This is the losing move. Black had to accept the sacrifice and after 13...fxe6 14.Rxe5 Rd8 15.Rxe6+ Be7 16.Qe2 Rd7 17.Re1 Qc7 18.Na4 bxa4 19.Bxa4 he plays 19...0-0!, returning the material to safeguard his king. 20.Bxd7 (20.Rxe7 Rxe7 21.Qxe7=) 20...Bc5 21.Rxf6 gxf6 22.Bf5 offers equal chances.

Note that on 13...fxe6 14.Rxe5 Bc8? White has 15.Bxe6 Qc7 16.Bd7+ Kf7 17.Be8+ Nxe8 18.Qd5+ Kg6 19.Rg5+ Kh6 20.Qd2, winning.

14.Nxg7+ Bxg7 15.Qd6!

With the twin threats of Rxe5+ and Ba4+.

15...Nd7 16.Bxf7+ Kxf7 17.Qxd7+ Kf6 18.Rad1 Rhg8 19.Rd6+ Kg5 20.h4+ Kxh4 21.Qf5

This does the job in workmanlike fashion, but even faster was 21.Re4+ Bxe4 (21...Kg5 or 21...Kh5 is met 22.Qg4 mate) 22.Qh3+ Kg5 23.Nxe4+ Kf4 24.Qf3 mate.

21...Bxg2 22.Kxg2 Bh6+ 23.Kf3 1-0

Stuttgarter Zeitung, March 19, 1971

Solingen, September 29, 1970

+12, -5, =3

There is nothing on this exhibition or Münster in the *Deutsche Schachzeitung* or *Schach Echo*, but the book *Die grosse Schau Grandmaster tournament Solingen 1974* has an account of Fischer's visit to Solingen.

This was a very tough exhibition; perhaps Fischer's worst ever in percentage terms (67.5). Several strong masters played, something Fischer was not especially keen about. The winners included Dr. Manfred Christoph (the 1969 West German champion), Ulrich Dresen (4th in the 18-player German Jr. Championship of 1968 with draws against GMs Kurajica and O'Kelly at Solingen 1973), Karl-Heinz Bachmann (still rated over 2200 FIDE at age 60 plus), Albert Nowak and Lothar Dehen. Those making draws were Dr. Christian Clemens (still playing actively in 2011 and rated 2301 at age 71!), H. Bergfeld and Helmut Merckel.

Fischer, who was accompanied to the exhibition by Argentinian Grandmaster Miguel Quinteros, was paid \$400 for the simul.

1.	(M) Bachmann, Karl-Heinz	1 (63 moves)
2.	(M) Behling, Robert	0
3.	Bergfeld, Herbert	0.5
4.	Böhnke	0
5.	Busse, Klaus	0
6.	(IM 2412) Capelan, Günter	0
7.	(DM) Christoph, Dr. Manfred	1 (64 moves)
8.	(DM 2370) Clemens, Christian	0.5
9.	(M) Dehen, Lothar	1 (52 moves)
10.	(M) Dresen, Ulrich	1 (21 moves)
11.	(DM 2405) Eising, Johannes	0
12.	Gallert	0
13.	(M) Hans, Peter	0
14.	Helsberg	0
15.	Kletzl, Engelbert	0
16.	(M) Landwehr, Bernhard	0
17.	Meckel, Helmut	0.5
18.	(M) Nowak, Albert	1 (57 moves)
19.	Pollack	0
20.	Schmitz, Willi (Organizer)	0 (18 moves)

IM = International Master, M = Master, DM = German Master



Fischer in deep concentration during the exhibition in Solingen.



Fischer getting ready to move during the exhibition in Solingen.

(23) English A23

Fischer – Willi Schmitz

Solingen (simul), September 29, 1970

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 c6 4.Bg2

4.Nf3 or 4.d4 are more commonly seen.

4...Bc5

It would be interesting to know how Fischer intended to meet 4...d5 as 5.cxd5 cxd5 6.Qb3 Nc6 is known to offer Black excellent compensation for the pawn.

5.e3 0–0 6.Nge2 a6

6...d5 is more logical.


7.d4 exd4 8.exd4 Bb4 9.0-0 d5?

9...d6 was indicated.

10.cxd5 cxd5?

The in between move 10...Bxc3 was essential.

11.Bg5 Be6 12.Bxf6 gxf6 13.Nf4 Qd7 14.Ncxd5 Bxd5 15.Nxd5 Qd6 16.Qg4+ Kh8 17.Qf5 Nd7 18.Be4 1-0



U S A

Partie Nr. Brett Nr. Spieltag

Veranstaltung: *Simultan am ...*

Weiß: *Bobby Fischer* Schwarz:

Eröffnung: *Bremer Partie*

1	<i>c4</i>	<i>/ e5</i>	21
2	<i>Sc3</i>	<i>/ Sf6</i>	22
3	<i>g3</i>	<i>/ cb</i>	23
4	<i>kg2</i>	<i>/ kc5</i>	24
5	<i>e3</i>	<i>/ 0-0</i>	25
6	<i>Se2</i>	<i>/ ab</i>	26
7	<i>d4</i>	<i>/ exd4</i>	27
8	<i>exd4</i>	<i>/ Lb4</i>	28
9	<i>0-0</i>	<i>/ d5</i>	29
10	<i>cXd5</i>	<i>/ cXd5</i>	30
11	<i>kg5</i>	<i>/ ke6</i>	31
12	<i>Lx66</i>	<i>/ g4x66</i>	32
13	<i>Sb4</i>	<i>/ Dd7</i>	33
14	<i>SXd5</i>	<i>/ LXd5</i>	34
15	<i>SXd5</i>	<i>/ Dd6</i>	35
16	<i>Dg4+</i>	<i>/ Kh8</i>	36
17	<i>Df5</i>	<i>/ Sd7</i>	37
18	<i>ke4</i>	<i>Schwarz</i>	38
19	<i>gibt auf das</i>		39
20	<i>Matt ist nicht mehr</i>		40
	<i>zu verhindern</i>		

1970

tan-
ge-
ner.
21
ge-
oph
alle
hen
ziel-
hen
feld
ing,
ehr,
Gal-
letzt

RC

(24) Sicilian O'Kelly B28
Fischer - Gunther Langhanke
 Solingen (simul), September 29, 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 3.g3

Bobby faced the O'Kelly at least three times in his career. The first occasion he essayed the Smith-Morra and got decent compensation for the pawn but no more: 3.d4 cxd4 4.c3 dxc3 5.Nxc3 Nc6 6.Bc4 d6 7.0-0 Nf6 8.Bg5 e6 9.Qe2 Be7 10.Rfd1 Qc7 11.Rac1 0-0 12.Bb3 h6 13.Bf4 e5 14.Be3 (Fischer-Kortchnoi, Buenos Aires 1960 which was drawn in 29 moves).

The second time around he tried the theoretical refutation 3.c4 against the Milwaukee master Henry Meifert: 3...Nc6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Nc3 e5 7.Nf5 d5 8.cxd5 Bxf5 9.exf5 Nd4 10.Bd3 (10.Bg5 may be more challenging) 10...Nxd5 11.Be4 (11.0-0 is more commonly seen) 11...Bb4 12.Bd2 Bxc3?! (12...Nf6) 13.bxc3 Nc6 14.Qb3 Nce7 15.Qxb7 with a clear advantage for White (Fischer-Meifert, Milwaukee (simul) 1964).

This time Fischer opts for a King's Indian Attack setup in which he intends to prove ...a6 is not such a useful move.

3...d6

3...b5 followed by ...Bb7, ...e6, ...d6, ...Nf6, ...Nbd7, ...Be7 is another scheme of development that seeks to make use of Black's second move.

4.Bg2 g6 5.0-0 Bg7 6.c3 e5?

6...Nf6 7.Re1 0-0 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 Bg4 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nc6 12.Be3 Nd7 13.Nc3 e5 had to be played when Black's grip on d4 compensates for the two bishops.

7.d4 Nc6 8.dxc5 dxc5 9.Qxd8+ Nxd8 10.Nbd2

10.Be3 c4 11.Nbd2 b5 12.a4 Rb8 (12...Bb7 13.axb5 axb5 14.Rxa8 Bxa8 15.Rb1 Ne7 16.b3 cxb3 17.Rxb3 Bc6 18.Bf1 and the b-pawn drops) 13.axb5 axb5 14.Rfb1 intending b3 looks very promising for White.

10...b5 11.a4 Bb7 12.Nb3 Rc8 13.axb5

13.Be3 c4 (or 13...Ne6 14.axb5 axb5 15.Bh3 Bxe4 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Ng5 Bd3 18.Rfe1 c4 19.Nc5 and Black's position is collapsing.) 14.Nc5 is a dream position for White..

13...axb5 14.Re1

14.Be3 Bxe4 15.Nxc5 was equally good.

14...c4 15.Na5 Ba8 16.b3

16.Bh3 Rb8 17.Be3 (threatening Ba7) 17...Bxe4 18.Nxe5 Bxe5 19.Ba7 winning.

16...cxb3 17.Nxb3 Ne7 18.Bh3

18.Bf1 Bc6 19.Ba3 was much better for White. The text is also strong.

18...Rxc3 19.Rxa8 Rxb3 20.Rd1 Nec6

20...0-0 21.Rdxd8 Rb1 (21...Rxf3 22.Rxf8+ Bxf8 23.Bh6) 22.Kg2 Rxc1
23.Nxe5 Rc8 (a great computer move that still falls short). 24.Rdxc8 Nxc8
25.Nxf7 offered White excellent winning chances.

21.Bd7+ Ke7 22.Bg4

White wants to play Rd7+ but Black has adequate resources to meet this. Instead Houdini's very subtle 22.Bg5+! leads to a winning position for White. The idea behind the check is to induce ...f6 which makes Black's bishop on g7 vulnerable to checks on the seventh rank. It also shortens the bishop's diagonal taking away ...Nd4 defenses.

The immediate 22.Be3 would be met by 22...Nd4. 22...f6 (22...Bf6 23.Bxc6 Nxc6 24.Rxh8) 23.Be3 Rc3 (23...Nd4 24.Nxd4 exd4 25.Bxd4) 24.Rc8 b4 (24...Bf8 25.Bb6 b4 26.Rc7 Nd4 27.Bc6+ Ke6 28.Nxd4+ exd4 29.Bd5+ Kd6 30.Rxc3 dxc3 31.Bb3+) 25.Bxc6 Nxc6 26.Rc7+.

22...Ne6 23.Ra6 Rd8!

Alert defense by Black who avoids 23...Ncd4? 24.Ra7+ Kf6 25.Rxd4! Nxd4 (25...exd4 26.e5 mate; 25...Rxf3 26.Rdd7) 26.Bg5 mate!

24.Rxd8?

This plays into Black's hand as every trade increases the strength of the b-pawn. Instead Fischer had to maintain the tension with 24.Rd5 or complicate play with 24.Ng5.

24...Nexd8 25.Bg5+

This doesn't work nearly as effectively as it would have on move 22.

25...f6 26.Be3 Rc3

A multi-purpose which prepares the advance of the b-pawn while preventing Bc5+.

27.h4?

The losing move. White needed to shift his minor pieces from the kingside to deal with the b-pawn. For example: 27.Nd2 b4 28.Be2 when White has good chances to resist as Black cannot advance his b-pawn - i.e. 28...b3? 29.Ra3 and the pawn cannot be defended.

27...h5 28.Bh3 b4 29.Rb6?

29.Nd2 Bf8 30.Bf1 Ra3 31.Rb6 was called for.

29...Kf7 30.Bf1 Bf8 31.Rb5 Ne6 32.Rb7+ Be7 33.Nd2 Ncd4? 34.Kg2

34.Bxd4 Nxd4 35.Nc4 b3 36.Ne3 and it's not easy for Black to make progress.

34...Rc7?

34...Nd8 35.Rb8 N8c6 slowly improving Black's position was indicated.

35.Rb5??

35.Rxc7 Nxc7 36.Bxd4 exd4 37.Bc4+ Ke8 38.Nb3 is an immediate draw. This was not Bobby's day.

35...Nxb5 36.Bxb5 Bc5 0-1

The date of the following scoresheet is given as September 27, which is almost certainly a recording error. *Die Grosse Schau* (*Grossmeisterturnier 1974, 600 Jahre Solingen*) is very clear the date of the exhibition was September 29 and devotes pages 203-206 to the exhibition only Christoph's win is given.

SCHACHVEREIN «CAISSA» MÜNSTER

Partie Nr. _____ gespielt am 27.9. 1970

Simultan

Weiß	Fischer	Schwarz	Langhauke	
1	e4	c5	Lc3	Tc3
2	Sf3	g6	b4	b5
3	g3	ab	Lb3	b4
4	Ld2	g6	Tb6	Kf2
5	0-0	Lb2	Lf7	Lf8
6	c3	e5	Tb5	Se6
7	d4	Sc6	Td7	Ld7
8	dcs	dcs	Sd2	Sb4
9	b8+	sd8	Ka2	Tc7
10	Sbd2	b5	Tb3	Sbs
11	a4	Lb7	Lb5	Lcs
12	Sb3	Tc8		
13	ab5	ab5		
14	Ted	c4		
15	Sa5	Lc8		
16	b3	cb3		
17	Sb3	Lc8		
18	Lb3	Tc3		
19	Tb5	Tb5		
20	Td7	Sc6		
21	Ld7	Ke7		
22	Lg4	Se6		
23	Td8	Td8		
24	Td8	Se8		
25	Lg5+	f6		

Zu beziehen durch: Gustav Korten, Schachverlag, 56 Wuppertal-Barmen, Sonnabendstraße 34

(25) Reti A11

Fischer – Manfred Christoph

Solingen (simul), September 29, 1970

1.Nf3 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 d6 4.0-0 Nf6 5.c4 0-0 6.b3 d5 7.Bb2 c6 8.d3 a5
9.Nbd2 Na6 10.a3 b5 11.Rc1 bxc4 12.bxc4 Bd7 13.Be5 Ne8 14.Bxg7 Nxg7

15.Nb3 Rb8 16.Ne5 Be8 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.Nd4 Rb2 19.Nec6 Qd6 20.a4 Nb4
21.Nb5 Qe6 22.Nxb4 Rxb4 23.Nc7 Qe5 24.Nxd5 Rxa4 25.Qd2 Nf5 26.e3 Qd6
27.d4 Bb5 28.Rfe1 Bc4 29.Nc3 Rb4 30.Ne4 Qb6 31.Nc5 Rd8 32.Nb7 Rc8
33.Ra1 a4 34.Nc5 Qb5 35.Bh3 Rd8 36.Bxf5 Qxc5 37.Bc2 Qb5 38.Ra3 Rb8
39.Qc3 Bb3 40.Bxb3??

40.Bd3 Bc4 41.Bc2 was correct with Black better but far from winning. The
text loses almost straight away.

40...axb3 41.Qb2 Rc8 42.Raa1 Rc2 43.Qa3 b2 44.Rab1 Kg7 45.d5 Qc5
46.Qd3 Rbc4 47.Qb3 Qa5 48.Rf1 Qc3 49.Qb7 Qf6 50.Kg2 Rd2 51.Qb8 g5
52.Rbd1 Rxd1 53.Rxd1 Rc2 54.Rf1 Qc3 55.d6 exd6 56.Qxd6 Qxe3 57.Qb4
Qd3 58.Re1 Re2 59.Rf1 Qd5+ 60.Kg1 Qe5 61.h3 Rc2 62.Qb3 Rc1 63.Qd3
Qe1 64.Qd4+ f6 0–1 *Die grosse Schau Grandmaster tournament Solingen
1974, p. 206.*

The following game has to be one of the shorter losses Bobby suffered in
simul play.

(26) Sicilian Classical B62

Fischer - Ulrich Dresen

Solingen (simul), September 29, 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Bb5 Bd7
8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Qf3 e5 10.Nf5 Bxf5 11.Qxf5 Be7 12.0–0–0 Rb8 13.f4 Qb6
14.b3 Qe3+ 15.Kb2 g6 16.Qh3 Qxh3 17.gxh3 Nd7 18.Bh6 f6 19.Rhf1 Kf7
20.fxe5 Nxe5 21.Be3 Nc4+ 0–1

(MegaDatabase 2011)

Unreliable, Arrogant, Impolite, Sick

**Portrait of a Chess Genius. Four hours with the American
Grandmaster Robert Fischer.**

By Hans Lohausen

He said he wanted to start at 7 PM. Two hours later, when many of the players
were ready to head home, he arrived: the *Enfant Terrible* of international

chess, his highness, Bobby Fischer from America, with an Argentinian Grandmaster following him. We had four hours to study Bobby Fischer. We wanted to see if he was really like the way he has been described.

Bobby Fischer is said to be unreliable.

When a representative of the Solingen chess club arrived to pick up the Grandmaster at 5 PM, he was sleeping. Awoken, he decided to spend an hour swimming. The driver waited. When they were driving to Solingen, it occurred to Bobby that he needed something to eat. So they stopped in the town of Hennef and he ate. Bobby is unreliable.

Bobby Fischer is said to be arrogant.

The chess Grandmaster stopping in Hennef to eat does not reveal everything. He first declined two restaurants that the driver recommended, because he only wanted to eat in “First-class hotels”. When one was found, he pounced upon his food. Bobby Fischer is arrogant.

Bobby Fischer is said to be a notorious complainer.

When the simultaneous exhibition ended at 12:45 AM, he complained to the organizer, Egon Evertz: “The lighting was a catastrophe, it was really terrible, one could hardly play.” When he was given chicken soup, he wanted vegetable soup instead. Bobby Fischer is a complainer.

Bobby Fischer is said to be impolite.

After the Grandmaster won 12 games, lost 5, and drew 3 after four and a half hours, he was asked if he wanted anything to eat. He barked, “I just want my money and then to leave”. One could infer that this is the only reason he came to Solingen. Bobby Fischer is impolite.

Bobby Fischer is said to be pathologically ambitious.

The gaunt young man with the gray suit, striped shirt, red tie, and tie clip finished his games with machine like precision using all the tricks of his immense repertoire and only had a brief laugh after he won his first game. When he lost, he tipped his King over and extended his hand, without looking at his opponent and moved on to the next board. As time passed, the faster he rotated back to each game.

Bobby Fischer is not pathologically ambitious, but he is ill and that may be

the reason for his behavior.

Spain December 1970

The 1970 Palma de Mallorca Interzonal was one of Bobby Fischer's greatest victories and set the stage for his triumphant run for the World Championship. A short time after his crushing victory at Palma (18.5 – 4.5, 3.5 points ahead of the field), Bobby gave three simultaneous exhibitions in Spain.

Madrid, December 16, 1970

+18, -0, =2

Bobby faced 20 opponents in Madrid and didn't lose a single game. His encounter with Garcia Bachiller from the exhibition is very nicely played.

(27) Sicilian Paulsen B43

Fischer – Garcia Bachiller

Madrid (simul), December 16, 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6 5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Bd3 Nf6 7.O-O b5 8.Re1 Bb7

This is an uncommon move in an uncommon position (Black normally doesn't develop his king knight to f6 early when he plays a quick ...b5). The main try here has been 8...Bc5 (Larsen once tried 8...Bd6) 9.Be3 (9.Nb3 Bd6 10.g3 Bb7 11.Bxb5 h5 12.Bf1 h4 13.Bg2 hxg3 14.hxg3 Nc6 with murky compensation for the pawn, Ligterink-Piasetski, Karlovac 1977) 9...d6 10.Bxb5+ axb5 11.Ndxb5 Qc6 12.Bxc5 dxc5 13.e5 Ng8 14.Qd6 Qxd6 15.Nxd6+ Kd7 16.Nxf7 Ke7 17.Nxh8 Nh6 18.Re4 Bd7 19.Rc4 Na6 20.Rd1 Rxh8 and White has a slight advantage, Sibarevic-Miladinovic, Banja Vrucica 1991.

9.e5 Nd5 10.Nxd5 Bxd5 11.a4 b4 12.Be4 Bxe4

Black gets rook, bishop and pawn after 12...Qxe5 13.Nf3 Qxe4 14.Rxe4 Bxe4 but must be careful after 15.Qe2 and play 15...Bb7 and not 15...d5? which loses to 16.Ng5 Bf5 17.g4 Bg6 18.Nxe6 fxe6 19.Qxe6+.

13.Rxe4 Nc6 14.Bf4 Rc8 15.Rc1

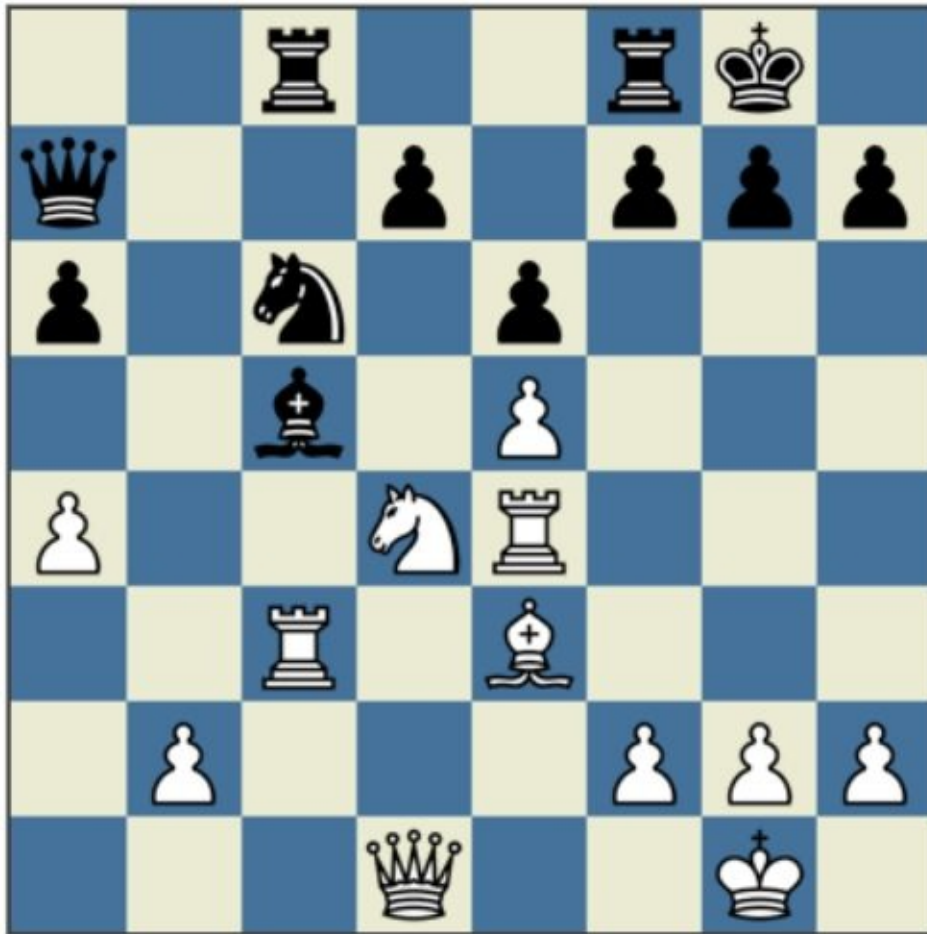
The dark side of an early ...b4 is that White often has the opportunity to open the position with c2-c3.

15...Qa7?

Black gets out of the way of c2-c3 but loses precious time. Much better was 15...Be7, meeting 16.c3 with 16...bxc3 17.Rxc3 O-O.

16.c3 bxc3 17.Rxc3 Bc5 18.Be3 O-O??

Black had to play 18...Bb6 but after 19.a5 Bxd4 20.Bxd4 White has a big advantage.



19.Rxc5 Qxc5 20.Nxe6 Qa5

Black can drag things out with 20...Qxe3 21.Rxe3 dxe6 but the end result will still be the same.

21.b4 Nxb4 22.Nxf8 Nd5 23.Nxd7 Nc3 24.Qg4 Rc6 25.Nf6+ Kh8 26.Qxg7!+

1-0

Bobby Fischer - su vida y partidas by Pablo Moran (Barcelona, 1971) pp. 221-222.

(28) Sicilian Najdorf B86

Fischer - Jose R Arrupe Diego de Somonte

Madrid (simul), December 16, 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Bd7 8.f4 Nc6 9.f5?!

This way of handling Bobby's favorite Sozin variation is not often seen, in fact the few times it has arisen have been from a curious move order favored by GM Kupreichik (1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Bd7). Practice has invariably seen White try 9.Be3 here, but 9.O-O might also be worth testing.



9...Nxd4?!

Arrupe misses 9...Nxe4! 10.fxe6 fxe6 11.Nxe6 Bxe6 12.Nxe4 Bxb3 13.axb3 Qh4+ 14.Ng3 with an equal position: 14...Qe7+ and neither 15.Ne2 Qh4+ or 15.Qe2 Qxe2+ trouble Black.

10.Qxd4 Be7 11.Bg5 0-0 12.0-0 Ng4?

This weakens d6 and misplaces the knight.

13.Bxe7 Qxe7 14.Rad1

The move Bobby plays is strong, but he also had a good alternative in 14.h3 when 14...Nf6 (14...Ne5 15.Rad1 clearly favors White) 15.Rad1 Ne8 16.e5 d5 17.f6 is crushing.

14...exf5 15.Qxd6 Qxd6 16.Rxd6 Bc6 17.Rxf5 Rae8 18.h3 Ne5 19.Nd5?

The immediate 19.Bd5 was more to the point.

19...Ng6 20.Nc3

Realizing that e4 is weak, Fischer corrects himself. However he might have had better in 20.e5 Nxe5 21.Nc7 or 20...Rxe5 21.Rxe5 Nxe5 22.Ne7+ Kh8 23.Nxc6 Nxc6 24.Rd7. In both cases White has a clear advantage.

20...Bxe4 21.Nxe4 Rxe4 22.Rb6

22.Rd7 Re7 23.Rfd5 is a little better for White with his more active rook and superior minor piece.

22...Re7 23.Bd5 Rb8 24.Rf3 Rc7 25.c4 Ne5 26.Rc3

26.Rfb3 Nxc4 27.Rxa6 Kf8 28.Ra7 Nd6 29.Kf2 is slightly better for White.

26...Nd7 27.Rd6 Kf8 28.b4 Nf6 29.Bf3

Now Black should activate his rook on b8 with 29...Re8. Instead it ends up being very passive which proves to be his downfall.

29...Re7? 30.c5 Ne4 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.Rb6 Ree8

32...Re2 33.c6 Rxa2 34.Rxb7 Rc8 35.Rd3 Re2 36.Rdd7 winning.

33.Rd3 Ke7 34.Re3+ Kd7 35.Rxe8 Kxe8 36.c6 Kd8 37.cxb7 a5 38.bxa5 Kc7 39.Kf2 Rxb7 40.Rxb7+ Kxb7 41.Ke3 Ka6 42.Kd4 Kxa5 43.Kc5 f5 44.Kd6 g5 45.Ke5 1-0

(29) English A24

Fischer – Edwin Halley Peinado

Madrid (simul) December 16, 1970

1.b3

Bobby used Larsen's opening to defeat Tukmakov at Buenos Aires, Andersson

in an exhibition game after Siegen and Mecking at Palma de Mallorca in 1970.

**1...e5 2.Bb2 d6 3.c4 Nf6 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 6.Nc3 0–0 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Nge2 Re8
9.d3 Nf8 10.0–0 c6 11.b4 Qc7 12.a4 Be6 13.Rc1 Qd7 14.Re1**

Bobby often went out of his way to save his bishops (..Re8 and ...Bh8 as Black and Re1 and Bh1 here).

14...Bh3 15.Bh1 d5 16.cxd5 cxd5 17.Nb5 Ne6?

Black overreacts to the threat of Nc7/Rc7. Instead of the text which drops a pawn, Black should have played 17...Re7 maintaining the balance.

18.Bxe5 Rec8 19.Rxc8+ Rxc8 20.Nxa7 Re8 21.Nb5 Ng5 22.Bf4

22.Bxf6 Bxf6 23.Qb3 Be6 24.Nf4+- is another good continuation for White.

22...Ne6 23.Nbc3 d4 . 24.Nxd4 Nxd4

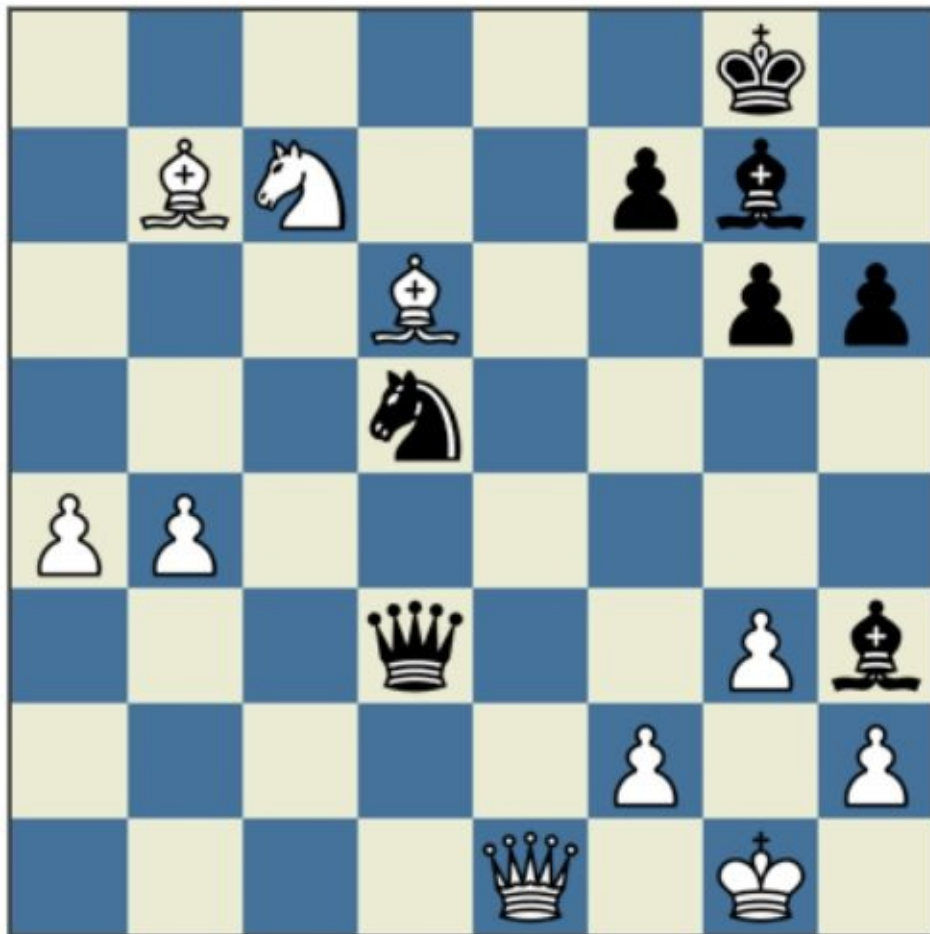
Black can try to complicate matters with 24...Nxf4 but after 25.gxf4 Nh5 26.Nce2 Bxd4 27.Nxd4 Nxf4 28.Bf3 White is still winning.

25.exd4 Rxe1+ 26.Qxe1 Qxd4 27.Nb5 Qxd3 28.Bxb7 Nd5 29.Bd6?

The right square, but the wrong piece! Correct is 29.Nd6 Bd7 30.Qd2 Qb1+ 31.Kg2 Nxb4 32.Nxf7+- Black's ...Nd5 is tricky (...Qf3 ideas) and Bobby overlooks threats to his king.

29...h6 30.Nc7?

White had to relieve the pressure on the backrank with 30.f4, but Black is already doing well. For example: 30.f4 Qf3 31.Bxd5 Qxd5 32.Kf2 Bd4+ 33.Nxd4 Qxd4+ 34.Qe3 Qxd6.



30...Bc3

30...Nc3 31.Bg2 Bxg2 32.Qe8+ Kh7 33.Kxg2 Qxd6 34.Qxf7 offers White chances to resist.

31.Qc1 Bb2?!

31...Bd2! is crushing. 32.Qa1 Nc3 33.Bc5 Ne2+ 34.Kh1 Bc3 wins the Queen which cannot abandon the backrank.

32.Qe1 Bc3 33.Qc1 Draw

Again 33...Bd2! was a winner.

Madrid, December 19, 1970

+19, -0, =1

We have no other information for this exhibition. Both events in Madrid were organized by the C.A. Schweppes company, the well-known purveyor of bottled beverages.

Seville, December 23, 1970

+19, -1, =0

This event was held at the Real Circulo de Labradores in Seville according to the newspaper *ABC*.

The following horror is a rare example of Bobby opening 1.d4.

(30) King's Indian E68

Fischer-Eugenio Gomez

Seville (simul), December 23, 1970

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 d6 4. g3 Bg7 5. Bg2 O-O 6. Nf3 Nbd7 7. O-O e5 8. e4 Ne8 9. Re1 c6 10. Be3 Qe7 11. Qd2 Nb6 12. b3 Bg4 13. h3??

This is a horrible blunder. White's position would have been preferable after 13.Rad1, 13.d5 or 13.dxe5.

13... Bxf3 14. Bxf3 Qf6 15.Qd1 exd4 16. e5 dxe5 17. Ne4 Qe7 18. Bg5 f6 19. Bc1 Nc7 20. a4 Ne6 21. a5 Nd7 22. a6 b6 23. Ba3 c5 24. Nd2 Rad8 25. Bd5 Kh8 26. Rb1 Nc7 27. Bb7 Nb8 28. b4 Ncxa6 29. Bxa6 Nxa6 30. bxc5 Nxc5 31. Rb5 Qc7 32. Bxc5 bxc5 33. Ne4 Qf7 34.Rxc5 f5 35. Nd2 e4 36. Qa4 Rfe8 37. Ra5 Re7 38. c5 e3 39. Nf3 f4 40. g4 d3 41.Qd1 Bc3 0-1 (*Jaque*, 3/1971, p. 17)

Argentina 1971

The 1971 tour Fischer made of Argentina was arguably his greatest. Although not as long as the one he gave in 1964 it was more intense with a tremendous amount of activity squeezed into roughly a month. It's true he played fewer boards (only 20 per exhibition), but the opposition was consistently stronger, consisting primarily of players 2000-2200 FIDE strength with some masters going up to 2400. We have already discussed in the introduction the high

opinion Bobby had of his play and can only add it is truly a pity he never wrote a book (even an article!) about it. If only he could have devoted some time to this instead of some of his post 1972 activities.

Frank Brady had this to add in the second edition of *Profile of a Prodigy* (p. 202)

He remained in Argentina for over two months, touring the provinces, enjoying the nightlife, and generally unwinding from the effort of the Candidates Matches. His friend Quinteros was often seen with him and Fischer lent him moral support while Quinteros played in the First Pan American Team Tournament in Tucumán. When Fischer arrived there, his very appearance caused as much excitement as the matches and accompanying Congress. He agreed to a simultaneous of twenty boards, winning seventeen, drawing one, and losing two.

A number of other simultaneous exhibitions were arranged for Fischer throughout Argentina at record-breaking fees (up to a record \$500 or more for each appearance) and he played hundreds of games against the South Americans. He caused a minor furor when he overslept before one appearance and appeared two hours late: most of the players had left in disgust, but he faced those that remained and they were delighted to get a crack at the famous norteamericano.



Fischer and Petrosian during their match.

We can only wonder what happened to these scoresheets and hope that a collector somewhere has them safely tucked away and will publish them some day. It is truly a pity that Fischer never found time to annotate some of his favorite games from this tour.

Reconstructing this tour is tricky because of the lack of information, and we are grateful to Eduardo Bauzá Mercére, Christian Sánchez and Luis Scalise for their help in tracking down reminiscences, results and games. What we can be certain of is that the Fischer-Petrosian match ran from September 30th to October 26th 1971, and the tour started on November 7 in Rosario . Also that Fischer had a really great time in Argentina with a special fondness for not only the world famous steaks and night life, but also the orange juice and the music of the Argentine Elvis, Sandro de America.

One report suggests Bobby felt so comfortable in Argentina that he suggested to the then Minister of Social Welfare, Francisco Manrique, who had organized the match with Petrosian and the tour, that he would stay in the country for food, lodging and a \$1,000 monthly stipend. Bobby never received a reply.

Thanks to the February 1972 (p. 53) issue of the Argentine magazine *Ajedrez: Revista Mensual* we know the cities Fischer gave simuls in. Unfortunately other details, like the dates and results, were not provided. Fischer remembers that he played 25-30 exhibitions, but the list in *Ajedrez: Revista Mensual* gives only 17.

Bobby's claim that he played between 600 and 1000 games is a bit puzzling if he is thinking of only the 1971 tour. All available evidence suggests he stuck to his new standard of no more than 20 games per exhibition. If this was the case he would have needed to play 30 exhibitions just to get to 600 games.

One possible explanation for the discrepancy could be that Fischer combined in his mind the exhibitions he gave in 1970 in Argentina with the 1971 tour. We have not been very successful in reconstructing his movements after his victory in Buenos Aires 1970, and have only confirmed two exhibitions, but would not be surprised to learn he gave several others.

Rosario, November 7, 1971

+15, -1, =4

Bobby Fischer's simultaneous exhibition took place at the Rosario Stock Exchange (Bolsa de Comercio), on Sunday, November 7th, 1971, at 8 P.M.

The event was promoted by the National Social Welfare Ministry (Ministerio de Bienestar Social de la Nación), and organized by the Rosario Chess Association (Asociación Rosarina de Ajedrez), with the help of the Rosario Municipality (Municipalidad de Rosario). It was the first in the Argentinean tour.

At 8.30 P.M. Fischer arrived, accompanied by Herman Pilnik, and shook hands with his 20 opponents. Then, accompanied by Juan Horacio Puñet, president of the Rosario Chess Association met the Mayor, Dr. Pablo Benetti Apro시오.

The local champion, Carlos Sumiacher, gave a speech, thanking the support of Francisco Manrique (Minister of Social Welfare), Cilley Hernández (Undersecretary of Sports), Carlos Guimard (President of the Argentina Chess Federation and General Secretary of the Pan-American Chess Federation), and Pablo Benetti Apro시오.

After the Mayor made his speech, the display began, but just before the start Fischer asked for 20 carbon scoresheets. (Authors - This is solid evidence that Fischer collected the game scores.)

In a crowded venue, with people watching from the street, Fischer began, pushing his e pawn against Ricardo Garrido.

The exhibition lasted 3 hours 40 minutes. The first round took 40 seconds; the second through the fifth, 2 minutes each; the tenth round, 4 minutes 15 seconds. The first 20 moves took 1 hour.

The final score was +15, -1, =4. Fischer lost to Hugo Ferraro and drew with José Zgarbik, José Steinberg, Néstor Pérez Cascella and Hugo Lujambio.

He won against Ricardo Garrido, Mariano Morales, Pedro Ronda, Ada Vaschetti, Antonio Mambrin, Carlos Sumiacher, Néstor Grillo, Emilio Desinano, Eusebio Mendoza, Jorge Haddad, Rafael Candia, Félix Magliaro, Raimundo Sabao, Arturo Lujambio and Agustín Palacios.

All the participants were first category players.

The source for this information is the local newspaper *La Capital* (6, 8, 9 November 1971).



Bobby Fischer (sitting 5th from left) and his opponents in Rosario. (Photo credit Néstor Grillo)

(31) French Winawer C18

Robert Fischer – Arturo Lujambio

Rosario (simul) November 7, 1971

1.e4 e6

The French is not as popular a way to answer 1.e4 as the Sicilian and 1...e5, but it is still a tough nut to crack. Larry Kaufman in his new book, *The Kaufman Repertoire for Black and White*, which relies heavily on computer analysis, chooses 1.d4 in part because he feels the closed positions often reached after 1.e4 e6 are one of the few areas where the silicon oracles have yet to show their dominance over humans. Computers are not the only ones to have difficulty with the French; Bobby did as well throughout his career, particularly against the Winawer.

2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4

The Winawer, leading to sharp and complicated struggles, was an excellent practical choice for those wanting to beat Bobby in a simul. He lost at least

three times against it in his 1964 tour of the United States.

4.e5 c5 5.a3 Ba5 6.b4 cxd4 7.Qg4 Ne7

Invariably played, but there has been some Grandmaster testing of the alternative 7...Kf8 which appears to be playable:

8.bxa5 dxc3 9.a4 f5 10.Qg3 Nc6 11.Nf3 Nge7 12.h4 Bd7 13.h5 Rc8 14.h6 g6 15.a6 Nb4 16.Qh4 Nec6? (16...Nxc2+ 17.Kd1 g5 18.Qxg5 Rg8 19.Qf6+ Ke8 20.Kxc2 Qb6) 17.Ba3 d4 18.axb7 Rb8 19.Bb5 (19.Qxd8+ Rxd8 20.Nxd4 was crushing) 19...Qxh4?? (19...Kf7) 20.Rxh4 Ke8 21.Bxc6?? (21.Bxb4 Nxb4 22.Bxd7+ Kxd7 23.Rxd4+ Nd5 24.Rb1 winning) 21...Nxc2+ 22.Kd1 Nxa1 23.Bd6 Bxc6 24.Bxb8 Bxa4+ 25.Ke1 Bc6 26.Nxd4 Bxb7 27.Bd6 Kd7 28.f3?? (28.Ne2) 28...Rc8 and Black went on to win in Fischer-Platz, Hartford (simul) 1964.

8.Nb5

Fischer's one and only tournament game against 5...Ba5 occurred in the epic encounter Fischer-Tal at the Leipzig Olympiad in 1960: 8.bxa5 dxc3 9.Qxg7 Rg8 10.Qxh7 Nbc6 11.Nf3 Qc7 12.Bb5 Bd7 13.0-0 0-0-0 14.Bg5 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Bxb5 16.Nxf7 Bxf1 17.Nxd8 Rxc7 18.Nxe6 Rxc2+ 19.Kh1 Qe5 20.Rxf1 Qxe6 21.Kxg2 Qg4+ ½-½.

Both players calculated the variations after 14.Bg5 perfectly. Today 12.Bf4 (instead of 12.Bb5) is considered a sterner test for Black.

8...Bc7 9.Qxg7 Rg8 10.Qxh7 Bxe5

10...a6 is much more commonly played and was always the choice of the great champion of the 5...Ba5 Winawer, Rafael Vaganian. The text has a bad reputation that may not be entirely deserved. It certainly leads to tricky non-thematic play, the bane of the simul giver who normally prefers to rely on superior technique.

11.Nf3 Rh8 12.Qd3 Bf6 13.Bf4 Nbc6

"Fischer was surprised by this move but replied quickly." (Lujambio)
Critical for the rehabilitation of this line is: 13...Ng6 which was recently used

to good effect by the young American star Ray Robson:

14.Nc7+ Kf8 15.Bg3 e5 16.Nxa8 e4 17.Qb3 exf3 18.0–0–0 Nc6 19.Nc7 (19.b5 Nce5 20.b6 rescuing the knight may be stronger) 19...Nge5 20.Nb5 d3 21.gxf3?! (21.cxd3) 21...a6 22.f4 Nc4 23.cxd3 Nb6 24.Nc3 Nd4 25.Qb2 Bf5 26.Bg2?? (26.b5 Nxb5 27.d4) 26...Nb5 0–1 M.Pavlovic-Robson, Richardson 2012.

14.Nc7+ Kf8 15.Nxa8 e5 16.Bg3?

This is too quiet to meet the demands of the position. Instead White had two strong alternatives in 16.Bg5! e4 17.Qd2 and 16.b5! exf4 17.bxc6 bxc6 (17...Nxc6 18.Rb1 Bg4 19.Be2 Qxa8 is relatively better for Black but after 20.0–0 its clear there is not sufficient compensation for the exchange) 18.Rb1 Bf5 19.Qd2 1-0, Kots-A. Khasin, Leningrad 1952(!).

16...Bf5?!

This is an unnecessary finesse as the straightforward 16...e4 lead to good play for Black. With the text Lujambio aims to capture both knights, but there was no hurry - c7 is not a safer square than a8 for the queen knight. The following variation illustrates this. 17. Qd2 exf3 18.Nc7 Nf5

17.Qe2?

It wasn't necessary to put the queen on e2 to attack the e5 pawn as 17.Qd2 Qxa8 could be met by (17...a6 is better) 18.b5.

17...e4 18.b5??

Fischer blunders in a complicated position. Understandably neither player had the opportunity to delve fully into the position with the time constraints imposed by the simul format. Relatively best was 18.Rc1 exf3 19.Qxf3 Ne5 with a slight edge for Black according to Houdini.

18...e3??

18...exf3 19.Qxf3 (19.Qd2 Ne5 is not much of an improvement for White) 19...Qa5+ 20.Kd1 Bg5 21.Bf4 Ne5 22.Qg3 Bxc2+ 23.Kxc2 d3+ was winning.

19.fxe3 dxe3

19...d3 20.cxd3 Bxa1 21.bxc6 Qxa8 22.c7 - Black has won his exchange back but his position is in ruins. Something similar happens in the game.

20.Qxe3 Bxa1 21.bxc6 Qxa8 22.Bd6

22.c7 and 22.c3!, intending to trap the bishop with Qc1, were possibly more precise but the text should get the job done as well.

22...Qd8 23.Bb4

23.Bxe7+ Qxe7 24.Qxe7+ Kxe7 25.cxb7 Kd6 leaves White several pawns up in the ending but Black's pieces are very active. 23.Qf4! bxc6 24.Kd2 Bg7 (24...Bg6 25.Ng5 Ke8 26.Bd3) 25.Bxe7+ Qxe7 26.Qxf5 Bh6+ 27.Kd1 was another route to victory.

23...bxc6 24.Bd3 Be6

24...Bxd3 25.cxd3 Bf6 26.Qxa7 Kg7 was the only chance to continue the fight but Black's position is not pretty.

25.0-0 Bf6 26.Ng5 Bxg5 27.Qxe6 Qe8 28.Bg6 Rh7 29.Bxh7 Kg7 30.Bc3+ 1-0

Despite a few mistakes this was a great fight and makes one take to heart Fischer's remark that he played lots of interesting chess during his tour of Argentina.

Torneo *4-11-71*

Partida jugada el *7-11-71* de 19*71*

Blancas Sr. *Robert Fischer*

Negras Sr. *Arturo Grillo*

Apertura

No.	BLANCAS	NEGRAS	No.	BLANCAS	NEGRAS
1	P4R	P3R	21	PxC	DxC
2	P4D	P4D	22	A6D	D1D
3	C3A3	A5C	23	A4C	PxP
4	P5R	P4A3	24	A5D	A3R
5	P3TD	A4T	25	O-O	A3A
6	P4CD	PxPD	26	C5C	AxC
7	DxC	C2R	27	DxA3	D1R
8	C5C	A2A	28	A6C	T2T
9	DxPC	T1C	29	AxT	R2C
10	DxPT	AxP	30	A3A+	Aband.
11	C3A	T1T	31		
12	D3D	A3A	32		
13	AxA	C3A	33		
14	C7A+	R1A	34		
15	CxT	P4R	35		
16	A3C	A4A	36		
17	D2R	P5R	37		
18	P5C	P6R	38		
19	PxP	PxD	39		
20	DxP	AxT	40		



Fischer and Grillo in action. (Photo credit Néstor Grillo)

(32) Sicilian Najdorf B86

Fischer – Néstor Grillo

Rosario (simul) November 7, 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 Be7 8.f4

8.0–0 and 8.Be3 are more commonly seen here.

8...Qc7 9.f5

9.0–0 is the chief alternative.

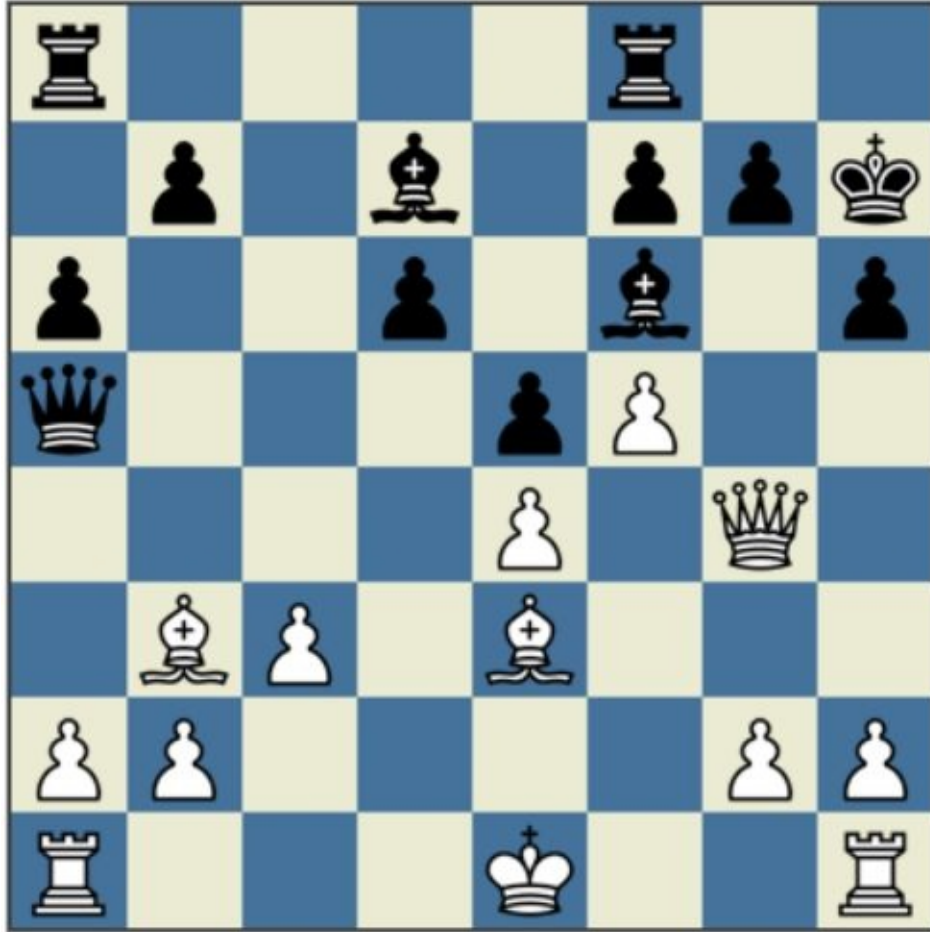
9...e5 10.Nde2 h6?!

The prevention - stopping 11.Bg5 - is worse than the cure. 10...Nbd7 11.Bg5 0–0 is quite playable.

11.Ng3 Nbd7 12.Nh5 0–0 13.Nd5 Qd8 14.Ndxf6+ Nxf6 15.Nxf6+ Bxf6 16.Qg4 Kh7 17.Be3 Qa5+ 18.c3 Bd7 19.0–0–0

19.Bxh6 gxh6 20.Bxf7 is initially quite interesting, but after 20...Kh8 21.Qg6 Bg5 22.h4 Qa4! the game fizzles out to a draw: 23.hxg5 Qxe4+ 24.Kd2 Qf4+ 25.Kd1 Qg4+ 26.Ke1 Qg3+ 27.Kf1 Qf4+ 28.Kg1 Qe3+.

Bobby will have a chance to execute a similar combination under better circumstances in a few moves.



19...Rac8?

19...Ba4 trying to exchange off the powerful bishop makes sense but after 20.Rd5 b5 21.Bxa4 Qxa4 22.Kb1 White still retains some advantage due to his play against the d6 pawn and grip on the d5 square.

20.Kb1

20.Rxd6? Rxc3+ 21.bxc3 Qa3+.

The immediate 20.Bxh6 gxh6 21.Bxf7 was possible, but the text is much stronger as there is no satisfactory answer to the twin threats of 21.Rxd6 and 21.Bxh6.

20...Qc7

20...Ba4 is too late as 21.Rd5 b5 22.Rxd6 wins a pawn for nothing.

21.Rd2

21.Bxh6! gxh6 22.Bxf7 Rg8 23.Bxg8+ Rxc8 24.Qf3 was very strong as Black has no good answer to the advance of White's kingside pawns. For example: 24...Bc6 25.g4 b5 26.h4 Qb7 27.Rde1 d5 28.g5! winning.

21...Bc6 22.Bd5 b5 23.Rhd1 Rfd8 24.Qe2 Qe7 25.Bxc6 Rxc6 26.Rd5 Bg5

26...Qc7, with the idea of ...Rc4 and ...b4, was a way to generate counterplay before White gets his kingside pawns running.

27.Bf2 b4 28.c4

28.cxb4 Rdc8 29.Be3 Bxe3 30.Qxe3 Rc2 31.R5d2 (31.Rxd6 Rxc6) 31...Qc7 32.a3 Qc4 offers Black a certain amount of counterplay for the pawn. The text, keeping things under control, is a logical choice for the simul giver.

28...a5? 29.c5

There was nothing wrong with 29.Rxa5 but Bobby continues with his plan which is also quite strong.

29...Qc7

Black staves off the loss of material, but the pin on the d-file is annoying and the threat of g4-g5 is in the air.

30.h4 Be7 31.Qd3 Rc8 32.Be3

The immediate 32.g4, with g5 soon to follow, was also possible. For example: 32...dxc5 33.Rd7 Rd6 34.Rxd6 c4 35.Bb6! Qb8 36.Qd5 Bxd6 37.Qxd6 Qb7 38.g5!

32...Bf8?

There were likely few remaining players in the exhibition at this point which would have required Grillo to play very quickly here. If he had more time he

might have found 32...dxc5. Then 33.Rd7 looks very strong, but Black has a hidden resource in 33...Rd6. After 34.Rxd6 c4 35.Bb6 (35.Qd5 c3!) 35...Qb8 36.Qd5 Bxd6 37.Qxd6 Qb7 White is better but the second player is very much in the fight.

33.cxd6 Qd8 34.d7 R8c7 35.Qb5 Be7 36.g3 Bf6 37.Qxa5 b3 38.axb3 g5 39.fxg6+ fxg6 40.b4 Bxh4 41.gxh4 and **1-0** in 43 moves.

Source: <http://www.ara.org.ar/chs/ajedrez/perlas/index.html#PA38>

Torneo *MATCH SIMULTANEA*

Partida jugada el *7-12* de 19*72*

Blancas Sr. *Robert Fischer (EEUU)*

Negras Sr. *Nesto Quillo*

Apertura

	BLANCAS	NEGRAS	No.	BLANCAS	NEGRAS
1	<i>P4R</i>	<i>P4AD</i>	21	<i>T2D</i>	<i>A3A</i>
2	<i>C3AR</i>	<i>P3D</i>	22	<i>ASD</i>	<i>P4CD</i>
3	<i>P4D</i>	<i>PXP</i>	23	<i>T(4)1D</i>	<i>TR1D</i>
4	<i>EXP</i>	<i>C3AR</i>	24	<i>D2R</i>	<i>D2R</i>
5	<i>C3AD</i>	<i>P3TD</i>	25	<i>AXA</i>	<i>TXA</i>
6	<i>A4AD</i>	<i>P3R</i>	26	<i>T5D</i>	<i>A4C</i>
7	<i>A3C</i>	<i>A2R</i>	27	<i>A2A</i>	<i>P5C</i>
8	<i>P4A</i>	<i>D2A</i>	28	<i>P4A</i>	<i>P4TD</i>
9	<i>P5A</i>	<i>P4R</i>	29	<i>P5A</i>	<i>D2A</i>
10	<i>C(4)2A</i>	<i>P3T</i>	30	<i>P4TR</i>	<i>A2R</i>
11	<i>C3C</i>	<i>CD2D</i>	31	<i>D3D</i>	<i>T1AD</i>
12	<i>C5T</i>	<i>O-O</i>	32	<i>A3R</i>	<i>A1R</i>
13	<i>C5D</i>	<i>D1D</i>	33	<i>PXP</i>	<i>D1D</i>
14	<i>C(0)xc</i>	<i>CXC</i>	34	<i>P7D</i>	<i>T(4)2A</i>
15	<i>CXC</i>	<i>AXC</i>	35	<i>D5C</i>	<i>A2R</i>
16	<i>D4C</i>	<i>R2T</i>	36	<i>P3CR</i>	<i>A3A</i>
17	<i>A3R</i>	<i>D4TT</i>	37	<i>DXPT</i>	<i>P6C</i>
18	<i>P3A</i>	<i>A2D</i>	38	<i>PXP</i>	<i>P4C</i>
19	<i>O-O</i>	<i>T1A</i>	39	<i>PxPap.</i>	<i>PXP</i>
20	<i>R1C</i>	<i>D2A</i>	40	<i>P4CD</i>	<i>AXPT</i>



Ada Beatriz Vaschetti

(33) Caro-Kann B11

Fischer – Ada Beatriz Vaschetti

Rosario (simul) November 7, 1971

Ada Vaschetti (1948–1989), not to be confused with the Italian actress of the same name, represented Argentina in two Women's Chess Olympiads (1984 and 1986).

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Nf3

The Two Knight's variation, Fischer's favorite way to meet the Caro-Kann from 1957-59. He switched over to the main line (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3) after his poor results with it against Soviet players at the 1959 Candidate's tournament (two losses and two draws), but his overall result with it at Bled/Portoroz was not horrible as he did beat Benko and Olafsson with it.

During the 1964 simul tour across the United States Bobby alternated between the Two Knights variation and 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Nc5 when meeting the Caro-Kann.

3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5?

This only looks like the main-line Caro-Kann (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5). White's substituting Nf3 for d4 makes a big difference.

5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Ne5

This position is not to be confused with the modern main line Caro-Kann treatment (1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3), and now, instead of the formerly obligatory 7...Nd7, Black is playing 7...Nf6 and 7...e6 to lure the White knight to e5 and then challenge it with ...Nd7 or ...c5 and ...Nc6. The treatment is considered respectable enough that Carlsen used 7...e6 in game two of his 2013 World Championship match with Anand.

7...Bh7

This however is just bad for Black.

8.Qh5 g6 9.Bc4

Pretty and the most commonly played move here, but 9.Qf3 is actually stronger. 9...Nf6 (9...f6 10.Bc4 e6 11.Qg4! fxe5 12.Qxe6+ Ne7 (or 12...Be7 13.Ne4) 13.Ne4 and in both cases the threat of Qf7+ followed Qg7 leaves Black without a satisfactory defense.) 10.Qb3 wins material on the spot. Black's best practical try is 10...Qd5 11.Qxb7 Qxe5+ 12.Be2 e6 hoping for some swindling chances after 13.Qxa8 Qc7, but 13.d4! makes it clear that White is winning.

9...e6 10.Qe2 Ne7?

10...Qd6 had to be played but after 11.d4 White would have a sizeable advantage. The rest is a massacre.

11.Nxf7 Kxf7 12.Qxe6+ Ke8 13.Ne4 Qc7 14.Nd6+ Kd8 15.Nf7+ Ke8 16.Nxh8 Bg8 17.Nf7 Nd7 18.d3 Nc5 19.Qe5 Qxe5+ 20.Nxe5 Bxc4 21.Nxc4 Kd7 22.Be3 Ne6 23.0-0-0 b6 24.g4 Bg7 25.f4 Rf8 26.Rdf1 c5 27.h5 gxh5 28.Rxh5 Nd4 29.Bxd4 cxd4 30.f5 Nd5 31.Rfh1 Rf6 32.Nd2 Nf4 33.R5h2 Nd5 34.Ne4 Rc6 35.g5 Be5 36.Rxh6 Bf4+ 37.Kb1 Rxh6 38.gxh6 1-0

(34) Center Counter B00

Fischer – Pedro Straniero

Mendoza (simul), November 24, 1971

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.Bb5+ c6?

3...Bd7 4.Bc4 Bg4 5.f3 Bf5 6.g4 Bc8 7.Nc3 Nbd7 8.g5 Nb6 9.Bb5+ Nfd7 10.f4 (10.d4 Nxd5 11.Nxd5 c6 12.Bf4 cxd5 13.Qe2 offers White a small pull.) 10...Nxd5 11.Nxd5 c6 12.Bc4 cxd5 13.Bxd5 Fischer-Bergraser, Monaco 1967. Now instead of 13...Ne5?! Black could have played 13...e5 intending ...Be7 and ...0-0 with reasonable compensation for the pawn.

If Black wants to vary from 3...Bf5 then 3...Nbd7, which has been played by Grandmaster Rozentalis a couple of times, is worth trying.

4.dxc6 bxc6 5.Bc4 e5 6.Nc3 Bc5 7.d3 h6?!

It's not a good sign when the gambiteer has to take time out for moves like this. On the other hand Black is going to get all his pieces out and the position on the board is far from standard. This is always a good idea in a simul where the exhibitor counts on routine and technique to guide him.



8.Nf3 Nbd7 9.0-0 0-0 10.Ne4 Bb6 11.Nxf6+ Qxf6 12.Be3 Bc7 13.Nd2 Nb6 14.Bb3 Kh8 15.Qh5 Bf5 16.Ne4 Qg6 17.Qxg6 Bxg6 18.Bc5 Rfd8 19.a4 a5 20.Rae1 Nd5 21.Nd2 f6 22.Nc4 Rab8

All of a sudden Black has play for the pawn. The threat to take on d3 is annoying.

23.Ba2 Nb4

One can imagine this is just the sort of position that Fischer had in mind when he said the Argentinian amateurs didn't know theory, but once they got out of the opening they were hard fighters.

24.Bb1 Rd5?

24...Bf7 leaves White with the burden of finding a plan to untangle his pieces. Note that if he tries to follow his plan in the game with 25.Be3 Black has 25...e4.

25.Be3 Rbd8 26.f4! e4 27.d4?

27.dxe4 Bxe4 28.Bb6! won on the spot.

27...Bf7 28.c3 R5d7

Black could also have considered the immediate 28...Nd3 29.Bxd3 exd3 and if White tries to win the d-pawn Black gets a lot of counterplay. For example 30.Rd1 R5d7 31.Nd2 Rb8 32.b3 Re7 33.Rfe1 Bh5 34.Rb1 Rbe8 35.Kf2 g5 and Black is very active.

29.Nd2 Nd3

Still quite good.

30.Nxe4?

30.Bxd3 exd3 31.Ne4 was objectively better but Bobby wants more.

30...Nxe1 31.Rxe1

White has two pawns (plus the bishop pair), for the exchange but the problem is a nasty pin on the e-file.

31...Bb6?

31...Re7 32.Kf2 Rde8 wins material after 33.Bd2 (33.Nc5? Bxf4 is even worse.) 33...Bd5 34.Nc5 Rxe1 35.Bxe1 Bxf4.

32.Kf2 Bb3 33.g4

Bobby opts for active defense with an attack!

33...Bxa4 34.h4 Ba7 35.g5 hxg5 36.hxg5 f5??

Not a bad idea but the wrong move-order. He had to insert 36...Rb8 and then after 37.Bc1 f5 38.Ba2 he would have 38...Bb3.

37.Ba2

This should win.

37...Kh7 38.g6+?

38.Rh1+ Kg6 39.Nd2 followed by Nf3-e5 or Nf3-h4 was much more convincing.

38...Kxg6 39.Rg1+ Kh6 40.Ng5?

40.Be6 g6 41.Bxd7 Rxd7 42.Ng5 with excellent winning chances for White.

40...Rf8 41.Nf3

41.Rh1+ Kg6 42.Rg1 Kh6 43.Rh1+ is a draw.

41...g6 42.Ng5 Rd5??

Black had to return the exchange: 42...Re7 43.Ne6 Rxe6 44.Bxe6 Re8 45.Bf7 (45.Ra1 Rxe6 46.Rxa4 Bb6 and Black should be able to hold.) 45...Rf8 46.Bxg6 (46.Rxg6+? Kh7) 46...Bc2 and although White is pawn up the awkward position of the bishop on g6 makes the win problematic.

43.Ne6 1-0

Paraná, November 8, 1971

22 (+22,-0, =0)

We were unable to find any games from this exhibition, but did find a list of everyone who played. They were:

Ángel Alzugaray, Pedro Badano, Alberto Burruchaga Ricardo Cáceres, Mario Cairó, Luis Castañeda, Carmelo Castillo, José María Gangli, Amalio García, Fermín Garay, Wildo Giorgio, Guillermo Giraudón, Mario Godoy, Oscar Katz, Jorge La Rosa, Roble Martínez Miguel Oliva, Miguel Reca, Guillermo Retamar Darío Rossi, Darío Valentín Rossi and Guillermo Seri.

The last to give up, in 60 moves, was Castañeda. Bobby behaved very amiably, letting pictures be taken and signing autographs for everyone who asked.

Tucumán, November 9, 1971

+17, -2, =1



Fischer in action against José Rubinstein. (Photo from *La Gaceta*)

Bobby scored 17 wins, 2 losses (José Rubinstein and Iván Rodríguez) and one draw (José Pereyra) in this exhibition held at the Caja Popular de Ahorros. Bobby's fee was 600 dollars!

The score and location of the following game were provided to Carlos Almarza-Mato by José Rubinstein's brother who was a correspondence player. Mr. Almarza-Mato writes that José Rubinstein was a strong master and a close friend of Miguel Najdorf.

José Rubinstein (born 1940) took 6th place in the 1961 Argentine championship in a 17-player field and was 5th at Mar del Plata 1962. These results indicate he was a promising young player at a time when Argentina was a chess powerhouse. He doesn't have appeared to have an active career as a player which might be partly explained by the fact that Tucumán, located in northwestern Argentina, is close to 800 miles away from the capital city (and chess center) of Buenos Aires.

(35) Sicilian Najdorf B89

Fischer – José Rubinstein

Tucumán (simul) November 9, 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 Nc6 6.Bc4

Fischer is known to have had troubles with the Winawer French at one stage of

a career. The Classical Sicilian (2...d6, 4...Nf6, 5...Nc6) is another line that gave him difficulties, ones that he never completely solved. Spassky drew all three games he played it against Bobby in their 1972 match (Sozin 6.Bc4 with short castles in game four and Richter-Rauzer's in games 18 and 20).

6...e6 7.Bb3

7.Be3 Be7 8.Qe2 a6 9.0-0-0 Qc7 10.Bb3 Bd7 11.g4 Nxd4 12.Bxd4 e5 13.g5 exd4 14.gxf6 dxc3 15.fxe7 cxb2+ 16.Kb1 Kxe7 17.Qh5 g6 (17...Be6 and Black would have been okay in this one on one exhibition game.) 18.Qh4+ and White in another ten moves in Fischer-Pascual, Davoa 1967.

7...Be7 8.Be3 0-0 9.Qe2 a6

9...Qa5 10.0-0-0 Nxd4 11.Bxd4 Bd7 12.Kb1 Bc6 (12...Rad8 13.Qe3 b6 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Nd5! Rfe8 16.Nxe7+ Rxe7 17.Rxd6 Rc8 18.Qd4 Be8 19.Qxf6 1-0 Fischer-Sofrevski, Skopje 1967.) 13.f4 Rad8 14.Rhf1 b5 15.f5 b4 16.fxe6 bxc3 17.exf7+ Kh8 18.Rf5? (18.Qc4) 18...Qb4 19.Qf1 Nxe4 20.a3 Qb7 21.Qf4 Ba4 22.Qg4 Bf6 23.Rxf6 Bxb3 0-1 Fischer-Geller, Skopje 1967.

10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.g4 Nd7 12.Rhg1

12.h4 (too slow) 12...Nc5 13.g5 b5 14.f3 Bd7 15.Qg2 b4 16.Nce2 Nxb3+ 17.axb3 a5 18.g6 fxg6 19.h5 Nxd4 20.Nxd4 g5 21.Bxg5 Bxg5+ 22.Qxg5 h6 23.Qg4 Rf7 24.Rhg1 a4 25.bxa4 e5 26.Ne6 Qc4 27.b3 Qxe6 28.Qxe6 Bxe6 29.Rxd6 Re8 30.Rb6 Rxf3 31.Rxb4 Rc8 32.Kb2 Rf2 33.Rc1 Bf7 34.a5 Ra8 35.Rb5 Bxh5 36.Rxe5 Be2 37.Rc5 h5 38.e5 Bf3 39.Kc3 h4 40.Kd3 Re2 41.Rf1 Rd8+ 42.Kc3 Be4 43.Kb4 Rb8+ 44.Ka3 h3 45.e6 Bxc2 46.b4 Re3+ 47.Kb2 Bd3 48.Ra1 Ba6 49.Rc6 Rxb4+ 50.Kc2 Bb7 51.Rc3 Re2+ 52.Kd1 Rg2 0-1 Fischer-Larsen, Palma de Mallorca (Interzonal) 1970.

12.g5 and 12.Nf5 are two important alternatives to the text.

12...Nc5 13.g5 b5 14.Qh5

14.Rg3 was once tried by Anand in this position (against Yermolinsky in 1999).

14...b4 15.Nce2 Nxb3+ 16.axb3 Nxd4 17.Nxd4 g6!

17...Bb7 18.Rg4 is White's idea..

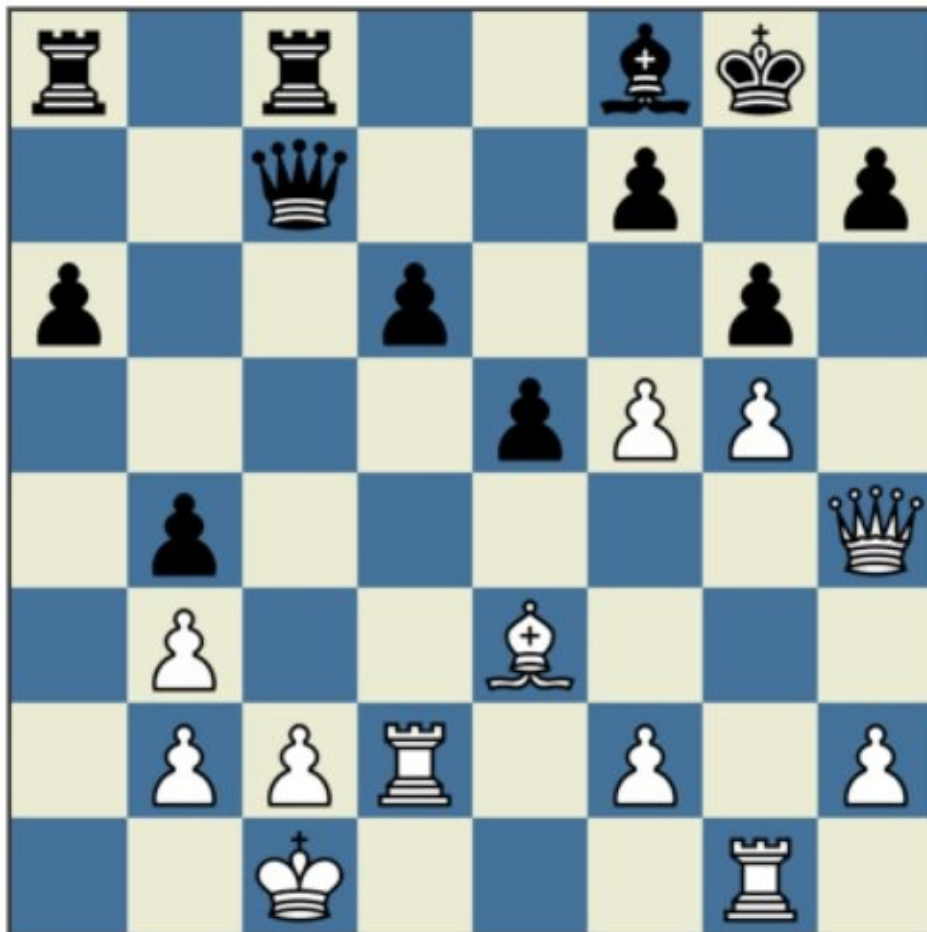
18.Qh6 e5!

18...Re8 with ideas of ...Bf8-g7 was another way of handling the position, but Rubinstein's treatment works just fine.

19.Nf5 Bxf5 20.exf5 Rfc8 21.Rd2 Bf8

21...d5 was also quite strong.

22.Qh4



22...gxf5

The immediate 22...a5! intending ...a4 looks even stronger. This thematic counterattack is extremely powerful. One sample line might continue 23.Rg3 a4 24.Rh3 h5 25.gxh6 axb3 with a winning attack.

23.f4?

23.Rg3! (the only chance to offer resistance) 23...f4 24.Rh3 Bg7 25.Qxh7+ Kf8 26.g6 f6! (26...fxe3 27.fxe3 is less clear) followed by ...a5-a4.

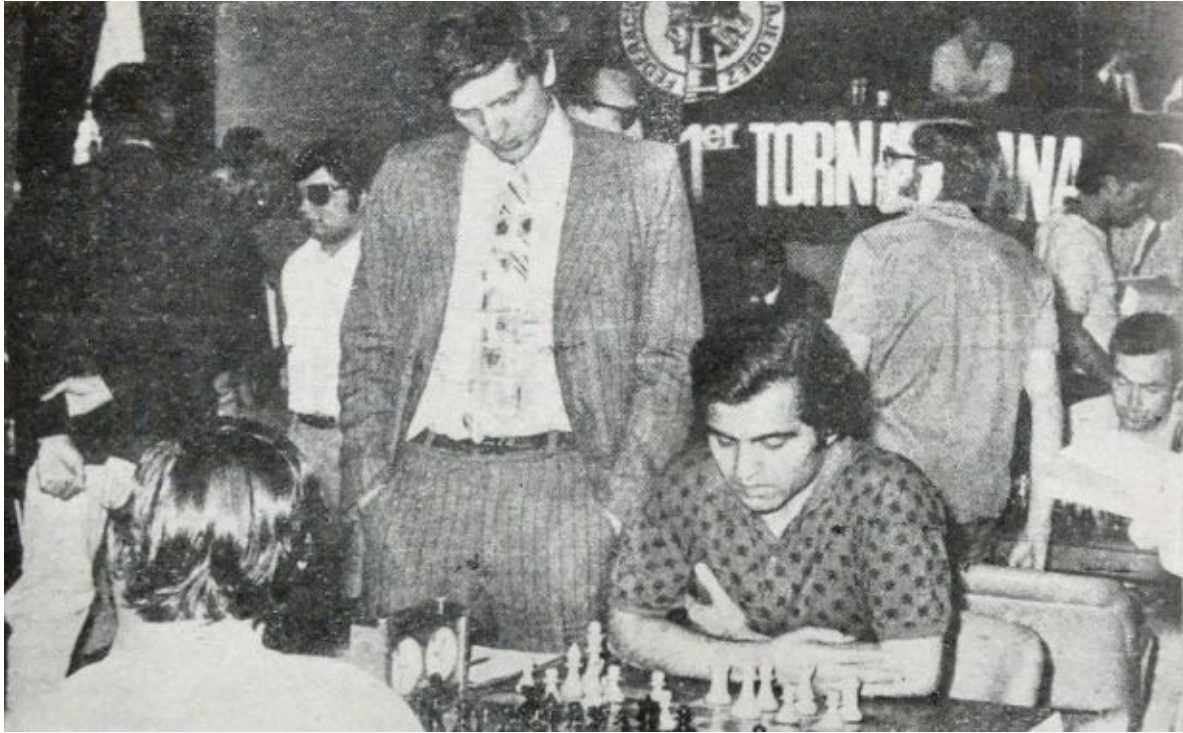
23...a5! 24.Rg3 a4 25.Rh3 Bg7 26.Kd1 axb3 27.cxb3 Ra1+ 28.Ke2 Qc1 29.Qf2 e4! 30.Rh6 Rc2 0–1

A very nicely played game by Rubinstein.



Spectators are more interested in Bobby than the games being played in the 1st Pan American Team Championship. (Photo from *La Gaceta*)

Bobby stayed in Tucumán for several days with the first the busiest and the rest spent relaxing. He created a commotion while spectating at the last round of the 1st Pan American Team Championship where he provided moral support for his friend Miguel Quinteros who scored 7/7 on board four to help lead the Argentineans (1.Najdorf 2.Panno 3.Sanguinetti) to an easy victory.



Bobby in Tucumán, observing the game Quinteros-Ferreira in the last round of the Pan American team championship. Quinteros is pondering his 11th move.

(35A) Catalan E02

Miguel Quinteros–Oscar Ferreira

Tucumán 1971

1. Nf3 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 d5 4. Bg2 dxc4 5. Qa4+ Nbd7 6. Qxc4 a6 7. Qc2 c5

8.

O-O Be7 9. d4 O-O 10. Rd1 Qc7 11. Bf4 Bd6 12. Bxd6 Qxd6 13. Nc3 Qe7 14. d5 exd5 15. Nxd5 Qe4 16. Qxe4 Nxe4 17. Ne7+ 1-0

Source: *Ajedrez*, January 1972, p. 26.



Bobby studies the position reached after 9...h6 in the game Panno-Ingolotti.

Oscar Panno is one of the strongest players South America has ever produced. The World Junior Champion in 1953 and a GM at age 20 after qualifying for

the Candidates; Panno was never a professional player.

(35B) QGD Tarrasch D34

Oscar Panno – Julio Ingolotti

Tucumán 1971

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 c5 3.g3 Nc6 4.Bg2 e6 5.Nf3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.d4 Be7 8.0–0 0–0 9.Bg5 h6?! 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.dxc5 Bxc3 12.bxc3 Be6 13.Nd4 Qa5 14.Qb3 Qxc5 15.e4 Na5 16.Qb4! Rac8 17.Nxe6 fxe6 18.Bh3 Rfe8 19.exd5 Qxd5 20.Rad1 Qh5 21.Bg4 Qc5 22.Rfe1

Note: Mega Database 2012 incorrectly gives White's 22nd move as 22.Rde1 which leads to much different play.

22...Qxc3 23.Bxe6+ Kh8 24.a3 Rc7 25.Bf5 1-0



Bobby Fischer at the 1971 Pan American tournament, Buenos Aires – November 14, 1971.



Bobby Fischer signing autographs in Tucumán.

Buenos Aires, November 14, 1971

+14, -0, =3

Bobby stayed in Argentina after defeating Petrosian and gave a simul in Buenos Aires on November 14th. This was the strongest and most unusual of Fischer's exhibitions on this tour.

International Master Jorge Szmetan writes:

Fischer's exhibition in Buenos Aires was a curious simultaneous. It took place in an event hall of the San Martin Theatre in downtown Buenos Aires, the same place where the Najdorf Tournament is held every year. In principle, Fischer was to compete with 12 to 15 players, with clocks. On arriving, Fischer changed his mind and said he wanted to play without clocks. So then it was a simultaneous, on very few boards, with the big disadvantage that Fischer came back rapidly and never allowed the players to slow down. If the player did not have a move ready, Fischer became slightly impatient and lightly tapped the table as a warning. The team was strong enough, with various IMs and first class players.

Eduardo Bauzá Mercére adds to this:

If I remember correctly, in the session against masters (most of them were at the time playing in the Buenos Aires Championship) mentioned by Szmetan, Fischer only drew with Szmetan, Seidler and Juan Carlos Hase, and beat the rest. This was originally announced as a clock simul against twelve masters. The games could be followed on mural boards. Since Fischer changed his mind about playing with clocks, he accepted to take extra opponents, who occupied the tables of those who had finished their games. He played against some 25 opponents in all. The pace was so quick that I could only partially copy the scores of the games, against Szmetan and Anelli, and I remember that he won very convincingly against José María Carbone (Sozin Sicilian) and Jorge Bibiloni (Alekhine).

Fischer won against Atila De León, Eduardo Santero, José María Carbone, Carlos Adad, Juan Carlos Hase, Antonio Anelli, Jorge Bibiloni, Luis María Biancalana, Carlos Incutto, Alberto Ríos, Andrés Gentile, Gaspar Soria, Fernando Lida García and Antonio Cuadrado and drew with Jorge Szmetan, Aldo Seidler and Carlos García Palermo.

Fischer played twelve boards at a time with substitutes replacing defeated players. The first game to end was the 21-move draw with Seidler; then Fischer won against De León, Santero, Bibiloni and Biancalana; these are the five players who were substituted.

The exhibition, which started at 10am, lasted four hours.



International Master Jorge Szmétan around the time of his 65th birthday.

(36) King's Gambit C31

Fischer - Jorge Szmétan

Buenos Aires (simul) November 14, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.Nf3

Lutikov-Lisitsin, USSR 1955, arrived at this position by the funny and highly transpositional move-order 1.f4 (Bird's Opening) 1...e5 (From's Gambit) 2.e4 (King's Gambit) 2...d5 (Falkbeer Countergambit) 3.Nf3 (obscure sideline).

3... dxe4 4.Nxe5 Nd7 5.Nc3

Bobby plays a sideline in a sideline. Most games with 3.Nf3 have seen 5.d4 here.

5...Nxf6 6.Bc4

We couldn't find another game with this move.

6...Nxe5 7.fxe5 Qd4 8.Bxf7+ Kxf7 9.exf6 Bc5 10.Qe2 gxf6 11.Rf1 h5?

Black stops the threat of 12.Qh5+ while threatening 12...Bg4. However, the move allows the force win of a piece. It was more prudent to play 11...Bd7, although Fischer still would have had a significant advantage.



12.b3?

Bobby misses the chance to put his opponent away with 12.Nb5! Qe5 13.d4! Bxd4 14.Qc4+ winning a piece. Now Jorge Szmetan, a future IM, gains the upper hand.

12...e3! 13.Qc4+ Qxc4 14.bxc4 exd2+ 15.Bxd2 Re8+ 16.Kd1 Bg4+ 17.Kc1 Ba3+ 18.Kb1 Rad8 19.Nd5 Re6 20.Bc1 Be2 21.Re1 Bc5 22.a4 Bxc4?!

Black should have driven the White rook out of play before capturing the pawn on c4, i.e., 22...Bf2! 23.Rh1 Bxc4.

23.Rxe6 Kxe6 24.Nxc7+ Kf5 25.a5 Rd7 26.Ra4 Bf7 27.Nb5 Rd1 28.Kb2 Be8 29.Rc4 Bg1 30.Nc3 Rd4 31.Rc7

It's not immediately obvious, but White would have been better off playing 31.Rc8 and only after 31...Bd7 32.Rc7. Then 32...Rb4+, as in the next note, would not work.

31...Bc6?

The correct move was 31...Rb4+ 32.Ka3 Rg4 33.g3 Bxh2 34.Rxb7 Rxd3+.

32.Ne2 Rb4+ 33.Kc3 Rb1?

Correct is 33...Bc5 with equal chances. If 34.a6, then 34...Bd6. Now Fischer gains the upper hand.

34.Nxd3 Rxc1 35.Ne2 Rb1 36.Nd4+ Ke5 37.Nxc6+ Kd6 38.Rf7 Kxc6 39.Rxf6+ Kc7 40.Rf5 h4 41.h3 Ra1 42.Rg5 Kc6 43.Kc4 Ra2 44.Kb3 Ra1 45.Rg6+ Kb5 46.Rg5+ Ka6 47.Rg4 Rb1+ 48.Kc4 Kxa5 49.Kc3 Rg1 50.Rg7 Kb6 51.Kc4 Rc1 52.Rg6+ Ka5 53.Kd3 Kb5 54.Rg4 a5

Better was 54...Rg1 with approximate equality.

55.Rxh4 a4 56.Kc3 a3 57.Rb4+ Kc5 58.Ra4 Rg1 59.Rxa3 Rxd2 60.Kb2 Rh2 61.Rc3+ Kb5 62.Kb3 Rh1 63.Rg3 b6 64.Rg5+ Ka6 65.Rh5 Rb1+ 66.Kc3 Rh1 67.Rh8 Kb5 68.h4 Rh3+ 69.Kd4 Kb4 70.h5 Rh4+ 71.Ke5 Kc3 72.h6 Kxc2 73.Kf6 b5 74.Kg5 Rh1 75.Rb8 Rg1+ 76.Kf5 Rh1 77.Kg6 Rg1+ 78.Kf7 Rh1 79.Kg7 Rg1+ 80.Kh8 Rg5 81.h7 Kc3 82.Rc8+ Kd4 83.Rg8 Rh5 84.Rg4+ Kc3 Draw

Inside Chess 8:22:18 ran the article “Fischer in Argentina.” With the help of NM Steven Gordon of Salt Lake City, we were able to shed more light on the mysterious Mr. Weberg who allegedly played Bobby in Buenos Aires back in 1971. Readers of this article might recall that Argentine chess historian Eduardo Bauzá Mercére had no knowledge of anyone named Weberg playing in South America at the time, especially someone of master strength. Gordon had what appeared to be the answer.

Several weeks after the Fischer-Petrosian match a strong player showed up at the Anchorage Chess Club. During his visit, Weberg, who was Norwegian, mentioned that he worked for Scandinavian Airlines and that he had attended part of the Fischer-Petrosian match and shortly after drew Bobby in a simul. He never showed up at the club again.

This is what we wrote many years ago but we have been unable to independently confirm the following game. Maybe Weberg was a substituted player at the last minute whose result fell through the cracks?

(37) Ruy Lopez Marshall C89

Fischer – Weberg

Buenos Aires (simul), November 14, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 O-O 8.c3 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Rxe5 c6 12.d4 Bd6 13.Re1 Qc7?

Everyone plays 13...Qh4 here, but the text isn't actually a novelty.

14.g3

Ader-Stekel, Santiago 1959 went 14.h3 Bf5 15.Nd2 Rae8 with some compensation for the pawn.

14...Bh3 15.Nd2 Rae8 16.Nf1 Re7

Black missed an opportunity here. He could have played 16...Bg4!, forcing the awkward 17.Qd2. Black has definite compensation, e.g., 17...Nf6 18.Ne3 Bf3.

17.Be3 Rfe8 18.Qd3 Re4 19.Nd2 R4e7 20.Nf1 f5?!

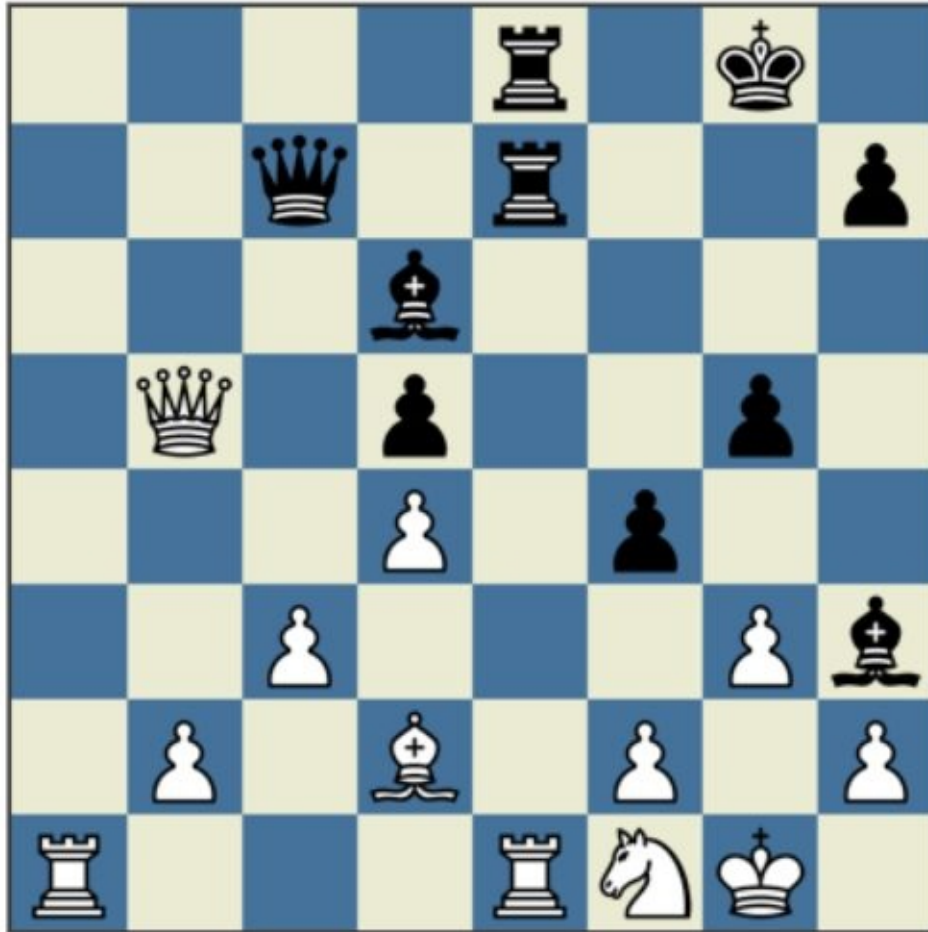
Weberg could have offered to repeat moves with 20...Re4, but Bobby would have varied, maybe with 21.f3. Instead of the text, Weberg might have considered 20...Qd7 with play on the light squares.

21.Bxd5+ cxd5 22.a4 g5?

Weberg continues his aggressive play and Bobby happily grabs another pawn. Black should have played 22...Qc4 with the idea of answering 23.Qxc4 with 23...bxc4, pressuring b2.

23.axb5 axb5 24.Qxb5 f4 25.Bd2?

There was nothing wrong with capturing the d-pawn and then playing Bd2, i.e., 25.Qxd5+ Kh8 26.Bd2.



25...Bxf1?

This makes White's task easier. Instead 25...Rxe1 26.Bxe1 Qf7 still gives Black some pressure for his pawns. For example, 27.Ra7? is met by 27...Rxe1 28.Rxf7 Kxf7.

26.Rxf1?!

Once again capturing on d5 was indicated.

26...Qb7 27.Qxb7?!

White's still winning after the text, but 27.Ra5! was much simpler.

27...Rxb7 28.gxf4

Here 28.Ra5, meeting 28...Rxb2 with 29.Rxd5 Rxd2 30.Rxd6, was easily winning.

28...Bxf4 29.Bxf4 gxf4 30.Kg2?!

Simpler was 30.Ra5.

30...Rxb2 31.Kf3 Re4 32.Rg1+ Kf7 33.Rg4 Rc2 34.Ra3 Ree2 35.Rg2?

This must be fatigue as 35.Rxf4+ would cause Black to resign.

35...Ke6 36.Kxf4 Rxf2+ 37.Rxf2 Rxf2+ 38.Kg3 Rc2 Draw

A surprising decision as White could play 39.Ra6+ with the idea of 39...Kf5 40.Rc6 and Black still must struggle to draw.

(38) Sicilian Najdorf B87

Fischer - Antonio Anelli

Buenos Aires (simul), November 14, 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Be7 9.f4 0-0 10.a3 Bb7 11.f5 e5 12.Nde2 Nbd7 13.Ng3 Rc8 14.Bg5 a5 15.Bxf6 Nxf6 16.Nh5 b4 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 18.axb4 axb4 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.Qxd5 Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Rc5 22.Qd3 Ra5 23.Bd5 Rc8 24.Qb3 Rf8 25.c3 Qa6 26.Rad1 bxc3 27.Qxc3 Rc5 28.Qd3 Qxd3 29.Rxd3 Remainder unavailable; 1-0 in about 60 moves.

(source: Eduardo Bauzá Mercére)

Aldo Seidler (b. 1954) was junior champion of Argentina in 1971 and 1973 and represented his country in the 1973 World Junior Championship. His career was short-lived (he stopped playing seriously before 1980) but his FIDE rating of 2400, fourth place finish in the 1976 Argentine championship (9/15) and successful play for the Argentina B team in the 1978 Olympiad (7.5/12 on board two for a 2460 performance) clearly indicate he was of International Master strength.



Seidler, Szmetan, Giardelli (standing) Franco and Pagilla in their younger days.

Sicilian B33

Fischer – Aldo Seidler

Buenos Aires (simul), November 14, 1971

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6
8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 f5**

This is the way the position was threatened before the mid-1970s when Sveshnikov and Timoschenko's 9...b5 took over.

The opening bears some resemblance with the first game of the Fischer-Petrosian match played roughly six weeks earlier. There Petrosian essayed a central break (...d5 instead of ...f5) under better terms as White had to spend extra time with his queen bishop before doubling Black's f-pawns- 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nb5 d6 6.Bf4 e5 7.Be3 Nf6 8.Bg5 Be6 9.N1c3 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Na3 d5.

10.Qh5

10.exf5 and 10.Bd3 are more commonly seen here while Nakamura used 10.Nc4 to defeat Shirov at Wijk aan Zee in 2010.

10...d5



Black sharpens the struggle. The alternative is 10...b5.

11.0-0-0

On 11.Nxd5 Black has 11...Bxa3 12.bxa3 Qa5+ 13.c3 Be6 with queenside castling soon to follow.

11...Bxa3 12.bxa3 fxe4

The most commonly played move but 12...Qa5 might be better.

13.Rxd5

13.Nxd5, as in Treppner-Larry Christiansen, Germany 1973, and the untested computer move 13.Bc4!? are the alternatives.

13...Qe7 14.Nxe4 Qxa3+ 15.Kd1

15.Kb1?? drops a piece to 15...Qb4+.

15...Be6 16.Nd6+

16.Rd3 Rd8 favors Black.

16...Ke7 17.Qg5+ Kf8 18.Qh6+ Ke7

Ghinda and Pavlov agreed to a draw in the 1974 Romanian championship at this point.

19.Qg5+ Kf8 20.Qh6+ Ke7 21.Qg5+ Draw

(source: Eduardo Bauzá Mercére)

Corrientes, November 17, 1971

+20, -0, =0

Manuel Florencio Acosta and Hugo Villalba were the toughest opponents, according to Fischer, in this exhibition played at the Jockey Club.

Salta, November 18, 1971

+17,-0, =3

Aníbal Aparicio and Jorge Reynaga, two of Bobby's opponents in Salta, recall his visit.

Mr. Aparicio writes:

On the games played in Salta: there were three draws (Jorge Yazbek, Ildefonso Fernández and Virgilio Bernacchi). Bobby beat me with a Fegatello attack (but I do not remember the moves).

It was a stormy night, and Fischer arrived very late, by car from Tucumán [or was it from Jujuy, as reported later by Reynaga? Both are the closest airports to Salta coming from the BA hub]. We were waiting for him at the Salta Club (does not exist anymore). From those 20 games -all started with 1. e4- the more relevant may have been those played against the then young and now M.D. Yazbek (from Salta), the young Salta champion, Ildefonso Fernández, and the CPA and strong player from Jujuy, Virgilio Bernacchi (deceased).

Mr. Reynaga writes:

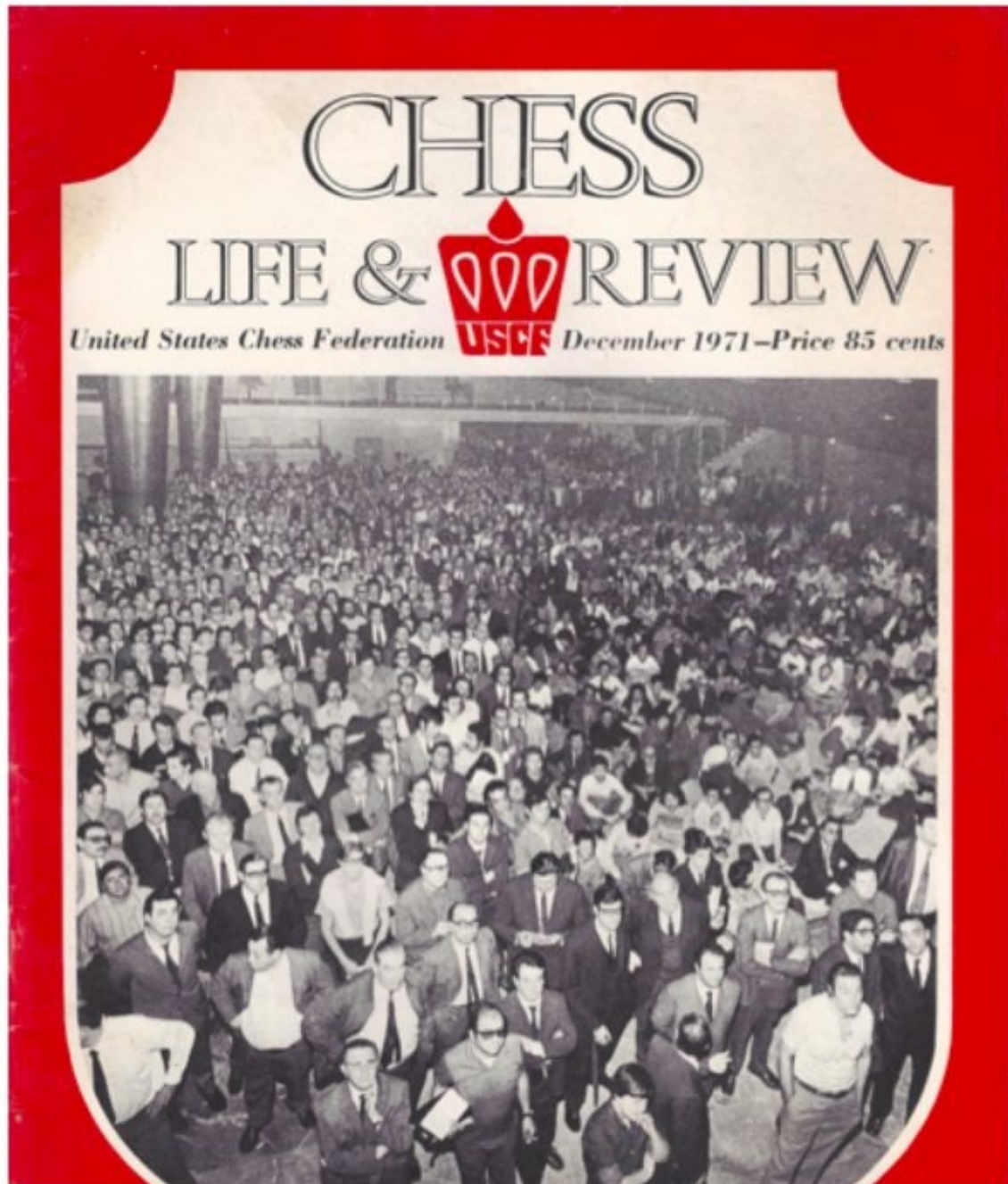
I remember that night. There were twenty boards. I sacrificed a piece for three pawns in a Sicilian Defense, but the game was open, Fischer made wonders with his bishop pair and I ended up in defeat.

It was a rainy day and the plane had to land in [San Salvador de] Jujuy. The coordinator of the event was Malako Trogliero. It was rumored that in Jujuy Fischer asked for a limo to transport him to Salta. The closest thing at hand was a black Ford Fairlane that brought him to the Salta Club. I was not optimist at the beginning of the session because the lighting was poor, the environment somewhat noisy and the boards were of different sizes. When the entourage arrived, Fischer looked up to the light bulbs and made a disapproving gesture. Miraculously, a waiter came to him with a plate: a large steak sandwich with all the trimmings and a generous glass of orange juice. Bobby threw himself to the offering and the tensions subdued.

GM Pilnik took charge and acted as interpreter, and announced: “Gentlemen, here with you the future World Champion!.” After that, Trogliero was instructed on how to conduct the session; Pilnik asked him to announce that the master was playing 1. e4 on all boards. Extremely nervous, Malako took the mike, said that the event was about to begin and that Bobby was playing 1. d4 on all boards. Pilnik shouted loudly and the mistake was corrected. When Bobby started, I remember that I was dumfounded by the speed of his answers...he was already back at my board!

Oh well, I only remembered two draws from that day: those of then Salta champion, Ildefonso Fernández, and Jorge Yazbek (both residing nowadays in San Miguel de Tucumán). In both cases, Fischer asked to be given the score sheets.

Unfortunately, I remember neither how my game nor any other proceeded. I only have a vivid memory of my emotional state that day, unforgettable and unique in my life as a chessplayer.



Only Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union could rival Argentina for spectator interest in the early 1970s. Here thousands of spectators, who could not get tickets to the playing hall for the Fischer-Petrosian match, follow the action outside.

Jujuy – November 19 or 20, 1971

It is very likely that Bobby played in Jujuy on one of the originally planned free days (November 19 or 20), since it is a couple of hours drive from Salta. We have been unable to find the result of this exhibition.

Córdoba - November 21, 1971

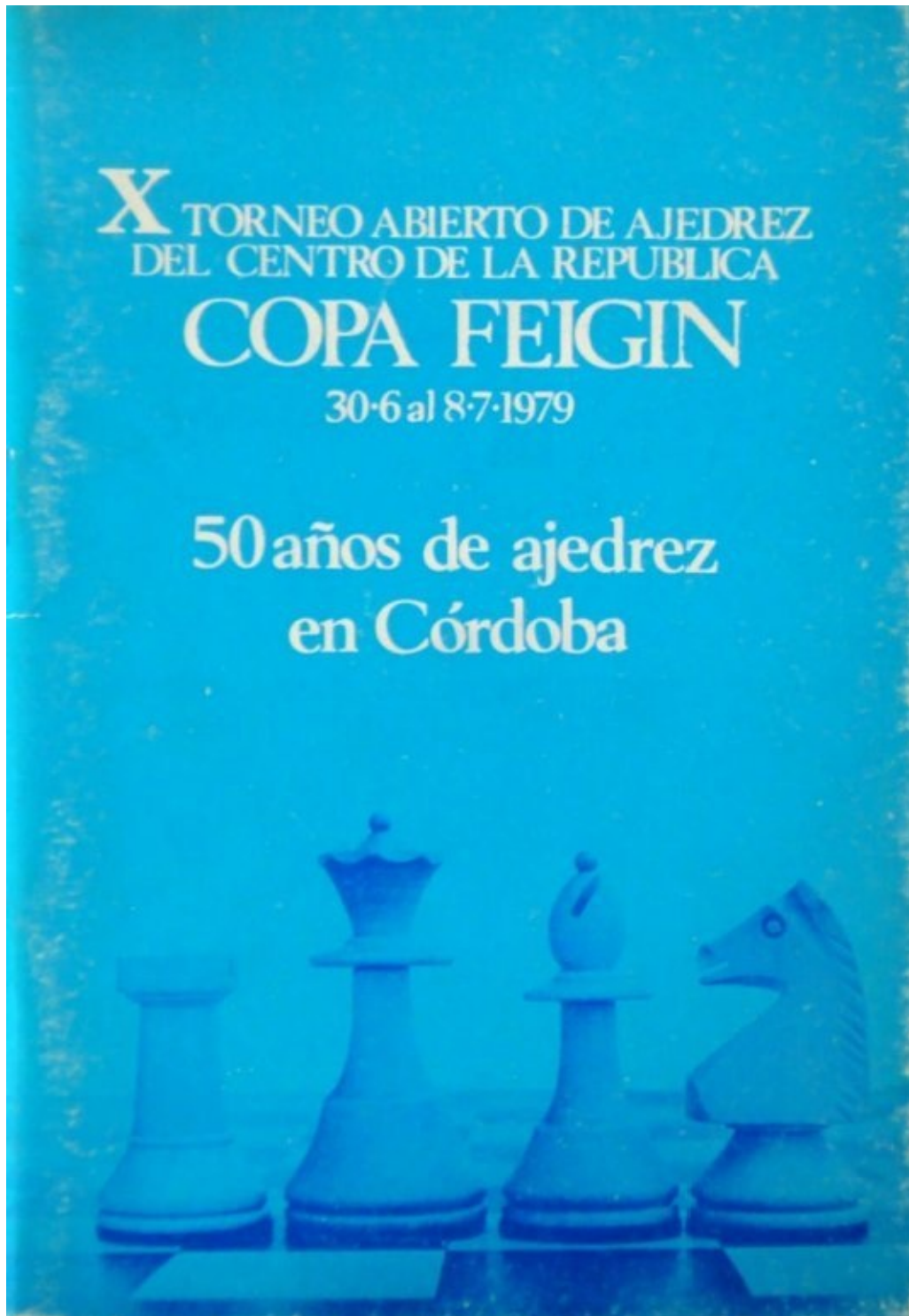
+16, -1, =3

The 1979 booklet, *X Torneo Abierto de Ajedrez del Centro de la Republica Copa Feigin 30.6 al 8.7.1979 50 Anos de Ajedrez en Córdoba*, mention Bobby's visit in 1971 on page 35 right after that year's report on the local championship. It states:

After winning his match against Petrosian, Bobby Fischer toured extensively the different capital cities in the hinterland and visited Córdoba on November 21 1971. There he played a simul session against 20 first category players, 15 of them from the capital city of Córdoba and the other five representing the Federation of the Province of Córdoba. A huge number of spectators crowded the Rivera Indarte Theater, almost filling it to capacity with so many enthusiasts. Fischer won 16 games, losing to Guillermo Canova and drawing with Carlos Salvi, Osvaldo Buraschi and Francisco Marchetti. His last opponent was the then champion of Córdoba, Osvaldo Bazán, who in an equal position made a blunder which allowed Bobby to win.

Bobby is given as winning against Diani, Gerardo Bazán, Miana, Maldonado, Gaete, Espinosa Paz, Ramón, Nieto, Páez, Luraschi, Litovicius, Calneggia, Lesoczzy, Buchailot, Rey and Nell. This is 16 names and with Osvaldo Bazán adds up to 17 – one too many. Maybe Gerardo Bazán (no relation to Osvaldo to our knowledge) was inadvertently added to the list. Incidentally Osvaldo might be the only player to face Bobby in a simul who had already drawn with him in a tournament game (Buenos Aires 1960)! That same year Bazán played for Argentina in the 1960 Olympiad. A frequent participant in the national

championship for several decades, he is yet another example that Bobby faced his toughest opposition in simuls in Argentina.



50 Years of Chess in Córdoba covers Bobby visit there.

Here are Bobby's loss and draws. Sadly, as occurs all too often, the exhibitor's wins are not preserved. Bobby scored well over 90 percent in the 15 exhibitions we have results for, but only +3, -3, =6 in the 12 game scores that have been preserved!

(40) Evans Gambit C52

Fischer - Guillermo Canova

Córdoba (simul), November 21, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 d6 7.Qb3 Qd7 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Ba3 Bb6 10.Nbd2 Na5 11.Qb4 c5 12.Qb2 Nxc4 13.Nxc4 f6 14.Rd1 Qc6 15.Nd6+ Ke7 16.Nh4N Nh6 17.0-0 Rd8 18.Nc4 Be6 19.Nd2 Rd6 20.f4 exf4 21.e5 fxe5 22.Rde1 Rad8 23.Ndf3 Nf7 24.Nxe5 Nxe5 25.Rxe5 Kd7 26.Nf5 Bxf5 27.Rxf5 Kc8 28.c4

Perhaps the game went: 28.Qf2 g6 29.Rg5 (29.Rxf4 c4) 29...h6 30.Rg4 g5 31.h4 Qd7 32.Qf3 Rd3 33.hxg5 Rxf3 34.gxf3 Rg8 35.Bc1 Rxd5

28...g6 29.Rg5 h6 30.Rg4 g5 31.h4? Qd7

The game score continues: 32 D3AR T6D 33 PxP TxD 34 PxT T1C 35A1A TxP 0-1. Eduardo Bauzá Mercére believes the actual game went as follows.

32.Qe2 Rd2 33.Qf3 Rd3 34.hxg5 Rxf3 35.gxf3 Rg8 36.Bc1 Rxd5 0-1

X Torneo Abierto de Ajedrez del Centro de la Republica Copa Feigin 30.6 al 8.7.1979 50 Anos de Ajedrez en Córdoba, page 57.

(41) Sicilian B29

Fischer - Francisco Marchetti

Córdoba (simul), November 21, 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.e5 Bxb5 6.Nxb5 a6 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.e6 fxe6 9.Nxe4 dxe4 10.Ng5 Qd5 11.d3 exd3 12.0-0 Nc6 13.cxd3 h6 14.Qh5+ Kd7 15.Qh3 Qf5 16.Ne4 b6 17.g4 Qd5 18.f4 g6 19.Nc3 Qd6 20.Ne4 Qd5 21.Nc3 Qd6 22.Ne4 Qd5 Draw

X Torneo Abierto de Ajedrez del Centro de la Republica Copa Feigin 30.6 al

Argentinean Grandmaster Hector Rossetto doesn't appear to have been involved in Bobby's tour. Here he is pictured with Steiner and Kashdan in a caricature penned by Mexican chess player Hector Guadarrama for Hollywood 1945.

(42) Irregular C25

Fischer – Carlos Salvi

Córdoba (simul), November 21, 1971

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 e5 3.d4 d6 4.dxe5 dxe5 5.Qxd8+ Kxd8 6.f4 f6 7.Nf3 Bd6 8.fxe5 fxe5 9.Ng5 Ke7 10.Bc4 Nf6 11.Nf7 Rf8 12.Nxd6 Kxd6 13.0-0 Be6 14.Bd3 Nbd7 15.a4 Nc5 16.h3 b6 17.Be3 Nxd3 18.cxd3 c5 19.a5 Kc6 20.Rfc1 Rfd8 21.Bf2 b5 22.Na2 c4 23.b3 Kd7 24.bxc4 bxc4 25.dxc4 Nxe4 26.Be3 Ke8

27.Nb4 Rdc8 28.c5 Rab8 29.Rab1 Nf6 30.Na6 Rxb1 31.Rxb1 Bc4 32.Nb4 Nd5 33.Nxd5 Bxd5 34.g4 a6 35.Rb6 Rc6 36.Rb7 Rg6 37.Ra7 Bc4 38.Kf2 Rf6+ 39.Ke1 Rf7 40.Ra8+ Kd7 41.Kd2 Kc6 42.Kc3 Bb5 43.Rd8 Rd7 44.Rxd7 Kxd7 45.Bf2 Ke6 46.h4 Kd5 47.g5 Ke4 48.Bg3 Bc6 49.Kd2 g6 50.Bh2 Kf5 51.Ke3 e4 52.Bg3 Ke6 Draw

X Torneo Abierto de Ajedrez del Centro de la Republica Copa Feigin 30.6 al 8.7.1979 50 Anos de Ajedrez en Córdoba, page 57

(43) Two Knights C59

Fischer - Osvaldo Mario Buraschi

Córdoba (simul), November 21, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Na5 6.Bb5+ c6 7.dxc6 bxc6 8.Be2 h6 9.Nh3 Bd6 10.d3 Rb8 11.0-0N g5 12.Kh1 Be6 13.Nc3 Bc7 14.Ng1 c5 15.Nf3 Nc6 16.Ne4 Nd7 17.b3 f5 18.Ned2 Nf6 19.Nc4 g4 20.Nh4 Nd5 21.g3 Nc3 22.Qe1 Bd5+ 23.Bf3 Bxf3+ 24.Nxf3 Qd5 25.Qxc3 Ba5 26.Nxa5 Nd4 27.h4 gxh3 28.Kh2 Nxf3+ 29.Kxh3 Ng5+ 30.Kh2 Nf3+ 31.Kh3 Ng5+ 32.Kh2 Nf3+ 33.Kh3 Ng5+ Draw

X Torneo Abierto de Ajedrez del Centro de la Republica Copa Feigin 30.6 al 8.7.1979 50 Anos de Ajedrez en Córdoba, page 57

San Juan, November 22, 1971

+20,-0,=0

On November 22, 1971, the player from San Juan [Armando Ramírez] lived one of his most thrilling moments: he played against Bobby Fischer, who the following year would become the World Chess Champion. Mr. Ramírez remembers that moment with great emotion. He was one of the 20 best players from San Juan that Fischer confronted at the Parque de Mayo. 'I was confident, but he beat us all. He was very quick', he says, while he shows us a picture as evidence of that game.

Mendoza - November 24, 1971

+19, -0, =1

Fischer's exhibition at the Mendoza Chess Club attracted a crowd of 3000

spectators and was reported in newspapers as far away as Spain. The only player to draw was Mario Alfaro who was congratulated by Fischer.



Bobby in action in Mendoza.

Neuquén, November 25, 1971

+18, =1 -1

Fischer loss was to the local champion, 18 year-old Jorge Zárate who beat him in 43 moves.

Bobby enjoyed rest days in Bariloche, then not such a well-known resort, from November 26th to 28th.

General Roca, November 29, 1971

+19, -0, =1

Bobby's only draw was with Samuel Radulsky, an old pioneer of the Russian

colony in General Roca.



Radulsky makes a move while Fischer watches intently.

Bahia Blanca - November 30, 1971

+20, =0, -0

Fischer flew by plane to Bahia Blanca accompanied by Pilnik and Quinteros. He stayed at the Astral Hotel in room 218 where he enjoyed his meals with gusto. His style of eating was described by a table mate as such: "he talked little and ate much!" A lunch consisted of two bowls of soup, two great pieces of lamb with lots of salad and fruits.

The twenty board exhibition started at 9:15 p.m. and lasted until 11.55 p.m. Bobby's first tour of the 20 boards took 45 seconds, the second time around 1

minute and 30 seconds. His longest circuit was 4 minutes and 30 seconds.

The exhibition was held in the Norberto Tomas gymnasium and one journalist remarked that Bobby marched in looking like a basketball player minus his sportswear. One unusual feature of the exhibition was that smoking was prohibited.

The shortest game was with Alberto Kremer, that lasted 22 moves and the longest was with Jorge Liébana that went 62 moves.

Here are a list of Bobby's opponents and the number of moves they lasted.

V. Palermo 36; A. Cuadrado, 28; H. Gastaldi, 44; Sánchez, 32; Garay, 32; A. Padrón, 34; J. Liébana, 62; E.A. Ramírez, 38; Del Cueto, 33; J. Sabas, 37; N. Takla, 59; J.C. Gallucci, 53; O. Hernández, 23; M. Galfón, 51; G. Crivellaro, 36; E.F. Ramírez, 34; A. Kremer, 22; Piaggio, 29; M. Roumec, 31 and A. Zotelle, 46.

The following game is a good example of Bobby's observation that Argentinean players didn't know the openings well but fought extremely hard.

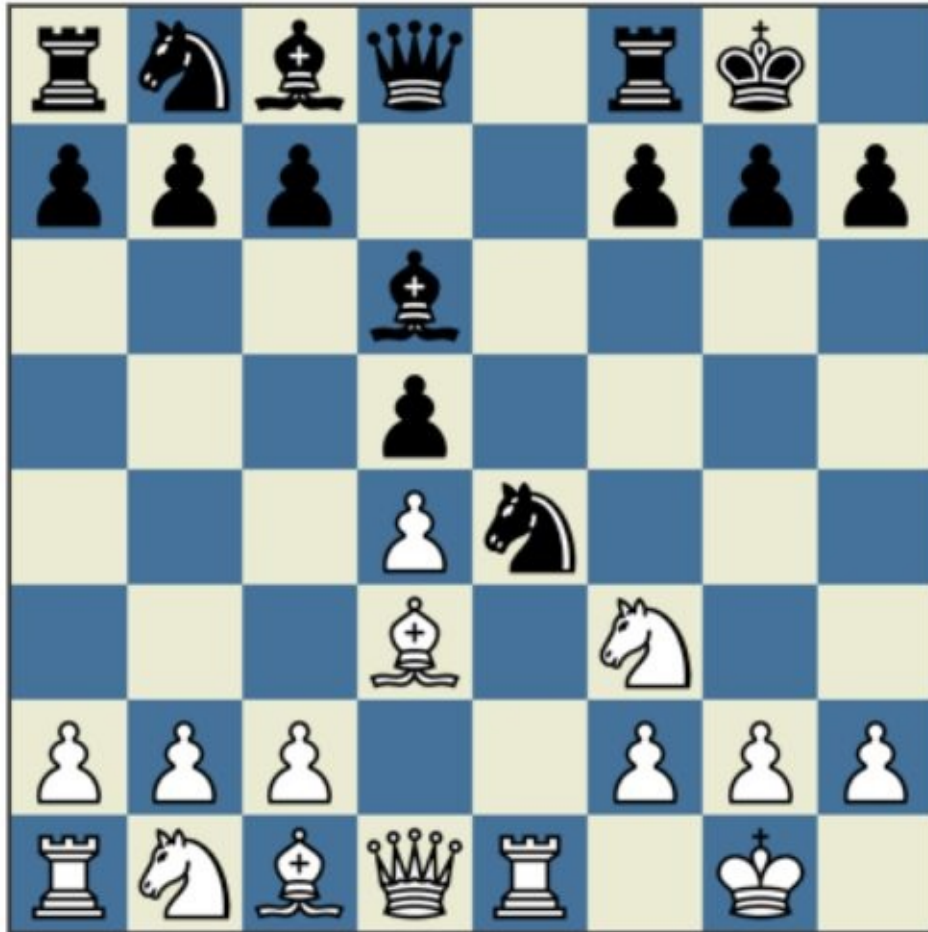
(44) Petroff C42

Fischer- Meir Galfón

Bahia Blanca (simul) November 30, 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3 Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Re1

8.c4 is more commonly seen.



8...f5?!

8...Bf5 and 8...Re8 are Black's main choices. The text is too weakening.

9.c4 c6 10.Nc3 Nxc3?

Devoting so much energy to supporting the knight on e4 and then voluntarily exchanging it off can't be good. 10...Kh8 and; 10...Be6 are both more logical.

11.bxc3 Nd7 12.Qb3 Nf6 13.Bg5 Qb6 14.Qc2 Qc7 15.Bxf6

White is definitely better here. In view of the difficulties he later experiences in winning the game it bears asking whether he sold out too cheaply here. One promising alternative is 15.c5 Be7 16.c4.

15...Rxf6 16.Re8+ Rf8 17.Rxf8+ Bxf8 18.Bxf5 Bxf5 19.Qxf5 Qf7

The play since 15.Bxf6 has been more or less forced and here Galfón finds the best practical chance in offering to go into an ending. He hopes his more active king might prove some compensation for the missing pawn.

20.Qxf7+ Kxf7 21.c5

Possibly 21.Rb1 b6 22.Ne5+ Ke6 23.Nxc6 dxc4 24.Ne5 was better.

21...b6 22.Ne5+ Ke6 23.cxb6 axb6 24.a4

As 24.Nxc6 is met by 24...Rc8.

24...c5

Black's counterplay compensates for the pawn. Something has gone wrong for Bobby and he has to try to win the game again.

25.Rb1 cxd4 26.cxd4 Rxa4 27.Rxb6+ Kf5 28.g4+ Ke4 29.Nc6 Kf3

Compare this position with that reached ten moves before - Black is incredibly active.

30.Ne5+ Ke4 31.Kg2 Kxd4 32.Re6 Kc3 33.h3 Ra2 34.Rc6+ Kd4 35.Nf3+ Kd3 36.Ng5 Rc2

Offering the trade of rooks was optional. There was nothing wrong with the simple 36...Be7 as 37.Nxh7 is met by 37...Bh4.

37.Rxc2 Kxc2 38.Ne6 Bb4 39.f4

39.Nxg7 d4 40.Nf5 d3 41.Ne3+ Kc1 and White will be forced to sacrifice his knight for the d-pawn (though the game should still end in a draw).

39...Bc3 40.Kf3 d4 41.Nxg7 d3 42.Nf5 d2 43.Ne3+ Kd3

43...Kc1 44.Ke2 Bb4 (44...h6) 45.h4 Bd6 46.f5 Bg3 47.h5 Bh4 was an easy draw as White is playing without his knight.

44.g5 Bd4 45.Nd1 Kc2??

45...Bc5 or 45...Bg7 still drew.

46.Ke2! Bg7? 47.f5 h6 48.f6 Bh8 49.h4 h5 50.Ne3+ Kc3 51.Kd1 1-0



Tony Miles and Miguel Quinteros are pictured outside the playing hall at Lone Pine. Quinteros was one of Bobby's closest friends in the early 1970s and helped arrange Fischer's 1996 visit to Argentina where Bobby introduced Fischer Random Chess. (Photo by Jerry Hanken)

Balcarce, December 1, 1971

+ 17, -2, =1

Fischer lost to Gerardo González, Mar del Plata champion from 1946 to 1949

and again in 1958 and 1959, and Alfredo Pietrobono from the city of Olavarría. He drew with Jorge Fraile.

Oswaldo Suárez, champion of the city of Dolores in the '60s and '70s relates the following anecdote:

I always reminisce about the time I was paired against Bobby Fischer in 1971, in a simul played in Balcarce. When he was taking all my pieces I tried a trap to mate him, the guy reaches my board, takes a look at it, gazes at me, smiles, and plays the correct move, after which I resign. I was the only one who made the “madman” Fischer smile!

Besides Suárez some of Fischer's other victims were Carlos Alberto Bustos, Raúl Preckel, Rubén Presa and Sergio Arambel. The latter, only 11 years old at the time, now holds the Fide Master title.

(45) Sicilian Rossolimo B30
Fischer – Alfredo Pietrobono
Balcarce (simul), 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5

Fischer played the Rossolimo at least five times in his career: (Trikalotis - Athens 1968, Matulovic - Palma (izt) 1970, and twice against Spassky in their 1992 match (games 11 and 13). The results, with the exception of the first encounter with Spassky, were not very impressive (3-2). Bobby never played the Black side of 1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.g3 Bb4.

3...a6?! 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 g6 6.d3

6.c3 Bg7 7.d4 was another approach. White allows Black to undouble his pawns but counts on the strong pawn center and better-developed pieces to give him an advantage.



6...Bg7 7.a4 a5 8.Nbd2 b6 9.Re1

Here 9.e5 was a different way to handle the position, but a worthy alternative.

9...e5 10.Nc4 Qc7 11.Be3 Be6 12.Qc1 Rb8?

This is a terrible move that Fischer strangely ignores. Note that 12...Ne7 13.Bh6 was a little awkward but 12...Bxc4 13.dxc4 Ne7 or 13...Nf6 were playable.

13.h3?

13.Ncxe5! Bxe5 14.Nxe5 Qxe5 15.Bf4 is killing.

13...Bxc4 14.dxc4 Nf6? 15.Bh6?

Again 15.Nxe5!

15...0-0 16.Qg5 Rfe8 17.Rad1 Nd7 18.Bxg7 Kxg7 19.Nh4 f6

Now Black is fine and Fischer mistakenly continues to push his nonexistent advantage.

20.Qg4

20.Nf5+ Kg8 (20...Kh8 21.Rxd7) 21.Nh6+ Kg7=.

20...Rbd8 21.Nf5+ Kg8 22.Rd3 Nf8 23.Rf3 Ne6 24.h4 Nf4 25.g3??

This is a horrible mistake that traps White's queen.

**25...h5 26.Rxf4 hxg4 27.Rxg4 Kh7 28.Ne3 Qd7 29.h5 g5 30.Kg2 Qd2
31.Rh1 Qe2 32.Rf1 Rd2 33.Kh3 Qf3 34.Nf5 Rxf2 35.Rxf2 Qxf2 36.c3 Qf3
37.Kh2 Qxg4 38.h6 Rd8 39.Kg2 Rd2+ 0-1**

Federación Balcarseña de Ajedrez

MITEK 570 7 1 200 BALCARCE

Torneo _____

Partida Jugada el 1^o Diciembre de 1971

Blancas - Sr. Robert Fischer

Negras - Sr. Alfredo Petriobony R. Fisco

Apertura _____

	BLANCAS	NEGRAS	NO.	BLANCAS	NEGRAS
1	P4R	U4AD	21	C5A+	R1C
2	C3AR	C3AD	22	T3D	C1A
3	A5C	P3TD	23	T3A	C3R
4	AxC	D0XP	24	P4T	C5A
5	0-0	P3CR	25	P3C	P4T
6	P3D	A2C	26	TxC	PxD
7	P4TD	P4TD	27	TxP	R2T
8	C02D	P3C	28	C3R	D2D
9	T1R	P4R	29	P5T	D4C
10	C4A	B3A	30	R2C	D7D
11	A3R	A3R	31	T1TR	D7R
12	D1A	T1C	32	T1AR	T7L
13	P3TR	AxC	33	R3T	D6A
14	PxA	C3A	34	C5A	TxPAR
15	A6T	0-0	35	TxT	DxT
16	D5C	TR1R	36	P3A	D6A
17	T01D	C2D	37	R2T	DxT
18	AxA	KxA	38	P6T	T1D
19	C4T	D3A	39	R2C	T7D+
20	D4C	T01D	40	Aband	

(46) Sicilian B29

Fischer – Gerardo Gonzalez

Balcarce (simul) December 1, 1971

Black was a champion of Mar del Plata in the 60s. He moved to the Canary Islands in the 1980s and changed his name to Gerardo Gonzalez Intelangelo.

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nc3

3.e5 Nd5 4.Nc3 is the main line, but often leads to sharp play. Bobby had a lot of experience with the text.

3...d5

This is the only way to avoid the main lines of the Sicilian which occur after

Black plays 3...d6, 3...Nc6, or 3...e6 and White responds 4.d4.

4.Bb5+

4.exd5 is preferred today by top players: 4...Nxd5 5.Bb5+ Bd7 6.Ne5 Bxb5 7.Nxb5 (7.Qf3! is the main line.) 7...e6 8.Qf3 Qf6 9.Qxf6 gxf6 10.c4 a6 11.cxd5 axb5 and Black was better in Fischer-C.Bill Jones, Houston (simul) 1964.

4...Bd7 5.e5 Ne4

5...Bxb5 6.Nxb5 a6 (6...Nfd7 7.e6 fxe6 8.Ng5 [8.0-0] 8...Na6? [8...Qb6] 9.Nxe6 and White was already winning in Fischer-Rummel, New York (simul) 1964.) 7.Nc3 Ne4 Fischer-Marchetti, Córdoba (simul) 1971. Now 8.Ne2, instead of 8.e6, as played, would have given White a clear advantage as the knight on e4 is vulnerable.

5...d4 6.exf6 dxc3 7.fxc3 cxd2+ 8.Qxd2 Bxc3 9.Bd3 (9.Qg5 Bf6 gave White nothing in Fischer-Pomar, Stockholm (izt) 1962.) 9...Qc7 10.0-0 c4 with equality, Fischer-Sherwin, U.S. Championship 1962-63.

6.e6 Bxb5

6...fxe6 7.Bxd7+ Nxd7 8.Nxe4 dxe4 9.Ng5 Nf6 leads to equal play. The move played is double-edged as Black's king suffers some discomfort, but on the other hand he has the potential to dominate the center if he can get ...e5 in.

7.exf7+ Kxf7 8.Nxb5 Nc6 9.0-0 h6 10.d3 Nf6 11.Re1?!

11.Bf4 a6 12.Nc3 e6 13.Ne5+ Nxe5 14.Bxe5 gave White a small advantage in Berelowitsch-Afek, Haarlem 2007.

11...a6 12.Nc3 Qd6 13.Qe2 Re8 14.g3?!

14.Ne5+ Nxe5 15.Qxe5 Qxe5 16.Rxe5 e6 followed by ...Bd6 is easier to play for Black, but White should be able to defend.

14...e5

Black has complete control of the center and White can only sit - not a situation

Bobby found himself in very often!

15.Qf1 g6 16.Bd2 Bg7 17.a3 Re7 18.Rab1 Rhe8 19.Rbd1?!

19.b4 was the consistent course and would have offered White some counterplay as 19...cxb4 20.axb4 Nxb4?? is met by 21.Nb5 winning.

19...b5 20.Qh3 Qd7 21.Qg2?

White had to trade queens.

21...Nd4

21...e4! wins on the spot with the tactical point that 22.dxe4 dxe4 23.Bxh6 is met by 23...exf3 24.Rxd7 Rxd7 25.Qf1 Rxe1 26.Qxe1 Bxh6 winning.

22.Nxd4 exd4 23.Na2

23.Nb1 was safer. The knight on a2 is a target that is quickly exploited.

23...Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Rxe1+ 25.Bxe1 b4! 26.Nc1

26.axb4? Qa4!

26...bxa3 27.bxa3 Qa4 28.f4

28.Nb3 c4 29.Nd2 had to be tried and not 29.dxc4 d3!.

28...Qxa3 29.Nb3 Bf8 30.g4?

30.Qe2 was much solidier.

30...c4! 31.dxc4?

31.g5 had to be played.

31...dxc4 32.Qb7+

Or 32.Nxd4 Qe3+ 33.Qf2 Qxf2+ 34.Kxf2 (34.Bxf2 Nxg4) 34...Bc5 - Black is

winning in every variation.

32...Qe7! 33.Qxe7+ Bxe7 34.Nxd4

Or 34.Na5 c3 and the a-pawn is a winner.

34...Bc5 35.Bc3 Ne4 36.Ba1 c3 0-1

Federación Balcarseña de Ajedrez

MITRE 570

T. E. 200

BALCARCE

Torneo _____

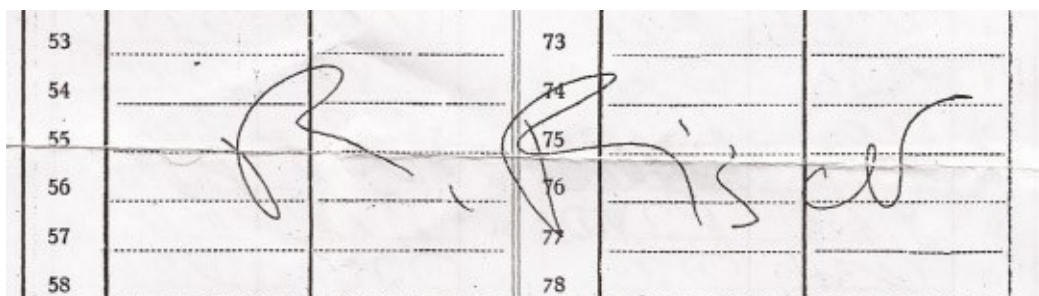
Partida Jugada el 1° de Diciembre de 1971

Blancas - Sr. Robert Fischer

Negras - Sr. GERARDO GONZALEZ

Apertura PEON REY - DEFENSA SICILIANA

No.	BLANCAS	NEGRAS	No.	BLANCAS	NEGRAS
1	P4R	P4D	21	D2e	e5D
2	e3A	e3A	22	e5e	P3Xe
3	e3A	P4D	23	e2T	TXT
4	A1e+	A2D	24	TXT	TXT
5	P5R	e5R	25	A1T	R1e
6	P6R	AxA	26	e1A	PXP
7	PXP+	RXP	27	PXP	D1T
8	e1A	e5A	28	P4R	DXP
9	D0	P3TR	29	e3e	A1A
10	P3D	e3A	30	P4e	P1A
11	T1R	P3TD	31	PXP	PXP
12	e3A	D3D	32	D2e+	D2R
13	D2A	T1R	33	DXD	A1D
14	P3eR	P4R	34	eXP	A4A
15	D1A	P3eR	35	A3A	e5R
16	A2D	A2e	36	A1T	P6A
17	P3TD	T2R	37		
18	T1e	T1R	38	0	1
19	T1D	P4eD	39		
20	D3T	D2D	40		



The front and back of Gonzalez's scoresheet.

(47) Pirc Defense B07

Fischer - Carlos Alberto Bustos

Balcarce (simul) December 1, 1971

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f3

Something new from Bobby who preferred the Austrian Attack (4.f4) when faced with the Pirc in tournament games.

4...Bg7 5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 Nc6 7.0-0-0 e5 8.d5 Ne7 9.g4 Nd7 10.h4

White handles the position like a Saemisch King's Indian (1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3), but with his pawn on c2.

10...f5 11.gxf5

If White played 11.h5 Black might consider 11...f4 12.Bf2 g5. In the Saemisch KID White would then bring his king to b1 and prepare c4-c5, an option that would be awkward to undertake with the pawn starting on c2.

11...gxf5 12.exf5

White trades on f5 to make sure his knight has the use of the e4 square.

12...Nxf5 13.Bg5 Nf6 14.Bd3 a6 15.h5 Qe8 16.Nge2

16.h6 Bh8 17.Nh3 was a strong alternative preparing to bring a rook to the g-file.

16...Rf7

On 16...Nxb5 White has 17.Rdg1 Kh8 18.Rh2 and the threatened doubling on the h-file is very hard to meet.

17.Rdg1 Kh8 18.h6 Bf8 19.Rg2 Bd7 20.Rhg1

20.f4! opening lines also looks good.

20...Be7 21.Ng3?!

Again 21.f4! looks quite powerful. The text takes some of the pressure off Black.

21...Nxb3 22.Rxb3 Nh5 23.R3g2 Bf5

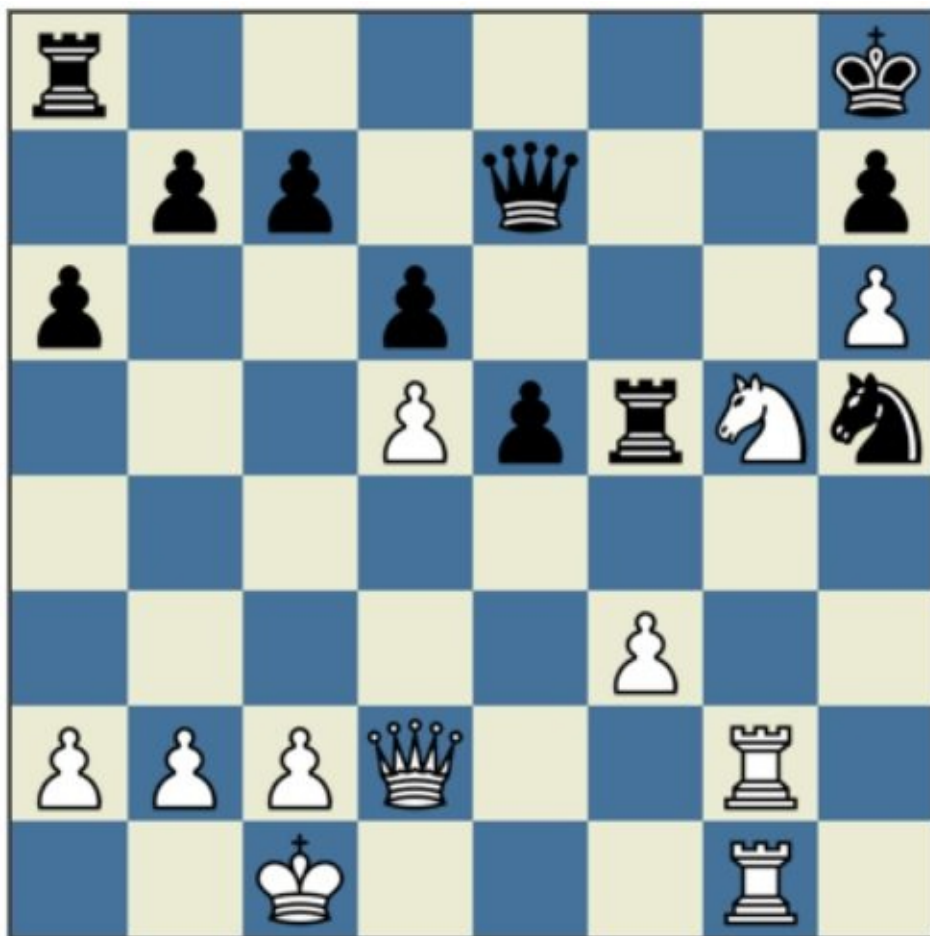
23...Bxb3 24.Rxb3 Nf4 25.Rg7 Nxd3+ 26.Qxd3 Bf5 doesn't solve Black's problems. After 27.Ne4 White threatens to trade a pair of rooks, follow with Rg7 and then work his queen over to the kingside on the dark squares. Black also needs to look out for tricks based on Ng5 and a well-timed f4 advance.

24.Bxf5

24.Ne2 was better keeping Black's knight out of f4. White's plan is to trade on e7 and follow with Rg5.

24...Rxf5 25.Ne4 Qf7 26.Bxe7 Qxe7 27.Ng5?

27.b3 meeting 27...Nf4 with 28.Rg7 Rf7 29.Rxf7 Qxf7 30.Rg7 with a winning position for White.



27...Nf4

Black is back in the game.

28.Rg4 Rg8?

28...Rf6 or 28...Qf6 would have kept the balance. The text is a decisive blunder and possibly caused by Fischer's facing fewer opponents at this point. Simul givers often grow in strength later in the exhibition as play becomes more akin to one on one.

29.Nf7+ Qxf7 30.Rxg8+ Qxg8 31.Rxg8+ Kxg8 32.Qb4 b6 33.Qa4!

The win of the a-pawn guarantees victory.

33...Ng6 34.Qxa6 Nf8 35.Qc8 Rf7 36.a4 Re7 37.b4 Kf7 38.a5 bxa5 39.bxa5

Rd7 40.a6 Ke7 41.a7

1-0

Bobby enjoyed rest days from December 2nd to 4th in Mar del Plata, the famous seaside resort where he had played successfully in 1959 and 1960.

Mar Del Plata, December 5, 1971

+ 17, -2, =1

The winners against Bobby were Héctor de la Vega (Mar del Plata champion from 1966 to 1969) and Eduardo Vasta (Mar del Plata champion in 1964, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1985, 1990, 1992 to 1994, and 1996). The draw was obtained by Ricardo Velarde (General Madariaga). Víctor Brond (champion of Mar del Plata from 1970 to 1975 and 1977) blundered in a winning position.

The following game, discovered by Carlos Drake of Buenos Aires, was first published on page 11 of *Tribuna*, 11 December 1971 and later appeared in Edward's *Winter Chess Notes* as item number 9446.

(48) Sicilian Moscow B52

Fischer – Ricardo Lucas Velarde

Mar del Plata (simul), December 5, 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Bb5+

The Moscow variation was rarely if ever seen on the 1964 tour where Bobby always played 3.d4. He did play 3.Bb5+ against Olafsson at Mar del Plata 1960.

3...Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 g6?!

Theory considers 5...Ngf6 6.Qe2 e6 7.c3 Be7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 d5 the correct treatment maintaining a balance in the center without making compromises in the pawn structure or the activity of Black's minor pieces.

White can try to play against the knight on e4 with 10.e5 Ne4 11.Ne1 (the reason for 6.Qe2 and not 6.Re1), but after 11...Qb6 12.Be3 f6 13.f3 Ng5 14.Nc3

0–0 Black is doing fine.

6.c3 Ngf6 7.Re1 Bg7 8.d4 cxd4 9.cxd4 e5

Velarde strikes back in the center, but weakens his d5 square. After a future trade on e5 his king bishop will be less active than its counterpart.

10.Nc3 0–0 11.Bg5 Qb6 12.dxe5 dxe5 13.Qd2

White has emerged from the opening with a small but clear advantage - his bishop is better than its counterpart and he has chances to try to utilize Black's weakened d5 square. In a dream scenario White would have a knight on d5 against the bishop on g7, but this requires very cooperative play by Black.

13...Rfe8 14.Rad1 Nc5 15.b4

Bobby, concrete as always, initiates a sequence of moves aiming to win a pawn, but in retrospect the thematic 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.Nd5 with an enduring pull and limited Black counterplay (the simul gives desired situation) was better.

15...Ne6 16.Bxf6 Bxf6 17.Nd5 Qd8 18.Nxf6+?!

Continuing the plan, but there was nothing wrong with 18.Qe3 and again White's grip on d5 gives him the advantage.

18...Qxf6 19.Qd6 Rad8 20.Qxe5 Qxe5 21.Nxe5

This is what Bobby has been playing for, but the activity of Black's pieces and White's weak back rank make holding onto the extra pawn problematic.

21...Rxd1

This is inexact. With 21...Nd4 22.Ng4 (22.Nf3 Rxe4) 22...Kg7 23.f3 Nc2 24.Rxd8 Rxd8 25.Rc1 Nxb4 26.Rc7 Nc6 27.Rxb7 Rd1+ 28.Kf2 Rd2+ 29.Kg3 Rxa2 30.Rc7 Nd8 31.Rd7 Nc6 Black draws easily. After the text Bobby gets a little something because of Black's awkward king position, but nothing tangible.

22.Rxd1 Ng5 23.f4

23.Ng4 Nxe4 24.f3 Nc3 25.Nf6+ Kf8 26.Rd7 Re5 27.Rxb7 Kg7 28.Ng4 Re1+ 29.Kf2 Re2+ draws.

23...Nxe4 24.Rd7 f6 25.Ng4 h5?

Black is starting to lose his grip on the position. Instead 25...Rc8 26.h3 Rc1+ 27.Kh2 Ra1 28.Rxb7 Rxa2 29.f5!? Rb2 should draw without any trouble. Note that 29...gxf5? 30.Nh6+ Kh8 (30...Kf8 31.Nxf5 h5 32.Ng7) 31.Nxf5 is annoying.

26.Nh6+

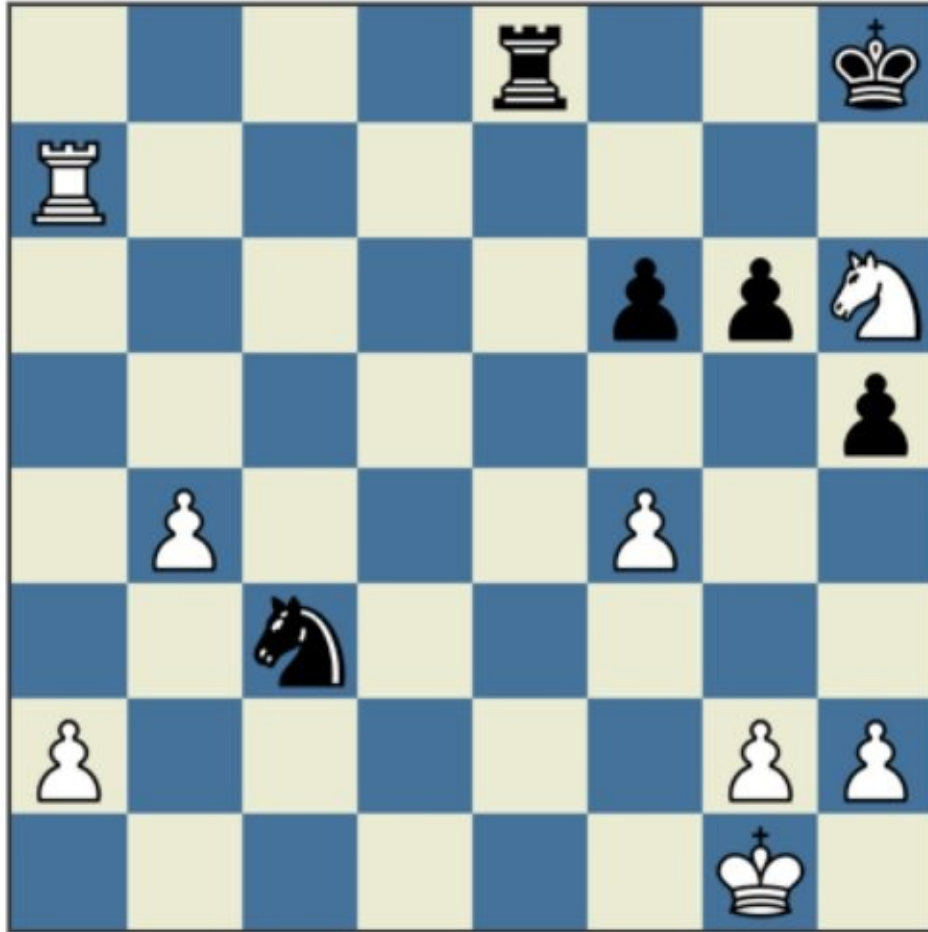
White has a large advantage.

26...Kh8

26...Kf8?? 27.Rf7 mate!

27.Rxb7 Nc3 28.Rxa7

28.f5 Re1+ 29.Kf2 Re2+ 30.Kf3 g5 31.a3 was a strong alternative. In both this variation and the game continuation Black should still be drawing, especially in view of the reduced material, but his task has become harder. This is both because of the position on the board and by the almost certain fact that many of Fischer's nineteen other opponents would have finished their games by now and Bobby, with his giant strides, would have been circling round the tables faster and faster.



28...Re1+ 29.Kf2 Re2+ 30.Kf3 Rxa2 31.Rxa2?

A fingerfehler. White had to keep the rooks on the board with 31.Rb7 forcing Black to find 31...Ra3!, which should draw with active defense and provided White's king is not allowed to penetrate into Black's position. One line might continue 32.Nf7+ (32.Kf2 Ra2+ 33.Ke3 Rxc2) 32...Kg8 33.f5 g5 34.g4 h4 35.Ke3 h3 and Black has sufficient counterplay.

31...Nxa2

The problem for White is he is allowed only one move but has two threats to meet (...Kg7 trapping the knight and ...Nxb4).

32.Nf7+

32.b5 Kg7 33.b6 Nb4 34.b7 Nc6 35.Ng4 hxc4+ 36.Kxc4 is possible but offers

no winning chances.

32...Kg7 33.Nd6 Nxb4 34.f5 gxf5 35.Nxf5+ Kg6 Draw

Fischer granted Brond an interview and the finished piece, which appeared in “La Capital” (Mar del Plata) on December 5th, 1971, is among the most insightful Bobby ever gave. We are indebted to Eduardo Bauzá Mercére for the following translation.

I’ll Beat Spassky

He warned us that he could only give us five minutes at the most, because of his engagements, but the interview lasted 45 minutes. He maintained his decision, expressed as soon as the dialogue started, that we would not touch issues outside sports, clearly political or social.

During the interview that Robert “Bobby” Fischer conceded yesterday evening to “La Capital”, we could notice his respect and cordiality, as well as that of GM Herman Pilnik, who accompanied Fischer and translated for him during his tour through Argentina.

We are before one the greatest chess players of all times. The image given by the International Grand Master “Bobby” Fischer, current challenger of World Champion Boris Spassky, is that of an athlete, because of his privileged complexion and tremendous vitality. As usual in him, he dresses soberly: blue suit and a “serious” necktie (from the color point of view) with a golden tie clip, with small chess Knight in its center. Fischer’s hair is cut short.

We show him a folder with all the chess notes published by “La Capital” in 1971. Our intention is for him to read those that make reference to him, but Fischer takes an inquisitive look at all of them and at a great speed reads many of them, and makes questions. It is clearly shown that “La Capital” had already forecasted in May that he would win the candidates’ matches.

The Dialog

We immediately started the dialog:

Q. What languages do you speak?

A. English and Spanish, and I also have a good understanding of Yugoslavian [meaning Serbo-Croatian].

Q. What can you tell me from your Argentina tour?

A. It is certainly a good way to know the whole country and it has been a very interesting experience. As to the level of play I've been confronted to, it's good in general, but most of the players don't know much theory and leave the opening stage with a bad position. After that their play improves, and sometimes they get good positions, playing with great tenacity.

Q. In what city did you find the strongest resistance?

A. At Rosario, no doubt. I won 15 games, drew 4 and lost 1, but after surmounting difficult positions.

Q. What's your opinion on Argentine chess?

A. In general it is very strong, but I have to note that professional players in this country participate in few tournaments.

Q. Do you know anything about chess in Mar del Plata?

A. No, very little.

Q. What can you tell us about the capacity of Japanese players? [We inform the reader that Japan only became a FIDE member in 1968].

A. This is an interesting issue. In the Nations Tournament, played at Siegen, Germany, in 1970, Japan participated for the first time. The truth is that the team members were professional Go players. In the first rounds they had terrible results, but they got better as rounds went by. I think that they will progress.

Q. Do you know how to play Go?

A. No. I only did it once, although I have a very complete idea about its characteristics.

Q. How would you compare chess with Go?

R. It's very difficult to make a comparison. Go is a very long and difficult game. I think that the most important difference, at least one of them, is that there are no combinations in Go. It is all strategy.

Q. How do you define chess?

A. It is science, but in a sporting format. You could say that it is a competitive science.

Q. How can chess players develop their tactical ability?

A. You have to study and play a lot; this is valid not only for tactics, but for all the phases of the game.

Q. What can you tell me about the match in which you beat Petrosian?

A. As I see it, I play better than Petrosian, and during the match I played better than him.

Q. As for the match with Spassky, some players think that, even though you are the favorite, you may have problems when facing Spassky's pet opening [with Black], the Spanish. What's your opinion?

A. I do not know the exact percentages I get against the Sicilian, the Spanish, etc. But I understand that my results against the Spanish are very similar to other openings.

Q. What will happen in the match against Spassky?

A. I'll beat him.

Q. Easier or more difficult than against Petrosian, and what approximate result?

A. I don't know. But I think that I'll beat Spassky easily.

Q. What sports do you practice?

A. Tennis and swimming, and some table-tennis.

Q. What kind of music do you prefer?

A. Pop music.

Q. Do you know any Argentine singer?

A. Several. The one I listen to the most is Sandro.

Q. What do you like to read?

A. Basically, magazines.

Q. What can you tell me about Mar del Plata?

A. The truth is that I like it very much. I like it especially in the summer, when the weather is nice and there are a lot of people around. That's not so in winter. As for the "Hotel Provincial", it's formidable.

Q. Do you know Picasso?

A. Not personally. Just a few days ago I was reading a very good note on him

published in the “Times”.

Q. Do you think that chess should be taught in schools?

A. It is an interesting possibility, but as a voluntary subject and not part of the mandatory curriculum.

Q. Your favorite actor and actress?

A. Marlon Brando. The actress is harder to tell.

Q. Where would you like to play against Spassky?

A. It depends on the conditions offered as a whole. I cannot answer in abstract.

Q. Should you confront former world champion Mikhail Tal in his best form, what would happen?

A. I have always considered Tal as an incorrect player, non-scientific (a tactical speculator). As to the result, I cannot answer, because it is a mere hypothetical possibility.

Q. How do you study chess?

A. Several hours a day, but not always in the same way. It depends.

Q. What books have you written?

A. Already several. The latest one is “Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess”. The previous ones are devoted to my games.

Q. Why did you not participate in the Moscow tournament?

A. Because I had to take a rest after the match with Petrosian, and also so that they couldn’t study my play that much.

Q. What are you going to do after this tour?

A. I have to prepare myself intensively, to study a lot.

Q. Are you not afraid that a prepared variation is going to be applied against you, as it happened in the first game with Petrosian, on the basis that you have a small opening repertoire?

A. It’s a real possibility, but I am not afraid.

To what GM Pilnik added: “Fischer is not afraid of the devil himself”.

La Plata – December 1971

Fischer is listed as having given an exhibition in La Plata (as he did in 1970) but we have been unable to find any information about it. It's difficult to tell if it actually occurred as it would have been outside the dates originally planned for the tour. On the other hand La Plata is only an hour from Buenos Aires by car.

What we do know is that future GM Garcia Palermo Garcia (who beat Bobby at La Plata in 1970 and drew with him in 1971 in Buenos Aires) only played Fischer twice (confirmed in an e-mail from him).

We conclude Fischer's tour of Argentina by noting his overall result, for the 15 exhibitions we have results for, was +268, -9, = 20, for an overall percentage of 93.6 percent. This was comparable to his 1964 tour performance but against significantly stronger opposition. Of course Bobby was only playing 20 boards in Argentina compared to as many as 75 during the US tour

Eduardo Bauzá Mercére adds: Bobby's results were indeed impressive. It's true that playing conditions were ideal for him, with rest days, staying at the best hotels and resorts, and 20 opponents at the most. But those 20 were culled from the strongest in the city/region, the few games he lost were mostly against recognized masters, and he only conceded 3 draws out of 17 games against the best (non-titled) players in Buenos Aires.

Although the strength of Bobby's opponents was uneven, in every city he visited the better local and regional players available were invited to cross swords with him. Obviously he found the toughest opposition in the traditional strangleholds.

There was not a comprehensive rating system at the time, but I would estimate that Fischer's opposition was between 2350/2150 in Buenos Aires, 2300/2000 in Rosario, Córdoba and Mar del Plata, and 2250/1900 in the other venues. He did not face titled players (IMs or GMs).

Figures from some of his known opponents:

In the July '72 Elo list we find: Brond, 2315; Carbone, 2220; Sumiacher, 2315; J. Szmetan, 2365

July '73: Anelli, 2210; J. C. Hase, 2420

July '73: Aparicio, 2320; O. Bazán, 2290; Sabao, 2275

January '75: H. De la Vega, 2360; García Palermo, 2370

January '76: Adad, 2300; Seidler, 2400; A.I. Rodríguez, 2220

January '88: Fernando Lida García, 2215

January '90: Carlos Atila De León, 2210

José Rubinstein and Gerardo González never made it to the Elo list, but according to their performances in the '60s, at the time of the simul they should have been around 2350 and 2250, respectively.

With a career starting in the early '50s, Carlos Incutto entered the Elo list in July 1982, well past his peak, with 2235. Taking into account his performance in the 1968 and 1969 Argentina championships, his rating in 1971 should have been close to 2300.

FM Eduardo Vasta, 10 times champion of Mar del Plata between 1964 and 1996, entered the Elo list in January 1988 with 2380.

New Rochelle, N.Y., January 9, 1972

+20, -0, =0

Bobby's last simul is all but forgotten. Ed Tassinari supplies the details.

On January 9, 1972, the Westchester Shore Chess Club sponsored a Fischer simul on 20 boards at the New Rochelle, N.Y. branch of the National Bank of Westchester. The event was covered in an article the following day in the *White Plains Reporter Dispatch*, "Chess Champion Finds Easy Victory," p.10, the reporter was a fellow named Dick Tracy (!) I was then a member of the sponsoring club, and attended as a spectator (I had a chance to play against Bobby; the charge was just \$15, but for reasons which escape me now, I declined. Maybe I was just afraid that he would wipe me out. At any rate, as I recall, and as the article reported, it took him less than an hour (!) to score a 20-0 shutout.

The article mentioned that about 150 spectators attended the simul, and that another 200 or so were turned away. Spectators paid \$2 (probably club members) or \$5 to spectate. A photograph of Fischer in action appeared with

the article, and one thing I can recall was that Fischer came with an attractive young woman, probably then in her early twenties, who seemed to follow him at a distance, with a wistful look, saying nothing, sort of worshipping him from afar.

There was no master strength players facing Fischer; the overall strength of the club at the time was not great, a few 1900 rated A players and maybe one or two Experts in the low 2000s. Still, a 20-0 whitewash in under one hour is pretty impressive, although I guess nothing difficult for the Fischer of 1972.

Frank Brady provides additional information on page 202 of the second edition of *Profile of a Prodigy* on what would be the last exhibition Fischer would ever give.

"When he did eventually return to New York, The Westchester Shore Chess Club of Mamaroneck prevailed upon him to give a simultaneous exhibition, and he won against twenty of the club's selected members in less than forty-five minutes. He let it be known that the exhibition was the last he was giving before his championship attack.

Rosser Reeves (Editors: one of the founding members of the American Chess Foundation) told me the following story, and though it sounds apocryphal, it is an amusing and significant glimpse into the sense of purpose with which Fischer approached his task as challenger. Shortly after the Westchester exhibition, Fischer was approached by the headmaster of a posh private school on the Upper East Side of Manhattan with an offer to give an exhibition for \$1,000 against about a dozen of the school's pre-teenagers. If he could polish off 20 fairly strong club members in three-quarters of an hour, he would probably finish with twelve children in ten or fifteen minutes reasoned the Headmaster.

Fischer was living only ten minutes away by taxi cab from the school so the entire process would have probably taken him less than half an hour from door-to-door. He refused. The fee was raised to \$2,000 and Fischer still refused - at any price. He had begun his studying and preparation for the match and would nothing to interfere."

Editors: The *New York Post* for Monday, January 10, 1972, published a photo from the exhibition accompanied by a long caption which mentions the entire

simul took 46 minutes. Whether it took Fischer slightly less or slightly more than forty-five minutes to defeat the twenty players, this is a phenomenally fast performance no matter what the strength of opposition.

Bobby Fischer as a Blitz Player

The ability to play blitz chess well has long been a measuring stick for gauging a player's talent. Not all World Champions have been fond of this form of the game; Botvinnik and Smyslov are two that rarely partook. Still, one only has to think of Capablanca, Petrosian and Tal to realize that even the very best have enjoyed playing blitz. Bobby Fischer was no exception.

When Bobby first started playing, clocks were expensive and not that common. They were saved for tournament use and the favored way to play blitz was ten seconds a move. Tournaments were conducted with a tournament director shouting "move!" every ten seconds. Sometimes a buzzer was used.

This form of blitz had its advantages and disadvantages. On the plus side, besides eliminating the need for clocks, it often allowed for better quality games as the players continually had ten seconds to think for each move even deep in the endgame. In contrast when 5-minute chess became the norm, endgame play typically became shaky when flags were hanging.

One might say that 10 seconds a move anticipated modern increment time controls. Today several of the big blitz tournaments, like the Tal Memorial in Moscow, are played with a time control of three minutes per player with a two second increment.

Forfeits at 10 seconds a move were rare, and usually players who lost on time were also lost on the board. In contrast, the advent of 5-minute brought a new dynamic to the game. Suddenly the clock became a critical component and winning on time while losing on the board a not uncommon occurrence.

Interestingly while five minute chess was widely played by the late 1950s it did not mean the elimination of 10 second a move for another decade. National Master Ron Gross of Las Vegas remembers the switch from 10 seconds a move to five minute at the US Open blitz tournament was not made until 1968. Lest one get too sentimental about this format, it should be mentioned that it was often impossible to police players. Steve Brandwein, one of the strongest American blitz players for several decades, remembers that cheating was

common, with some players habitually taking more than ten seconds a move. New York has a long tradition of excellence at blitz starting with Capablanca who amazed fans with his virtuosity while studying at Columbia and later, in the 1930s, was still dominant turning back young tigers like Reuben Fine and Arthur Dake. Fine was especially noted for his skill at this form of the game, but even he admitted Capa was his better.



"Left to right, seated: Arthur W. Dake, of Portland, Ore., Pacific Coast champion; Harry Borochow, Los Angeles, California State champion; Isaac Irving Kashdan, New York City, challenger for the United States championship. Standing, Dr. Robert B. Griffith, Beverly Hills, former American inter-collegiate champion, referee Photograph dated: August 16, 1932.

This tradition was reinforced by decades of weekly rapid transit tournaments at both the Marshall and Manhattan Chess Clubs. It was at these clubs, and at John Collins' Hawthorne Chess Club, that Bobby became a blitz monster noted only for his strong play but for the rapidity at which he conducted games often consuming less than half his allotted time.

Fischer was not the only American in the late 1950s and early 1960s who was a skilled practitioner at this form of the game. William Lombardy, the 1957 World Junior Champion (11-0!) and US second board in the 1958 and 1960 Olympiads, had a real talent for blitz chess as K. F. Kirby reveals in the *South African Chessplayer* (January 1959, pages 4-5).

By the time Dreyer arrived a crowd had collected around one of the tables where Kotov and a slight dark individual were playing five-minute games with a clock. Petrosian was easily recognizable, dark too, and like Kotov full of fun. Kotov's opponent could only be the legendary Tal, winner of consecutive Russian championships and the strongest of all the Interzonals which had recently been completed at Portoroz. Among the onlookers were the mighty Botvinnik, a little reserved and self-conscious. Bent Larsen who seemed rather upset and morose after his bad showing at Portoroz, and young Cardoso of the Philippines.

While Dreyer and I watched, entranced by the brilliant combinations that Tal and Kotov were conjuring up in split seconds, the plump, rather moonfaced figure of Lombardy appeared. After a word or two from Tal, Kotov made way for the newcomer and we settled down to see the American (junior world champion) massacred by the Latvian tiger. It did not happen. To our amazement Tal's brilliant sacrifices were calmly refuted by Lombardy who afterwards attacked decisively himself - all this played, it must be remembered, at rather faster than five seconds a move! After three consecutive defeats Tal made way for Petrosian. *At first Lombardy said "No! No!" in horror, but eventually agreed to play. And then we did indeed see the world's greatest lightning player in action. No fireworks from him but a gradual remorseless encroachment like the work of a horde of termites. We left after Lombardy's fifth consecutive defeat...*



Tal and Lombardy renewing their friendly blitz match sessions at the Leipzig Olympiad in 1960.



Tigran Petrosian (1960) – Blitz Virtuoso

Lombardy was not the only strong American blitz players. Sammy Reshevsky was long recognized for his prowess at quick chess and his performance at Herceg Novi in 1970, when almost age 60, was quite respectable against the

world's best.

Fischer, Lombardy and Reshevsky were not the only strong American blitzers in the 1960s. Eliot Hearst, in his Chess Kaleidoscope column in *Chess Life* (December 1962, page 277), reports on a blitz tournament in Belgrade held immediately after the Varna Olympiad. Olympiad teammates Pal Benko, Larry Evans, Robert and Donald Byrne, Edmar Mednis and team captain Hearst faced off against all the best Yugoslav players. The event was won by Svetozar Gligoric, just ahead of Donald Byrne with American players taking five of the top eight prizes. This was at a time when Yugoslavia was one of the top three chess countries in the world and blitz a national pastime.

Fischer's domination over his fellow Americans at blitz was just as great as it was over the board, but who was the number two player in the 1960s? A strong contender for the title would be IM Bernard Zuckerman. Steve Brandwein remembers how Zuckerman took on Mikhail Tal at Wijk aan Zee 1968 at five minute and won the first four games! Tal settled down and won the session but the final score was close. Six-time US Champion Walter Browne seconds Brandwein's assessment of Zuckerman's blitz prowess which was built upon encyclopedic opening and endgame knowledge and a good positional feel.

Bobby's first three major blitz tournaments were contested at the US Junior Opens in the summers of 1955, 1956 and 1957.

US Junior Rapid Transit: July 17, 1955

Bobby didn't qualify for the finals in Lincoln, Nebraska but did emerge with a plus score in his preliminary group. Ron Gross won the final with 4 from 5 followed by Charles Kalme and Larry Remlinger.

Section B: 1. R. Cross 4 ½ /5; 2. R. Gross 4; 3. Fischer 3; 4. Lewis 2; 5. D. Ruth 1; 6. Ames ½

US Junior Rapid Transit: July 1956

A year later and now a master Fischer picked up his first US Junior title in Philadelphia. However, he was only second in the USCF junior speed championship that was won by Arthur Feuerstein with a score of 4 ½ - ½ in the 6 player final. Bobby was second with 4 followed by William Lombardy in third.

US Junior Rapid Transit: July 10, 1957

Wednesday, July 10th, saw the afternoon devoted to the Speed Championship, another Bobby Fischer triumph. Three sectional round robins were played with Bobby mopping up in the finals. His skill in move-on-move play has been demonstrated against fast company at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club on several occasions since. Old timers gasp! (*California Chess Reporter*, July 1957, page 2)

Leighton Allen, who played in the US Junior that summer with his friend Ivan Vegvary, remembers taking on Bobby and NM Gil Ramirez in tandem instant chess. 54-years-later he recalls that it was a bit absurd taking into account the difference in strength (Allen and Vegvary finishing on 50 percent in the Junior). Lodged in Allen's brain is the image of Fischer intently analyzing during the chaos of the games. Also recalled is the Mechanics' best player, William Addison, showing Bobby progressively harder and harder endgame studies that he solved with pleasure and which proved to be good training for his big breakthrough at the US Open in Cleveland a month later.

New York 1957 – Reshevsky plays Bobby blindfold

On June 13, 1957, the Manhattan Chess Club celebrated its victory in the Met League by holding a special exhibition by Sammy Reshevsky. He played blindfolded against ten strong players, one after another, at ten seconds a move. He won six (from Gresser, Guala, Rowe, Saxon and Shipman) and lost four (Heitner, Bisguier, Feuerstein and Fischer). Less than six months later Bobby was national champion and not taking odds from anyone.



The US Team at Tel Aviv – Reshevsky, Bisguier, Addison and Benko (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

(49) King's Indian Classical E91

Samuel Reshevsky (blindfolded) – Fischer

New York (10 sec/move) 1957

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.d4 O-O 5.e4 d6 6.Be2 c6 7.O-O a6 8.Re1 b5
9.b3 b4 10.e5 dxe5 11.dxe5 bxc3 12.exf6 Bxf6 13.Bh6 Qxd1 14.Raxd1 Re8
15.Bd3 Nd7 16.Be4 Nc5 17.Bc6 Bf5 18.g4 Bxg4 19.Kg2 Bf5 20.Bxa8
Rxa8 21.Nd4 Nd3 22.Nf5 Ne1 23.Re1 gxf5 24.Rd1 e5 25.c5 Rc8 26.b4 f4
27.Kf3 Be7 28.Ke4 Rc6 29.Rg1 Rg6 30.Rxg6 fxg6 31.Kd3 Kf7 32.Kc3 g5
33.c6 Ke6 34.Kc4 Kd6 35.b5 axb5 36.Kxb5 e4 37.Kc4 Bf6 38.h4 f3 39.hxg5
e3 40.Bf8 Be7 41.Bxe7 Kxe7 42.c7 Kd7 0-1**

This exhibition was an excellent performance by Reshevsky, but IM Walter Shipman recalls an even more impressive one by Reuben Fine after the 1945 USA--USSR radio match. Fine played a four game blindfold simul at 10 seconds a move. Unlike Reshevsky, Fine did not play the games one after another, but simultaneously. His four opponents were selected by lot from the audience, and among them was a 17-year-old Robert Byrne.

Manhattan Blitz, August 1957

Late August of 1957 saw the Manhattan Chess Club host a strong blitz tournament at a time control of 10-seconds a move. The event was organized to recognize the successes of four of its members that summer – Bobby Fischer and Arthur Bisguier tying for first in the U.S. Open, Donald Byrne's victory in the Western Open, and the triumph of William Lombardy in the World Junior Championship. The event also commemorated the move of the Manhattan club from 100 Central Park West to its new location at the Hotel Woodrow at 35 West 64th.

Hans Kmoch directed the event which was organized by Morris Kasper and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Steinberg.

This event would be forgotten if not for the efforts of Herman Helms who wrote about it in his column in the *New York World Telegram and Sun* on August 31, 1957. Helms not only provided the details and final scores of the tournament, but also preserved two games thanks to the excellent memory of Donald Byrne who provided the moves to his victories over Fischer and Bisguier.

Top scores in the 13-player round-robin were: 1. Donald Byrne 11–1; 2-3. James Sherwin and William Lombardy 9.5; 4. Walter Shipman 8; 5. Arthur Bisguier 7.5 6. Bobby Fischer 7.

(50) Sicilian Accelerated Dragon B34

Fischer - Donald Byrne

Manhattan Blitz, August 1957

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Nc3 Bg7 6.Be3 Nf6 7.f3 0–0 8.Qd2

8.Bc4?! would transpose to Fischer-Panno, Portoroz 1958, which then continued 8...Qb6 9.Bb3 Nxe4 10.Nd5 Qa5+ 11.c3 Nc5 12.Nxc6 dxc6 13.Nxe7+ Kh8 14.Nxc8 Raxc8 15.0–0 Rcd8 16.Qc2 Qb5 17.Rfd1 Kg8 18.Rxd8 Rxd8 19.Rd1 Re8 20.Bf2 a5 21.Bxc5 ½–½.

Relatively best is 8.Nb3, stopping 8...d5, although White shouldn't count on an opening advantage.

8...d5!

Compare this position with that arising from the Dragon after 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 O-O 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.O-O-O d5.

Byrne is a full tempo ahead (...d5 being played in one move instead of two).

9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.0–0–0 Bb7

Black is a tempo up over the regular Dragon line, but how to take advantage of this gift? Practice doesn't give a clear answer, with Grandmasters having tried 10...Qa5, 10...Qc7, and 10...Be6. Byrne's move aims to grab the center with ...e7-e5.

11.e5 Nd7 12.Bh6?

Bobby goes for the throat. The normal way of handling the position would be 12.f4 when Black needs to prepare the thematic ...f7-f6 to activate his king bishop with 12...e6. White can try to prevent this advance with 13.Ne4 hoping for 13...f6 14.exf6 Nxf6 15.Nc5 when the placement of the bishop on b7 is unfortunate. Instead Black should first play 13...Qc7 and only then ...f7-f6.

12...Bxh6!

Accurately judged by Byrne, who realizes that White's attack can easily be repelled.

13.Qxh6 Nxe5 14.h4 f6!

An excellent defensive move that prepares to drive away White's queen.

15.h5 Nf7

This is the right decision for a 10-seconds a move game. Objectively, 15...g5 is stronger and more ambitious. Black plans to trap the queen on h6 with ...Nf7, but play becomes very complicated (although in the second player's favor) after 16.Bd3 Rf7 17.Rhe1. For example, 17...Qc7 (17...Rg7 is met by 18.Rxe5 fxe5 19.Qe6+) 18.Re2 Rg7 (threatening ...Nf7) 19.Bf5 Bc8 (or 19...Nf7 20.Be6 Ba6) 20.Bd3 Qd6 (but not 20...Nf7? 21.Qxf6!).

16.Qf4

16.Qe3 or 16.Qd2 are relatively better.

16...Qd6 17.Qg4 Kg7 18.hxg6 hxg6 19.Bd3 Ne5 20.Qd4 Rh8?!

20...c5!

21.Ne2?

White's last chance was to trade on h8 and hope to capture the a7-pawn.

21...c5! 22.Qf2

22.Qe3 d4 23.Qf2 c4 leads White defenseless.

22...c4 23.f4

23.Rxh8 Rxh8 24.Be4 had to be played, although the position after 24...Qb4 25.Bxd5 Bxd5 26.Rxd5 Rb8 is hardly pleasant for White.

23...Ng4 24.Qg3 f5 25.Nd4 cxd3 26.cxd3 Qc5+ 27.Nc2 Rac8 0-1

Shortly after winning his first U.S. Championship in early January 1958 the *New York Times* reported:

Fischer is not neglecting his practice. He excelled at rapid transit play in the weekly tournament at the Marshall Chess Club where, scoring 10 1/2 - 2 1/2, he shared the first two prizes with James T. Sherwin. No. 3 in the recent national competition, Jack W. Collins tied at 9 1/2 - 3 1/2 with Bernard Hill. Fifth prize went to Louis Levy, 9-4.

William Lombardy in *Understanding Chess* states that he believes Jack Collins was too weak a player to have much to offer Bobby. While we would not say Collins was stronger than Fischer in 1958, he was good enough to beat him in at least one training game. He also finished ahead of Bobby in the weekly rapids at the Marshall on at least two occasions in 1958-59.

Jack W. Collins, a former state champion, made a brilliant showing in the weekly speed tournament at the Marshall Chess Club. He scored 12 1/2 - 1 1/2 to capture first prize. Arthur B. Bisguier and young Fischer, each with 12 points, divided the second and third prizes.

Source: *New York Times* May 25, 1958

We believe the following article was published in the *New York Times* on March 22, 1959. Hermann Helms is likely the reporter of this uncredited piece:

Saidy Takes Tourney

Anthony F. Saidy, a former Fordham player and captain of the United States team in the student's tournament at Varna, Bulgaria, was the winner of the second masters' rapid-transit tournament at the Manhattan Chess Club with a

won-and-lost record of 10 1/2 - 1 1/2. He lost only to Arthur B. Bisguier and drew with Abe Turner. James T. Sherwin, with an 8-4 record, was runner-up and Pal Benko, 7 1/2 - 4 1/2 took third prize. Bobby Fischer had an off-day. His score of 7-5 was equaled by Walter J. Shipman.

Saidy remembers that he was Black in his game with Bobby and that the opening began 1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.f4 (maybe 6.h4 h6 was interpolated) 6...e6 7.Nf3 Nd7 etc. He writes: "Fischer pressed on the kingside and played f4-f5 prematurely, so I castled long and broke open the center and ultimately won. I'm not certain but vaguely recall Fischer may have had a cold."

Blitz in London

A tribute by Jimmy Adams to the late Ron Harman at the Kingpin website (<http://www.kingpinchess.net/2014/10/ron-harman-1938-2014-a-champion-of-the-chess-club/>) has uncovered another blitz game Bobby played at En Passant during his visit to London in 1960. A regular at the Fleahouse while growing up in New York, Bobby would have been right at home at En Passant based on Adams' description of it.

In the late 50s and early 60s, a few Islington players, including the two Rons and myself, would spend Saturday evenings at the En Passant chess cafe, located on the first floor of an old pre-Victorian building which for over a century had housed the Queen's Head tavern. Appropriately enough it was situated just across the road from the celebrated Mecca of chess, Simpson's-in-the-Strand. In its early days, the En Passant was visited regularly by quite a few colourful characters who had been habitués of the famous Gambit chess cafe, which had recently closed down after half a century of service to the chess community. Such a clientèle made for a lively bohemian atmosphere and if you were prepared to pay the hourly rate for a board, set and clock you could play 5-minute chess to your heart's content until the small hours of the morning. Upstairs was the poker room, reached through a concealed entrance and up a narrow winding staircase.

15-year-old Bobby, accompanied by William Lombardy, stopped off for a visit to England, during which time he arrived unannounced at the En Passant. As fate would have it, this was on a Sunday afternoon when Ron was there playing cards and he readily accepted the young grandmaster's challenge to take on all-

comers at blitz, conceding time odds of two minutes to eight and playing for a stake of five dollars a game.

(51) Sicilian Accelerated Dragon B35

Fischer - Ron Harman

London 1960

**1.e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6 5. Nc3 Bg7 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 0–0
8. Bb3 Ng4**

8...Na5? 9 e5 Ne8 10 Bxf7+! Kxf7 11 Ne6! and White was winning in Fischer-Reshevsky, 1958/59 U.S. Championship. 8...a6? 9.h4 b5 10.h5 b4 11.Nd5 Nxe4 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Qg4 e6 14.Qh3 and White won in a few more moves in a blitz game played between Fischer and Stewart Reuben at the Manhattan Chess Club in 1963. Reuben would later become a noted organizer and active member of the FIDE Rules and Qualification Committees. Like Harman he was a long-time member of the Islington Chess Club.

9. Qxg4 Nxd4 10. Qh4

10 Qd1 is considered best and gives White a small advantage, but Fischer did not know the theory well and was surprised by Reshevsky in game four of their 1961 match after 10...Nxb3 11.axb3 b6 12.Qd5?! (12.Bd4 is the critical main line but interestingly Fischer avoided it in game six of their match. Fischer-Ballard, Wichita (simul) 1964, continued 12...f6 13.h4 (13.Bxf6? Bxf6 14.Qd5+ e6 15.Qxa8 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Qc7 17.0-0 a5 has done well for Black) 12...Bxc3! 13.bxc3 Qc7! and Black drew comfortably in 42 moves.

10...Qa5 11. 0–0 Bf6 12. Qxf6!?

Adams writes:

In deciding on this committal move, Fischer spent 30 seconds, which, in view of the time limit, had a direct bearing on the eventual result of the game. But what is remarkable is that this sacrifice only became known to the chess world two years later when Nezhmetdinov won a brilliant game with it in Russia.

The sixth game of the Fischer-Reshevsky match saw 12.Qg4 (12.Qh6 Bg7 13.Qh4 Bf6 is a well-known drawing line that can be sidestepped by 13.Qg5, but with no advantage for White) 12... d6 13.Qd1 Nc6 14.Qd3 b6 15.Qd2 Ba6 16.Rdd1 Bxc3 17.bxc3 Ne5 18.Bd4 Nc6 19.Qh6 Nxd4 20.cxd4 Rac8 21.Rfe1 e5 – Black is fine and the game was drawn shortly.

12...Ne2+

This zwischenzug is important as 12...exf6? 13.Bxd4 threatening Nd5 wins a tempo and gives White the better chances.

13. Nxe2 exf6 14. Nc3

Compare this position with that arising after 12...exf6 13.Bxd4, everything is the same except White's bishop is not on d4 which is a very important difference which alters the evaluation of the position.

14...d5

The stem game for this line where White sacrifices his queen for two minor pieces is Nezhmetdinov-Chernikov, Rostov on Don 1962, which continued 14...Re8 15.Nd5 Re6 16.Bd4 Kg7 17.Rad1 d6 18.Rd3 Bd7 19.Rf3 Bb5 20.Bc3! Qd8 21.Nxf6 and White was on to victory. Another try for Black is 14...Qd8 15.Nd5 Re8 16.Bd4 Re6 17.Rad1 b6 and now, rather than winning back most of the sacrificed material with 18.Nc3 Bb7 19.Bxe6, more challenging is 18.f4. The immediate 17.f4 might be better yet. White may be down in material, but his position is much easier to play as it is hard for Black to activate his pieces. This explains the text which offers a few pawns for development.

15. Nxd5 Be6

15...Rd8 16.Bd4 Rxd5 17.exd5 favored White in Serwinski-R. Grabczewski, Rubinstein Memorial 1965.

16. Nxf6+ Kg7 17. Bd4 Kh6 18. h4 Rfd8 19. Bc3 Qb5 20. g4

Fischer later lost on time in a very unclear position. The remaining moves are unavailable. Remarkably all this was later seen in Pietzsch-Maedler, East German Championship 1963. Houdini evaluates the final position as equal and points out that 20...Kg7 21.Nd7+ Kg8 22.Nf6+ is an immediate draw.

Bobby may have lost this game, but Adams writes that he won the match 3-1 and finished up \$10, the equivalent of \$80 today.

Editor's note – the original article had this game played in 1958 which is not possible as Fischer went from Munich to New York after Portoroz while Lombardy stayed to play the Olympiad. We believe the game was played in 1960, but otherwise all the information is correct with the exception that Fischer was 17 instead of 15.

Caracas, Venezuela – August 6, 1960

Before his travel to Valencia for an exhibition, Bobby took part in a blitz tournament (5 min. each) at the "Lar Gallego" (likely on August 6th).

1. Antonio Medina 9-0
2. Robert Fischer 7
- 3-4. Celso Sanchez and Laszlo Tapaszto 6
5. Manuel Belmonte 4.5
- 6-7. Leon Schorr and Salvador Diaz 4
8. Andre Sadde 2.5
9. Ididor Cherem 1.5
10. Pedro Galarraga 1

Bobby placed second to Spanish IM Antonio Medina who came to Venezuela in 1955, attracted, like many at the time, by the strong oil-fueled economy. He stayed until 1962, winning the U.S. Open in San Antonio on his way home. The standings for this event appeared in *Ocho y Ocho* in 1994 (p.44).

During the 1999 U.S. Open in Reno, Nevada, NM Leon Schorr of Caracas kindly shared his recollections of this event. According to Schorr, the event was a five-minute tournament and an eleventh player started the tournament, but didn't finish. Legendary GM Miguel Najdorf, who lived in Venezuela from 1958-60 and sold insurance there, lost to Bobby in the first round and withdrew!



Miguel Najdorf intently studying his position against Bobby at the Leipzig Olympiad.

Najdorf and Isidoro Cherem were responsible for bringing Bobby to Venezuela. Cherem, who first met Bobby at Buenos Aires 1960, which ended July 21, was to become a good friend. He tried, in 1975, to help negotiate a

match with Karpov. Cherem was also responsible for bringing GMs Herman Pilnik and Julio Bolbochan to Venezuela (they are both buried there).

Fischer lost two games in the blitz tournament, one to Medina, the other to Laszlo Binet Tapaszto. Tapaszto was born in Hungary in 1930. A contemporary of future GMs Pal Benko (b. 1928), Istvan Bilek (b. 1932) and prodigy Lajos Portisch (b. 1937), he was one of the young stars of Hungarian chess in the early 1950s. His rise was cut short by the Revolution in 1956 which caused him to emigrate, but in Venezuela he had few opportunities to realize his potential as a chess player. Tapaszto played with success in U.S. Swiss System events in the 1960s and 1970s. Note that sometimes his name is sometimes given as Laszlo Binet which causes confusion. You will find him listed under both Tapaszto and Binet in Mega Database 2011.

Venezuela has hosted a few big events, including the Caracas 1970 Grandmaster tournament with Anatoly Karpov, Leonid Stein, Borislav Ivkov and tournament winner Lubosh Kavalek, the most significant participants.

Traditionally, Olympiads and Zonals have offered aspiring Venezuelan players their main opportunities for international experience. Such was the case for Schorr, who was chosen for four Olympiads and who tied for third in the 1967 Central American Zonal. The latter result would be good for the International Master title today, but the rule which awards an automatic title for a two-thirds score had not yet been approved.



Bobby enjoying himself playing blitz at Leipzig 1960.

Reykjavik Blitz - October 2, 1960

This event was played as double round robin with 5 minutes per side.

1. Robert Fischer, 8.5 – 1.5

2-3. Fridrik Olafsson and Svein Johannessen (Norway), 7

4. Ingvar Asmundsson, 4

5. Gudmundur Agustsson, 2

6. Gudmundur S. Gudmundsson, 1

Fischer lost to Olafsson and drew with Asmundsson.

(Information provided by FM Bragi Kristjansson in *Bobby Fischer: From Chess Genius to Legend*, pp. 162-163)



Fridrik Olafsson

It's rare to find a top player who has worked in the upper levels of chess administration. Two that come readily to mind are Max Euwe (World Champion and FIDE President) and Yury Averbakh (Soviet Champion and Head of the USSR Chess Federation). A third is Fridrik Olafsson, who like Euwe served as FIDE President and also qualified for the Candidates in 1958.

Some amazing stories have been told about Fischer's blitz prowess that verge on the miraculous. Time odds, money odds, material odds and playing blindfold were all part of Bobby's repertoire.

Frank Brady, in *Profile of a Prodigy* (1973, p. 76), narrates the story of Bobby's participation in a New Year's Eve party at Jack Collins's home on December 31, 1963, when Bobby had one game to go, (on January 2, with Anthony Saidy) to finish the regular U.S. Championship with an 11-0 score — perfection that had never before been achieved in our national championship. Most chess fans know that he won that hard-fought game.

Right after ringing in the New Year, Bobby played a good number of blindfold games at the party with the strong master Billy Addison (also a player in the ongoing U. S. Championship) under conditions where Addison had sight of a chess board and pieces. Bobby allowed Addison to play White in every game and, in addition, Bobby took off his king's bishop's pawn at the start of each game as an extra handicap. Each player had only five minutes per game. Brady reports that Addison "barely managed to break even" in their series. Brady remarks that "it was a memorable chess experience for all of us to witness."

Robert Cantwell has written about how Fischer stayed at his home before giving a simul in Washington D.C. in 1964. During his visit over the weekend Bobby competed quite successfully against U.S. Championship participants Eliot Hearst and Hans Berliner in games where they played under normal conditions and he blindfold.

How much does a world class player drop in strength when blindfolded? Blitz play sans voir is not common but for two decades world class GMs battled this way at Melody Amber. The time control there was slower than blitz, G/25 plus a twenty second increment, but quite possibly the conclusions are similar. The very best at Melody Amber played about 200 points lower than their strength with sight of the board. That makes Fischer's performance against Hearst and Berliner quite plausible.

More remarkable is the following account from the second edition of *Profile of a Prodigy* (page 76). Frank Brady writes:

On New Year's Eve that year, the Collin's household had their traditional chess party. A number of the players from the U.S. Championship attended and though the tournament hadn't ended, it looked as though Fischer was really making history this time. Bobby, Bill Lombardy, William Addison, and many other chess people like Bill and Kathryn Slater, Allen and Sara Kaufman, Joe Reinhardt, Greta Fuchs, Louis Wolff, and my wife and I also attended. At the exact stroke of midnight, I was sitting across the board from Bobby and was beaten soundly in a clock game of ridiculous odds. (I think I had ten minutes and he had two, or perhaps the odds were even greater), and I wondered what 1964 would bring for this gifted young genius. Bobby then played Addison blindfolded, with the odds of Pawn and move, and at five minutes each! It was the first time I had ever seen Bobby play without sight of the board and he conducted himself masterfully. Addison was a formidable master and yet even at the great odds given to him by Fischer, he barely managed to break even. It was a memorable chess experience for all of us to witness.

William Addison (1933-2008) was indeed a formidable master. A two-time U.S. Olympiad team member with a plus score in the five U.S. Championships he played in the 1960s, Addison was a Grandmaster without the title. The year before he played Bobby the New Year's blitz games, Addison had tied for third in the U.S. championship.

How could Fischer give a player of Addison's strength such odds? Sometimes strong players do not play much quick chess, but that was not the case with Addison, who won many weekly blitz tournaments at both the Marshall and Manhattan chess clubs when he lived in New York for a year around 1959-60. So how does one explain how Fischer was able to play blindfold, with his f-pawn missing, while taking Black and break even with Addison?

This feat seemed so incredible that the authors wondered for some time if New Year's celebrations might have affected memories of that evening, but then Steve Brandwein pointed out to us that it was actually quite plausible. Number one is that playing Black instead of White was not a handicap for Fischer. Second, as we know from the games played against Berliner and Hearst, Fischer was quite capable of playing blindfold blitz and doing it well.

The third handicap, material odds, is the tricky one. Here Brandwein, who

spent time at the legendary Flea House on 42nd street where giving odds was the lifeblood of the place, had valuable insights. As he points out, you have to go back to Lasker or Steinitz to find a World Champion who was as well studied in the art of odds giving as Fischer. Bobby's serious study of 19th century games made him an expert on pawn and move odds. We doubt this was the case for Karpov or Kasparov!



John Collins, William Addison and Robert Byrne analyzing. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

While we believe the two Fischer blitz episodes above, we definitely feel the following “incident” as described by Swami Shankarananda (formerly Russell Kruckman, a member of the Columbia Chess team that tied for first in the 1962 Intercollegiate) on IM Jeremy Silman’s website (www.jeremysilman.com) could not have happened as described.

“Speaking of Bobby’s grasp of the board, I saw him play speed chess at the Marshall Chess Club with Bernard Zuckerman. Zuckerman later became an IM, and was then a strong master with a reputation as a speed player. Bobby gave him five minutes and took half a minute for himself. He crushed him game after game all the while keeping up an endless flow of chess heckling. His hand

moved way faster than may eye could see.”

NM Ron Wieck, in in his two part series on Fischer in the magazine *Squares*, has this to say.

Well, Zuckerman doesn't buy a word of it. He claims that he and Fischer used to play at even time, although Fischer once gave him draw-and-money odds (Bobby didn't fare too well). Furthermore, Zuckerman contends that Fischer regarded giving time odds as ridiculous.

Steve Brandwein notes that Bobby often use to give huge money odds, which often made it impossible for him to finish ahead. This might well be what Swami Shankarananda got confused about. As Zuckerman mentions, Fischer did give him money and draw odds and found it difficult to do so. It's important to remember that Fischer never tried to live off his blitz winnings and regarded his quick chess odds games as a challenge and not a vocation.

(52) Sicilian B52

Fischer - Bernard Zuckerman

New York (blitz) 1961

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.c3 Nf6 4.Bb5+ Bd7 5.Bxd7+ Qxd7 6.Qe2 Qg4 7.Qb5+ Nbd7 8.Qxb7 Rb8 9.Qxa7 Qxg2 0-1

9...Qxe4+ 10.Kf1 Ra8 11.Qc7 Nd5 12.Qc6 Ne3+--+

Squares, Fall 2005, pp. 56-57.



Bernard Zuckerman – a great student of the game. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

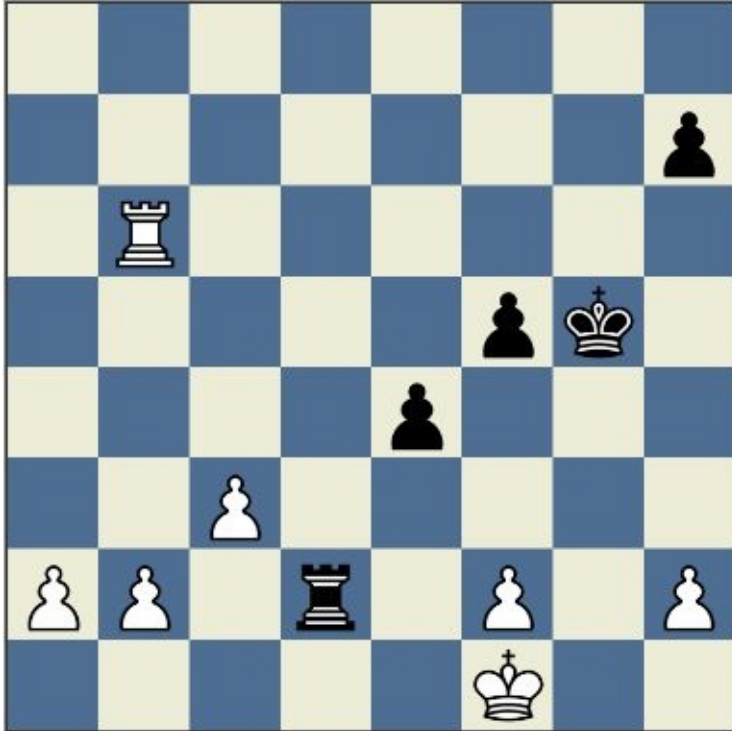
Bernard Zuckerman maybe long retired from tournament play but he stills enjoys studying the game and recently “cooked” a classic Rubinstein endgame that is featured in Smyslov and Levenfish’s classic work on rook endings. Thanks to Ron Wieck for sharing this.

(52a) French C10

Siegbert Tarrasch– Akiva Rubinstein

San Sebastian (6) 1911

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Bd3 Be7 7.O-O O-O
8.Nxf6+ Nxf6 9.Ne5 c5 10.dxc5 Qc7 11.Qe2 Bxc5 12.Bg5 Nd7 13.Nxd7 Bxd7
14.Rad1 Bc6 15.Qh5 g6 16.Qh4 Rfe8 17.Rfe1 Be7 18.Bxe7 Qxe7 19.Qxe7
Rxe7 20.Be4 Rc8 21.c3 e5 22.Rd6 Bxe4 23.Rxe4 f5 24.Ra4 b6 25.g4 e4
26.gxf5 gxf5 27.Kf1 Kf7 28.Rad4 Re6 29.Rd7+ Re7 30.R4d5 Rxd7 31.Rxd7+
Kg6 32.Rxa7 Rd8 33.Ra6 Rd2 34.Rxb6+ Kg5 35.Ke1**



Zuckerman believes White wins with 35.a4. For example:

35.a4

(a) 35...Kg4 36.Ke1 Rc2 37.a5 Kf3 38.a6 Re2+ 39.Kd1 Rxf2 (39...Kxf2 40.Rf6 Rxb2 41.Rxf5+ Ke3 42.Ra5 Kd3 43.Kc1 Rb8 44.a7 Ra8 45.Rd5+ Kxc3 46.Rd7) 40.Rb3.

(b) 35...Rc2 36.a5 Kg4 37.a6 Kf3 38.Ke1 Re2+ 39.Kd1 Kxf2 40.Rf6 Rxb2 41.Rxf5+ Ke3 42.Ra5 Kd3 43.Kc1 Rb8 44.a7 Ra8 45.Rd5+ Kxc3 46.Rd7 h6 47.Kd1 Kc4 48.Ke2 Kc5 49.Ke3 Kc6 50.Rh7 Kd5 51.h4 Ke5 52.h5 Kf5 53.Rg7 Ke5 54.Rb7.

(c) 35...f4 36.Ke1 Rc2 37.a5 f3 38.a6 Re2+ 39.Kd1 Rxf2 40.a7 Rf1+ 41.Kd2 Ra1 42.Rb7 Kf4 43.Rf7+ Ke5 44.Ke3 h6 45.Re7+ Kd6 46.Rxe4 Rxa7 47.Kxf3.

35...Rc2 36.Rb5 Kg4 37.h3+ Kxh3 38.Rxf5 Rxb2 39.Rf4 Rxa2 40.Rxe4 h5 41.c4 Kg2 42.Rf4 Rc2 43.Rh4 Kf3 44.Kd1 Rxf2 45.c5 Ke3 46.Rxh5 Kd4
Draw

Blitz against Asa

Senior Master Asa Hoffman, in his memoir *Chess Gladiator*, offers the following game, a very rare win for him over Bobby. We suspect the venue was the Flea House, the popular name for the since defunct Chess and Checker

Club of New York. Located in Times Square at 212 West 42nd Street, the Flea House was open all hours of the day, with upwards of 200 people cramming into its main two rooms to play chess and other games. Players often played for stakes and Asa was one of several hustlers happy to “give their customers a trim.”

The following anecdote by Stewart Reuben, writing in *The Chess Scene* (pp.221-222), may apply to this game and his draw with Bobby.

“Bobby used to be willing to play five-minute chess at the stakes of a dollar a game. Working this out to be 7 dollars per hour at worst, it was hardly exuberant. I played him several times at this, receiving 10 to 1 money odds, and even managed to draw one game.

Desperate for a game one evening, he gave a good friend of mine, Asa Hoffman, 20 to 1 odds. I found this very irritating as Asa was much stronger than me, but Bobby did not agree. Asa did not want to take the whole dollar for himself, so I had 25 cents as did other spectators to make it up to a dollar. In an Evans Gambit, Bobby played badly and lost the first game. Quickly, he shelled out the 20 dollars, but could only succeed in giving away 19 dollars. We had been so miserly that only 95 cents had been staked!”

(53) Evans Gambit C52
Asa Hoffman – Fischer
New York (blitz) 1963

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5

Bobby didn't answer 1.e4 with 1..e5 often, and when he did, his opponent would invariably play the Ruy Lopez. His only tournament game defending 3.Bc4 was versus Edmar Mednis in the 1963/1964 U.S. Championship.

4.b4

Mednis chose 4.c3 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ 8.Nbxd2 Nxe4! and got the worst of it when he failed to capture on f7 immediately - instead 9.Qe2 d5 10.Nxe4 O-O gave Black a nice pull.

4...Bxb4 5.c3 Ba5 6.d4 exd4 7.O-O dxc3

Hoffman writes: “This is the Compromised Defense. Fischer studied all of the nineteenth century games, and enjoyed testing his defensive skills in some

difficult variations.”

8.Qb3 Qf6 9.e5 Qg6 10.Nxc3 Nge7 11.Ba3 O-O 12.Rad1 Re8 13.Ne4!

ECO gives only 13.Bd3 Qh5 14.Ne4 Nxe5 15.Nxe5 Qxe5 16.Bb2 Qe6 17.Qb5 with a clear advantage for White (Lasker).

“Fischer looked at this move with some suspicion! Could this be the latest Russian analysis? The move, in fact, is given in *Common Sense in Chess* by Emmanuel Lasker. The continuation given is 13...Qxe4 14.Bxf7+ Kf8 15.Bg8 d5 16.exd6 Nxc8 17.Ng5 Qg6 18.Qf7+! Qxf7 19.Nxh7 mate!” - Hoffmann.

13...h6 14.Ng3 Bb6?

Here 14...Rf8 15.Bd5 wins the exchange. The most interesting try was 14...b5.

Editors: Houdini confirms Asa’s assessment that 14...b5 was better and offered equal chances. Also 14...Nd8 was also quite playable as 15.Qa4 Bb6 16.Bd3 Qe6 17.Bc4 Qc6 18.Bb5 is equal.

15.Nh4 Qg5 16.Bxf7+ Kf8 17.Ng6 1-0 (*Chess Gladiator*, page 2)

New York 1963

Letter from America by U.S. Master Stewart Reuben

The Manhattan club was able to hold a celebration winning the championship of the Metropolitan League of New York at which no less than five grandmasters were present. At that Manhattan C.C. gathering, scores of five-minute games were taken down: two non-players wrote down the moves of one game, one color each.

Here are some of the games including the first published by Reuben Fine for more than a decade! *Chess*, November 16, 1963 (pp. 63-64)

Manhattan Maneuvers by Beth Cassidy

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the Manhattan Club is the range of playing ability to be found there. This varies from tenth rate rabbits to first-rate grandmasters, and it was to fete some of its stars that the Club gathered in force in the Henry Hudson Hotel last month. They were celebrating in particular the winning of the Metropolitan League, and in general the fact that the Manhattan members hold all the major trophies that can be won in the U.S. The most recent acquisition was the U.S. Open Championship which Bill Lombardy won

in Chicago in August. A touch of irony was disclosed by the Club's Chairman, Mr. M. Kasper, in his opening address. While congratulating the team which won the coveted Metropolitan League Cup, Mr. Kasper also thanked two of the original members of the team who had turned Hessian and played for another club. Their loss created no serious weakness in the Manhattan side, but their strength helped to beat the New York Chess and Checkers Club in a crucial game. Had the two boys just stayed at home, or gone to a film that night, the Chess and Checkers Club would most probably, not to say positively, have won that match and with it the Metropolitan League. It's an ill wind that blows no one good! Mr. Kasper then introduced those grandmasters present, Bobby Fischer, Pal Benko, Bill Lombardy, and Arthur Bisguier. Bisguier was accompanied by his attractive, blonde wife Carol, who tells how she made a friend for life during the Western Open in Michigan. She very graciously lost to one competitor thus enabling him to boast that he had "beaten Bisguier." Other commendees were introduced, but the loudest and longest applause of the evening was accorded to author, analyst, International master, and universal favorite, club secretary, Hans Kmoch.



Hans Kmoch (1894-1973) contributed to the game in many ways. He was a first rate author and annotator, an International Master and an International Arbiter. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

When the honors had been done to everybody's satisfaction, we retired to the club room below for an invitation rapids tournament. The invitees were Benko, Bisguier, Brandts, Fischer, McKelvie, Toth, Shipman and Steinmeyer. As expected, Fischer won the event with a perfect 7-0 score. This was the first time I had seen Fischer in action and I must say it was a real pleasure to watch him. That he is a superb tournament player was obvious even in this small informal contest. He never gets flustered and seems to be unconscious of the people practically sitting on his shoulders. Only once did he call for hush and that was when an altercation over a box of biscuits arose on the sideline and appeared to be developing into a fracas. The biscuits and peace were restored and the game continued. Fischer played with complete certitude and at no time did he show the slightest hesitation. Watching him I could not help thinking that he must see the game much as the traffic guide who goes up in the helicopter here in New York sees the traffic. He seems to see exactly where every piece can go and just what can be expected to block it and at what point. He was so relaxed that at times he sat with his chin on his hands as if quietly analyzing the position, which indeed he was - on his opponents' time! His movements, though apparently casual, are extremely quick. In his game against Benko, Fischer was White. This meant that the clock was placed on Fischer's left and that he had to move the piece, and stretch across the table to press the clock with the same hand. Taking into account the seconds inevitably lost on reaching for the clock, Fischer made very good time. The game went to 60-odd moves and Fischer had used 2 minutes 47 seconds. His opponent in that game, Pal Benko, also showed a remarkable turn of speed, especially when you consider that in any chess match Benko's greatest adversary is time. Benko, who is one of my real favorites since his sojourn in Dublin during a zonal, looked harassed. But then he almost always does look both harassed and exasperated during a tournament. In this case he was entitled to his exasperation; he had just forfeited a game by not noticing a check and leaving his King en prise - an unprofitable oversight at the best of times! During the evening Reuben Fine arrived - I had never seen him before and was very anxious to see the Idea behind "The Ideas Behind". He is a small, quite unremarkable looking man, his one distinctive feature being a pair of the sharpest, shrewdest eyes I have ever seen. He is reputed to have two personalities. He is either extremely affable or completely

silent. This was one of his quiet nights! I watched him playing 5-minute games with Benko for over an hour without hearing him utter a syllable. He rarely raised his eyes from the board, and I have yet to discover the subtle signals which must have passed between them to denote the end of the game. One moment they were pushing pieces and pressing clocks and the next they were gathering in the pieces and changing colors. ... *British Chess Magazine*, January 1964, pp.14-15.



Reuben Fine explains his “ideas” to actress Jane Nigh on a Los Angeles beach around 1946.

(Photo from *Chess Review*)

(54) Nimzo-Indian E40

Reuben Fine – Fischer

New York (blitz) 1963

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 d5 5.Nge2 dxc4 6.a3 Bd6 7.e4 e5 8.f4 exd4

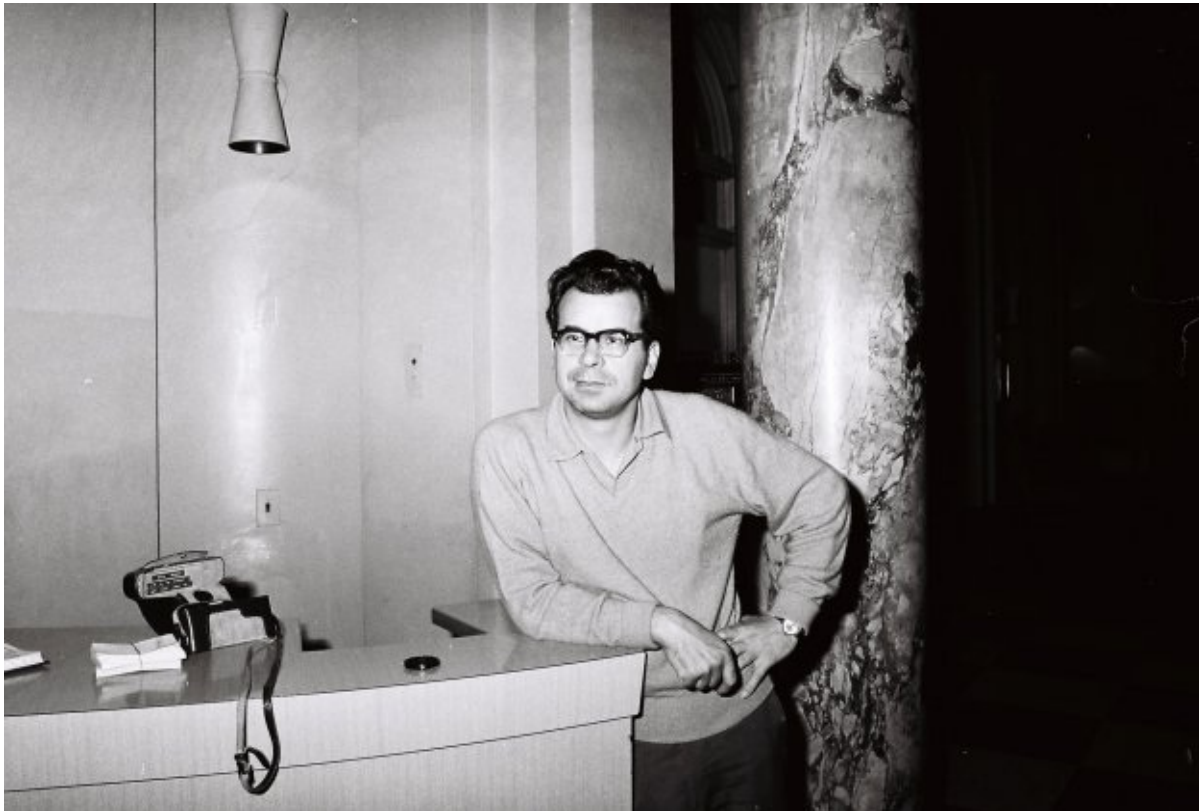
9.Qxd4 Nc6 10.Qxc4 0–0 11.Be3 Be6 12.Qd3 Na5 13.e5 Bxe5 14.Qb5 Bxc3+ 15.Nxc3 c6 16.Qg5 Bc4 17.Rd1 Qe8 18.Kf2 Bxf1 19.Rhxf1 Nc4 20.Bc5 Ne4+ 21.Nxe4 Qxe4 22.Kg1 f6 23.Qg4 Rf7 24.Rd4 Qe3+ 25.Kh1 Qb3 26.Qe6 Nd2 27.Qd6 Nxf1 28.Qd8+ Rf8 0–1 *Chess*, November 16, 1963 (page 63)

(55) Grunfeld D83

Reuben Fine – Fischer

New York (blitz) 1963

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 Bg7 5.e3 0–0 6.Qb3 c6 7.Rc1 dxc4 8.Bxc4 b5 9.Be2 Be6 10.Qc2 b4 11.Na4 Qd5 12.b3 Nh5 13.Bf3 Qa5 14.Ne2 Bd5 15.e4 Nxf4 16.Nxf4 Bh6 17.exd5 Bxf4 18.dxc6 Bxc1 19.Qxc1 Na6 20.0–0 Nc7 21.Re1 e6 22.Re5 Nd5 23.Bxd5 exd5 24.h4 Rac8 25.h5 Qb5 26.c7 Qd7 27.Qe3 Rxc7 28.Nc5 Qg4 29.h6 Rc6 30.Rxd5 Rf6 31.Nd7 Re6 32.Re5 Qd1+ 33.Kh2 Rxe5 34.Qxe5 1–0 *Chess*, November 16, 1963 (page 63)



Twice a Candidate for the World Championship, Pal Benko was also a world class problemist.

(Photo by Beth Cassidy)

(56) Caro Kann B17

Fischer-Benko

New York (blitz) 1963

**1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 5.Nf3 Ngf6 6.Nxf6+ Nxf6 7.Bc4 Bf5
8.Qe2 e6 9.Bg5 Be7 10.0-0-0 0-0 11.Ne5 h6 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.f4 Qc7 14.g4
Bh7 15.h4 b5 16.Bd3 Bxe5 17.Bxh7+ Kxh7 18.fxe5 c5 19.Qxb5 cxd4
20.Rxd4 Rab8 21.Qe2 Kg8 22.Rhd1 Qa5 23.a3 Rb5 24.Qd2 Qxd2+
25.R1xd2 Rxe5 26.b4 g5 27.hxg5 hxg5 28.Rd7 a5 29.Rc7 axb4 30.axb4 Re4
31.b5 Rxd4 32.c4 Rb8 33.Kc2 Rg1 34.Rdd7 Rf1 35.Kb3 g4 36.Rd4 f5
37.Rdd7 Rh1 38.Kb4 Kh8 39.Rg7 Rh3 40.c5 g3 41.b6 f4 42.Rg4 e5 43.b7
Rh1 44.Rc8+ Kh7 45.Rxb8 Rb1+ 46.Kc4 f3 47.Rxg3 f2 48.Rf3 f1Q+
49.Rxf1 Rxf1 50.Rh8+ Kxh8 51.b8Q+ 1-0** *Chess*, November 16, 1963 (page
63)

(57) Philidor C41

Fischer – Reuben Fine

New York (blitz) 1963

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nd7 4.Bc4 c6 5.0-0 Be7 6.dxe5 dxe5 7.Qe2 Ngf6 8.Rd1
Qc7 9.Ng5 0-0 10.Bxf7+ 1-0** *Chess*, November 16, 1963 (page 63)

(58) Sicilian Accelerated Dragon B35

Fischer – Stewart Reuben

New York (blitz) 1963

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Be3 Bg7 6.Nc3 Nf6 7.Bc4 0-0
8.Bb3 a6 9.h4 b5 10.h5 b4 11.Nd5 Nxe4 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Qg4 e6 14.Qh3 f5
15.0-0-0 Na5 16.Qh7+ Kf7 17.Rh6 Nxb3+ 18.axb3 Rh8 19.Qxg6+ Kg8
20.Rxh8+ Kxh8 21.Rh1+ Kg8 22.Rh7 Qf8 23.Bh6 1-0** *Chess*, November 16,
1963 (pages 63-64)

(59) English A16

Stewart Reuben – Fischer

New York (blitz) 1963

**1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.g3 g6 5.Bg2 Nb6 6.Nf3 Bg7 7.d3 0-0 8.Be3
Nc6 9.0-0 e5 10.Qd2 f5 11.Bh6 f4 12.Bxg7 Kxg7 13.Ne4 h6 14.Rad1 g5**

15.d4 exd4 16.Nxd4 Ne5 17.Nf3 Qxd2 18.Rxd2 Nec4 19.Rc2 Bf5 20.Nfd2
Rae8 21.Nxc4 Bxe4 22.Bxe4 Rxe4 23.Nxb6 cxb6 24.gxf4 gxf4 25.Rfc1 Rf7
26.f3 Re3 27.Kf2 Rfe7 28.Rd1 Kg6 29.Rd3 Rxd3 30.exd3 Re3 31.Rd2 Kf5
32.d4 Ke6 33.Re2 Rxe2+ 34.Kxe2 Kd5 35.Kd3 a5 36.a4 Kc6 37.Ke4 b5
38.axb5+ Kxb5 39.d5 Kb6 40.Ke5 Kc7 41.Kxf4 b5 42.Ke5 b4 43.f4 a4
44.Kd4 a3 45.bxa3 bxa3 46.Kc3 Kd6 47.Kb3 Kxd5 48.Kxa3 Ke4 49.Kb3
Kxf4 50.Kc3 Kg4 51.Kd3 Kh3 52.Ke3 Kxh2 53.Kf2 Draw *Chess*, November
16, 1963 (page 64)

These two accounts would seem to be definitive, but unfortunately they raise as many questions as they answer. The first is exactly what sort of event was held and who played in it. Unfortunately, there is no record in *Chess Life* or *Chess Review*, and when we contacted one of the alleged participants, International Master Walter Shipman, he said this was the first he had ever heard of the event! Shipman is known for his excellent memory, as is fellow Manhattan Chess Club veteran Aden Rudy, who also had no recollection.

Luckily we were able to contact one of the participants who also played Bobby in the 1971 blitz tournament organized at the Manhattan. Senior Master Neil McKelvie was once ranked among the top 20 players in the United States.

He writes:

I played Bobby three times, but technically these were either "rapid transit" at 10 seconds per move or else five-minute games; part of fast-time-limit tournaments. I have no memory of the moves, only that against Fischer I "won" the exchange in one game, only to realize a few moves later that I was utterly lost!

The main event was an invitational double round all-play-all in 1970 in which all participants were at a minimum USCF Masters. Fischer won EVERY game except one; against Walter Shipman, which ended up with K and R vs. K. I'm NOT sure of this, and I've never asked Walter, but what I HEARD may or may not be true - and if true, shows a perhaps unexpected side of Fischer - that he was going to win on time, but instead let Walter win his Rook by an obvious x-ray attack, thus ensuring that he, Fischer, could not win on time because of insufficient mating material! No question; Shipman deserved his draw. Although I was "there", I was obviously involved with my own game then.

The "other" tournament was another invitational Rapids at the Manhattan chess club, which included Fischer, Benko, and Bisguier, plus me and four more "mere" USCF Masters. (I forget who were the others - perhaps Shipman or Feuerstein or George Kramer?) Fischer was first with 7-0; I was second with 5.5-1.5 getting 1.5 vs. Benko and Bisguier and winning the rest. Benko and Bisguier came third and fourth.

I'm sorry that my memory is so hazy; particularly since this was perhaps my best-ever relative performance.

Unfortunately, at now 85, this is the best I can do.

All good wishes;

Neil McKelvie

Santa Monica 1966

The Second Piatigorsky Cup, an epic competition that produced many hard fought games, also had its lighter moments. Here is one of them.

(60) Alekhine B04

Fischer – Bent Larsen

Santa Monica (blitz) 1966

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.Nf3 dxe5 5.Nxe5 Nd7 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qh5+ Ke6 8.Qg4+ Kf7 9.Qh5+ Ke6 10.Qg4+

Since this was an offhand game, with nothing at stake, Larsen dramatically played **10...Kd6**, accompanying it with the comment: "Now I play for a win!". He got slaughtered soon after - Larry Evans.

10...Kf7 is the right move when 50 of 53 games in Mega Database 2011 ended in a draw either immediately or in a few moves. It is only used when both players want to make a quick draw and Maxim Turov of Russia has drawn three times this way against his wife WGM Irina Turova.

11.c4 N7f6 12.Qg3+ Ke6 13.cxd5+ Qxd5 14.Nc3 Qxd4 15.Be3 Qb4 16.a3 Qxb2 17.Bc4+ Kd7 18.Rd1+ Ke8 19.Nb5 1–0 *Chess Catechism*, page 126.



Louis Statham and Bent Larsen at Lone Pine 1978 (Photo by Jerry Hanken).

The name Lone Pine conjures up magical memories for American players of a certain age. Located midway between Los Angeles and Reno on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Lone Pine was home each spring from 1971 to 1981 to a series of progressively stronger and stronger events. Sponsored by Louis D. Statham (1907–1983), a millionaire engineer and inventor of medical instruments who had retired to Lone Pine, the tournaments attracted world class players, top US grandmasters and the best American juniors. The picture above was taken in Statham's home in 1978 shortly after Larsen won the event.

California had good memories for Larsen. He first visited in 1957 after the Dallas International hanging out for several months in Los Angeles with newly arrived Pal Benko and Larry Evans who owned a motor hotel where the players stayed. During their Southern California sojourn the trio found time to give several exhibitions in San Diego for John Alexander's Steiner Chess Group.

Larsen returned to California in 1966 to play in the 2nd Piatigorsky Cup. There he finished third in a very strong field and defeated Tigran Petrosian in a pair of brilliant games. Larsen did not just confine himself to chess activities during his visit to Los Angeles. The late Jerry Hanken, who served as transportation director for both Piatigorsky Cups and the Lone Pine tournaments, was fond of telling how he took Larsen and Jan Hein Donner to see the Watts Towers on a free day. A probation officer who stood around six foot two and weighed 250 pounds in his prime, Hanken tried to dissuade the pair from visiting. He was acutely aware that while Simon Rodia's masterpiece was well worth the visit

the Watts Riots were less than a year old. Hanken said he only agreed to make the trip when Donner signed on figuring that if anything went wrong the tournament would still have an even number of players.

A regular visitor to Lone Pine (1978-1981), Larsen's last California appearance was at the Software Toolworks American Open in Long Beach in 1988. There the Great Dane scored 6 from 7 against his fellow carbon-based life forms, but unfortunately for him Deep Thought was playing and beat him to tie with Tony Miles for first. This was the finest result ever by a computer at the time.



Jerry Hanken plays tour guide for Leonid Stein and Yury Averbakh at Disneyland in 1968.

A regular visitor to Lone Pine (1978-1981), Larsen's last California appearance was at the Software Toolworks American Open in Long Beach in 1988. There the Great Dane scored 6 from 7 against his fellow carbon-based life forms, but unfortunately for him Deep Thought was playing and beat him

to tie with Tony Miles for first. This was the finest result ever by a computer at the time.



Jan Hein Donner making his move 12...Re8 against Wolfgang Unzicker at the

Leipzig Olympiad.

Jan Hein Donner (1927-1988) is remembered for his splendid writing (*The King*) and his colorful and often controversial comments. He could also play quite well. Competing in a four player quadrangular in Leiden in 1970 with Spassky, Botvinnik and Larsen he scored 6 from 12 to finish second behind the reigning World Champion. Fischer's games from the Herceg Novi Blitz tournament will be found in volume three (*The Writings of Bobby Fischer*).

Buenos Aires 1970

The French magazine *Europe Echecs* ran an article on the 45th anniversary of Fischer's great triumph at Buenos Aires 1970 which contains a short recollection of Bobby's blitz prowess by the Romanian grandmaster Florin Gheorghiu. The latter, who was the 1963 World Junior Champion (on tie-break) and in 1979 he almost qualified for the Candidates matches, is perhaps remembered for beating Fischer at the 1966 Olympiad.

Gheorghiu writes about his experience with Bobby after Buenos Aires 1970:

After the tournament Bobby and I were to give some simuls. In the evening at the hotel we had not much to do and I had an incredible experience with Bobby. He asked me to note the variations of any opening of my choice. I suggested the Jaenisch Gambit in the Spanish. I took a sheet of paper and he began to dictate, like a machine, with great speed and without the chessboard, a number of variations. Then, at the end, he told me with a big smile, "You probably want to check these..?" Everything was correct!

Then, in an ironic tone, he offered to play some blitz games. "I have been told you do not play badly." He looked me straight in the eyes with a defiant air, "What rate" I said, "I do not know – 5 minutes or 3 minutes..". Puzzled, Bobby replied, "What is this 3 minutes or 5 minutes, we are wasting our time. Let's go for 2 minutes!" Then we played a couple of games and, to my surprise, I put up good resistance. At the end Bobby looked at me with a big smile, "Yes, you did not acquit yourself badly!" For me, it was an extraordinary result because few players could stand up to him at speed chess because he played it better than standard chess. He played like a machine at an incredible speed. The score was close, something like 8-7 in his favour, but the most amazing thing was that it

was almost always black that won because white did not have time to realize his advantage.

Fischer's desire to play two minute chess is interesting as the incident with Gheorghiu does not appear to be an isolated instance of Bobby liking to play blitz with time controls faster than five minutes aside. Bobby had two extended stays in San Francisco in 1980-81 and on his first visit stayed with his old friend Jim Buff at the latter's apartment at 521 3rd Avenue in the Richmond District. Buff's roommate, Stephen Brandwein (1942-2015), was rated among the top 50 players in the United States in the mid to late 1960s, but known to be a much stronger blitz player.

How strong? The well-known New York master and bookseller Fred Wilson ranks Bobby as the top American blitz player of the late 1960s and early 1970s with Bernard Zuckerman clear second. He places Steve in the next tier of four to six players. Support for this position comes from crosstables of blitz tournament held at the Mechanics' Institute Chess Club in 1969 where Brandwein invariably took first place with near perfect scores against fields of masters and experts headed by William Addison, Julio Kaplan and James Tarjan. Further evidence is Brandwein's having split a six game match with Miquel Najdorf at the Mechanics' in the early 1980s.

Steve and Bobby played several sessions of three minute games in early 1981 with Bobby winning 80 percent of them. As Steve put it he played just well enough to keep Bobby interested. Many years later Brandwein recalled that most games he was White were Polugaevsky (6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5) Najdorfs – interesting because this was a line Bobby never played in tournaments.



Stephen Brandwein in 2014. (Photo by Richard Shorman)

The last documented instance we know of Bobby playing blitz was with Grandmaster Peter Biyiasas in the fall of 1981 (after the U.S. Open in nearby

Palo Alto). William Nack, in an article for *Sport Illustrated* that appeared July 29, 1985, writes he beat Biyiasas 17 straight speed games before the latter finally surrendered.

Nack quotes Biyiasas:

"He was too good," Biyiasas says. "There was no use in playing him. It wasn't interesting. I was getting beaten, and it wasn't clear to me why. It wasn't like I made this mistake or that mistake. It was like I was being gradually outplayed, from the start. He wasn't taking any time to think. The most depressing thing about it is that I wasn't even getting out of the middle game to an endgame. I don't ever remember as endgame. He honestly believes there is no one for him to play, no one worthy of him. I played him, and I can attest to that. It's not interesting."



Peter Biyiasas circa 1974. (Photo by Jerry Hanken)

To conclude our coverage of Fischer blitz's prowess we finish with his two great triumphs in five minute tournaments.

Herceg Novi Blitz – April 1970

This was the first great international blitz tournament ever held and Fischer won going away. Never challenged for first, he won ten of his eleven matches, with only Korchnoi making a 1-1 score.

Mikhail Tal views on the event are quoted in *The Russian's versus Fischer* (p. 183):

“I don't know what Petrosian, Korchnoi, Bronstein, and Smyslov counted on before the start of the tournament, but I expected them to be the most probable rivals for the top prizes. Fischer had until recently played fast chess none too strongly. Now much has changed: he is fine at fast chess. His playing is of the same kind as in tournament games: everything is simple, follows a single pattern, logical, and without any spectacular effects. He makes his moves quickly and practically without errors. Throughout the tournament I think he did not lose a whole set of pieces in this way. Fischer's result is very, very impressive.”

Herceg Novi Blitz Tournament (5-Minute Chess)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
1. Fischer	x	2	1	2	1½	1½	2	2	1½	1½	2	2	19
2. Tal	0	x	2	1	0	2	1½	½	2	1½	2	2	14½
3. Korchnoi	1	0	x	½	0	2	2	2	1	1½	2	2	14
4. Petrosian	0	1	1½	x	1	1	1½	1	1	1½	2	2	13½
5. Bronstein	½	2	2	1	x	½	½	1	½	1½	1½	2	13
6. Hort	½	0	0	1	1½	x	1	2	2	1	1	2	12
7. Matulovic	0	½	0	½	1½	1	x	½	2	2	1½	1	10½
8. Smyslov	0	1½	0	1	1	0	1½	x	½	1	1	2	9½
9. Reshevsky	½	0	1	1	1½	0	0	1½	x	½	1½	1	8½
10. Uhlmann	½	½	½	½	½	1	0	1	1½	x	0	2	8
11. Ivkov	0	0	0	0	½	1	½	1	½	2	x	2	7½
12. Ostojić	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	x	2

Chess Meets of the Century, co-authored by Bobby and Dimitrije Bjelica has

annotations for a dozen of Fischer's 20 games which will be found in volume three which covers Fischer's writings. The games Bobby annotated are as follows:

Tal (one game), Ivkov (no games), Smyslov (one game), Reshevsky (both games), Hort (one game), Petrosian (both games), Bronstein (one game), Ostojić (one game), Uhlmann (both games), Korchnoi (one game) and Matulović (one game).

Here are all 22 games presented in round by round order, a few with light notes by the authors unless otherwise indicated.



International Master Jeremy Silman and Mikhail Tal at the favorite destination of Soviet Grandmasters visiting the United States. (Photo by Gwen Feldman)

(61) Sicilian B30

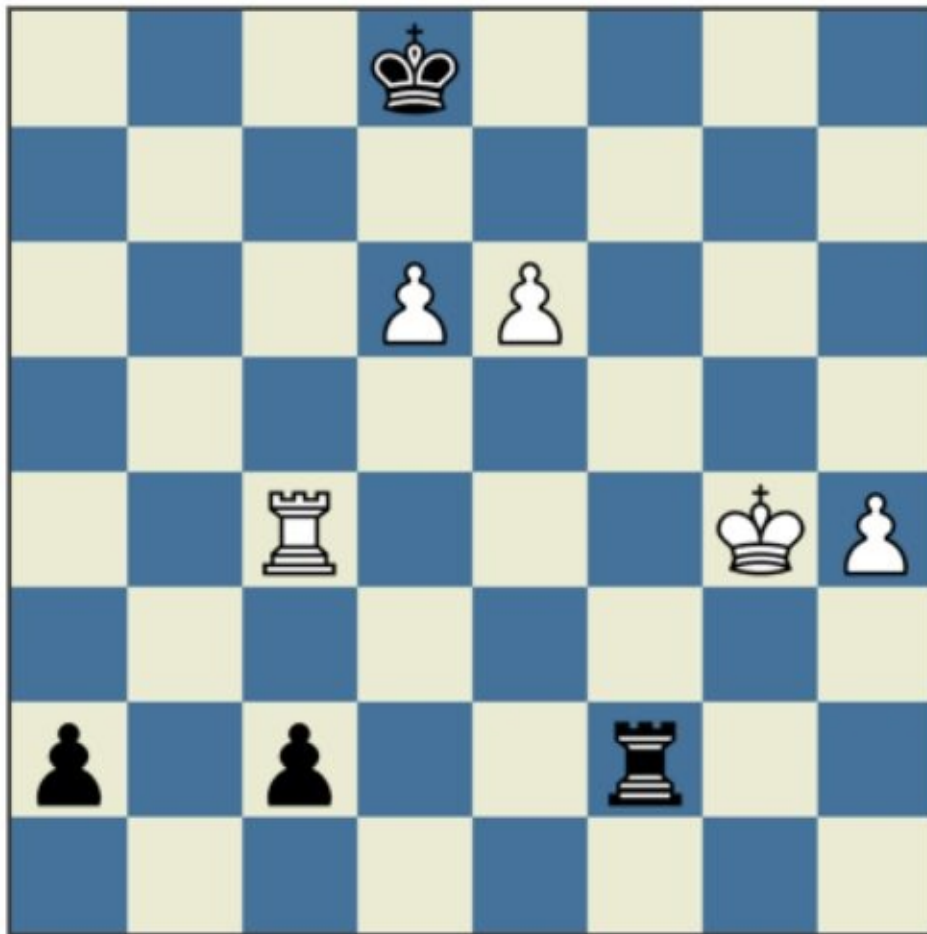
Mikhail Tal - Fischer

Herceg Novi Blitz (1.1), 1970

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Bc4 Be7 5.d3 Nf6 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Ne1 0-0 8.f4 a6
9.a4 exf4 10.Bxf4 Be6 11.Bxe6 fxe6 12.Bg3 Qb6 13.Qd2 Ng4 14.Nf3 Nd4**

15.Rab1 Nxf3+ 16.gxf3 Ne5 17.Kg2 Ng6 18.Ne2 Nh4+ 19.Bxh4 Bxh4 20.b4 Qc7 21.bxc5 dxc5 22.a5 Rf6 23.f4 Raf8 24.Rb6 Bg5 25.e5 Rf5 26.Rxe6 Qf7 27.Rd6 Bxf4 28.Rxf4 Rxf4 29.Nxf4 Qxf4 30.Qxf4 Rxf4 31.Rd7 Ra4 32.e6 Kf8 33.Rf7+ Ke8 34.Rxg7 Rxa5 35.Rxb7 Ra2 36.Kf3 Rxc2 37.Rxh7 c4 38.d4 c3 39.d5 Rd2 40.Ke4 c2 41.Rc7 Kd8 42.Rc4 a5 43.h4 a4 44.Ke5 a3 45.d6 Re2+ 46.Kf5 Rf2+ 47.Kg4 a2

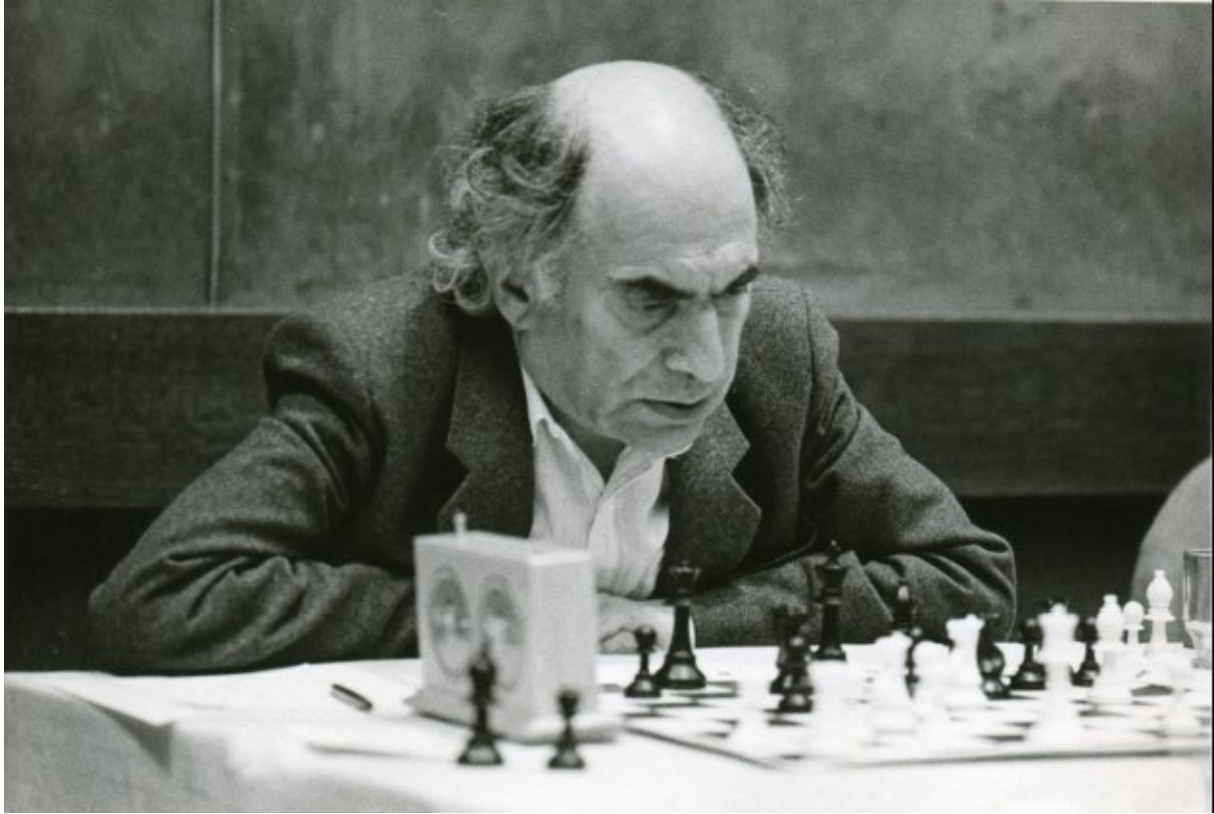
In this position I could not see a way to win, but I knew I could not lose - Tal.



48.d7??

48.e7+ Kd7 49.Rc7+ Kxd6 50.e8Q Kxc7 and White draws immediately by perpetual check or could try for something like 51.Qe7+ Kc8 52.Qe6+ Kd8 53.Qxa2 Rf4+ 54.Kxf4 c1Q+. The Black checks cannot be stopped (unless the h-pawn is abandoned) as White's queen is not centralized.

48...Ke7 49.Rc8 Rd2 50.Re8+ Kf6 51.e7 Rxd7 0–1



Mikhail Tal playing at the American Open in 1988. (Photo by Gwen Feldman)

(62) Queen Pawn A49

Fischer – Mikhail Tal

Herceg Novi (1.2), 1970

**1.g3 g6 2.Bg2 Bg7 3.Nf3 c5 4.c3 Nf6 5.0–0 0–0 6.d4 d6? 7.dxc5 dxc5 8.Qxd8
Rxd8 9.Be3 Na6 10.Na3 Nd5 11.Rfd1 Bg4 12.Bd2 h6 13.h3 Be6 14.Nb5
Ndc7 15.a4 Bb3 16.Rdc1 Nxb5 17.axb5 Nc7 18.Be3 Nxb5 19.Bxc5**



19...b6?? 20.Bxe7 Re8 21.Ba3 Rad8 22.e3 a5 23.Nd4 Nxa3 24.Rxa3 Bc4
 25.Bf1 Bd5 26.Bg2 Bc4 27.Ra4 Bd3 28.b4! axb4 29.Rxb4 Rd6 30.Rd1 Bc2
 31.Rd2 Bf5 32.Rdb2 Rc8 33.Rxb6 Rxb6 34.Rxb6 Rxc3 35.Nxf5 gxf5 36.Bd5
 36...Rc7 37.Rb5 Re7 38.Bc4 Re5 39.Rb7 Kh7 40.Rxf7 Kg6 41.Rc7 Bf8
 42.Rc6+ Kg7 43.Bd3 Be7 44.Bc2 Ra5 45.Kg2 and White later won. 1-0



Fischer-Tal from Bled 1961 with Najdorf watching.

(63) Pirc B07

Fischer - Boris Ivkov

Herceg Novi blitz (2.1), 1970

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.c3 Nf6 5.Bd3 0-0 6.0-0 Nc6 7.Qe2 e5 8.h3 Nh5
 9.Bg5 Bf6 10.Be3 Bg7 11.Nbd2 Re8 12.d5 Ne7 13.c4 Nf4 14.Bxf4 exf4
 15.Rab1 Nf5 16.b4 a5 17.bxa5 Rxa5 18.Nb3 Ra8 19.c5 h6 20.Bb5 Bd7 21.a4
 Bxb5 22.axb5 Nh4 23.cxd6 cxd6 24.Nxh4 Qxh4 25.Nd2 Bd4 26.Qf3 Ra2
 27.Nc4 Qf6 28.Rbd1 Bc5 29.e5 dxe5 30.d6 e4 31.d7 Rd8 32.Qxe4 f3 33.Qxf3
 Qxf3 34.gxf3 Rc2 35.Na5 Be7 36.Nxb7 Rc7 37.Nxd8 Bxd8 38.Rfe1 1-0



Boris Ivkov

(64) King's Indian Fianchetto E68

Boris Ivkov - Fischer

Herceg Novi blitz (2.2), 1970

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.c4 d6 6.d4 Nbd7 7.Nc3 e5 8.e4
exd4 9.Nxd4 Nc5 10.h3 a5 11.Re1 Re8 12.Bg5 h6 13.Bf4 Nfd7 14.Qd2 Ne5
15.Bf1 Ne6 16.Nxe6 Nf3+ 17.Kg2 Nxe1+ 18.Rxe1 Bxe6 19.Bxh6 Bxh6
20.Qxh6 Qf6 21.Qd2 a4 22.f4 Qe7 23.g4 c6 24.Qd4 f6 25.Rd1 Rad8 26.Nxa4
c5 27.Qd3 Kg7 28.Nc3 Rh8 29.Qd2 Rh4 30.a3 Rdh8 31.Kg3 f5 32.exf5??



32. Qxd6 would have held the position as after 32...Rxf3+ 33.Bxf3 Qh4+
34.Kg2 Qxh3+ 35.Kf2 Qh2+ 36.Ke1 Black is unable to bring his rook into the
attack and has to force a draw.

30.Re3 Rxd4 31.Ra3 a5 32.Rc3 Ke6 33.Kg2 Kd6 34.h4 Ra4 35.Rc2 b5
36.Kf3 b4 37.Ke3 Kd5 38.f3 Ra3+ 39.Kf4 a4 40.g4 fxg4 41.fxg4 b3
42.axb3 axb3 43.Rc7 Ra4+ 44.Kg5 Rb4 45.Rc1 Kd4 46.Kh6 Rb7 0-1



The 7th World Champion, Vassily Smyslov was the strongest player of the 1950s, with a plus score in three matches against Botvinnik, wins in two Candidates tournament and a shared first in the 1955 Soviet Championship.

The following game is the only example we have been able to find of Fischer opening with 1.f4. Bobby's game with Mecking from the Palma Interzonal in 1970 reached a typical Bird middlegame but via 1.b3. Aloni-Fischer from Netanya 1968, arising from a Nimzo-Indian (4.e3 b6 with a later ...Ne4 and ...f5), was similar with colors reversed.

Likely Fischer chose the Bird hoping to get Smyslov to start thinking from the beginning of the game instead of after 15-20 moves of a main line Ruy.

(66) Bird A03

Fischer - Vassily Smyslov

Herceg Novi (3.2), 1970

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.b3 g6 4.Bb2 Bg7 5.g3 0-0 6.Bg2 c5 7.e3 Nc6 8.0-0 d4 9.Qe2 Bf5 10.Ne1 Bxc2 11.Nxc2 d3 12.Qd1 dxc2 13.Qxc2 Nb4 14.Qc4 Rb8 15.a4 b6 16.Rd1 Rc8 17.Na3 e6 18.e4 Qe7 19.e5 Nfd5 20.Nb5 Rfd8 21.a5 bxa5 22.Rxa5 Nb6 23.Qe2 Rd7 24.Rda1 a6 25.Nd6 Rcd8 26.Bc3 N6d5 27.Bxd5 Nxd5 28.Rxa6 g5 29.f5 Nxc3 30.dxc3 exf5 31.Re1 Qxe5 32.Qxe5 Bxe5 33.Rxe5 Rxd6 34.Rxd6 Rxd6 35.Rxf5 Rb6 36.Rxg5+ Kf8 37.Rxc5 Rxb3 38.Kg2 Rb2+ 39.Kh3 Kg7 40.g4 Kf6 41.Kg3 Ke6 42.h4 h6 43.h5 Rc2 44.Rc6+ Ke7 45.Kf4 f6 46.Kf5 Rf2+ 47.Ke4 Kf7 48.c4 Rg2 49.Kf3 Rg1 50.Rc7+ Ke6 51.Rh7 Rf1+ 52.Kg2 Rc1 53.Rc7 Ke5 54.Kg3 Rc3+ 55.Kh4 Rc1 56.c5 Ke6 57.Kg3 Rg1+ 58.Kf3 Rf1+ 59.Kg2 Rc1 60.Rc8 Rc3 61.c6 Rc4 62.Kf3 Rc3+ 63.Kg2 Rc2+ 64.Kg3 After several moves Smyslov lost on time.
1-0



Vassily Smyslov giving a simul at the Mechanic's Institute Chess Club of San Francisco on March 20th, 1976. His opponent, 14-year-old Jay Whitehead (who won this game), would later become a strong International Master and a respected expert on 19th century chess. Whitehead (1961-2011) is the only player representing the United States to ever finish ahead of Kasparov in a tournament (Cagnes-sur-Mer 1977).

Reshevsky could easily have won the following match 2-0 with the positions he had on the board, but we suspect Fischer had a huge time advantage in both games which helps to explain Sammy's blunders in winning positions.

(67) English A34

Fischer - Samuel Reshevsky

Herceg Novi blitz (4.1), 1970

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c4!? Nc6 4.Nc3 Nf6 5.g3 g6 6.Bg2 Bg7 7.0-0 0-0 8.d3 d6
9.h3 e5 10.a3 a5 11.Rb1 Bd7 12.Bd2 Ne8 13.Nd5 Ne7 14.b4 Nxd5 15.cxd5
cxb4 16.axb4 a4 17.b5 Nc7 18.b6 Nb5 19.Rb4 Qxb6 20.Qa1 a3 21.Rfb1
Rfc8! 22.Bf1 Rc2 23.d4 a2 24.R1b3 exd4 25.Bxb5 Bxb5 26.Rxb5 Qd8
27.Rd3 Qe7 28.Ne1 Qxe4 29.Rbb3 Rxd2! 30.Rxd2 d3 31.Rxa2!?**



31...Bxa1??

31...Rxa2! won easily, i.e. 32.Qxa2 Qxe1+ 33.Kg2 d2.

32.Rxa8+ Kg7 33.Rxa1 d2 34.Ng2 Qxd5 35.Rbb1 b5 36.Rd1 b4 37.Ne3 Qd3 38.Nf1 b3 39.Rab1 b2 40.Rxb2 d5 41.Rdxd2 Qc3 42.Ne3 d4 43.Nd1 Qc4 44.Rb1 h5 45.h4 f5 46.Rdb2 f4 47.Rb3 fxg3 48.Rxg3 Qc2 49.Rb7+ Kh6 50.Nb2 Qe4 51.Rb6 Qe1+ 52.Kg2 Qe4+ 53.Kf1 Qb1+ 54.Ke2 Qc2+ 55.Ke1 Qe4+ 56.Kd1 Qf5 57.Rbxg6+ Qxg6 58.Rxg6+ Kxg6 59.Ke2 Kf5 60.Kf3 and Black resigned after several more moves. **1-0**



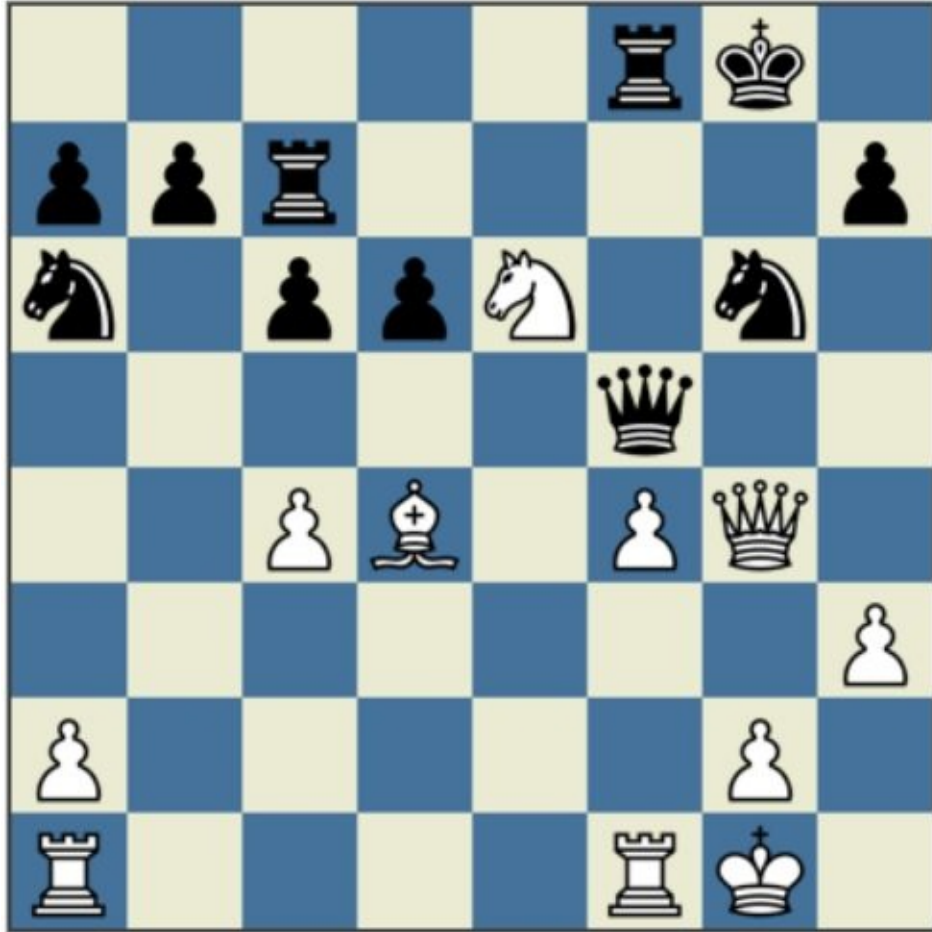
Teammates Sammy Reshevsky and William Addison (center) at the 1964 Tel Aviv Olympiad. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

(68) King's Indian E94

Samuel Reshevsky - Fischer

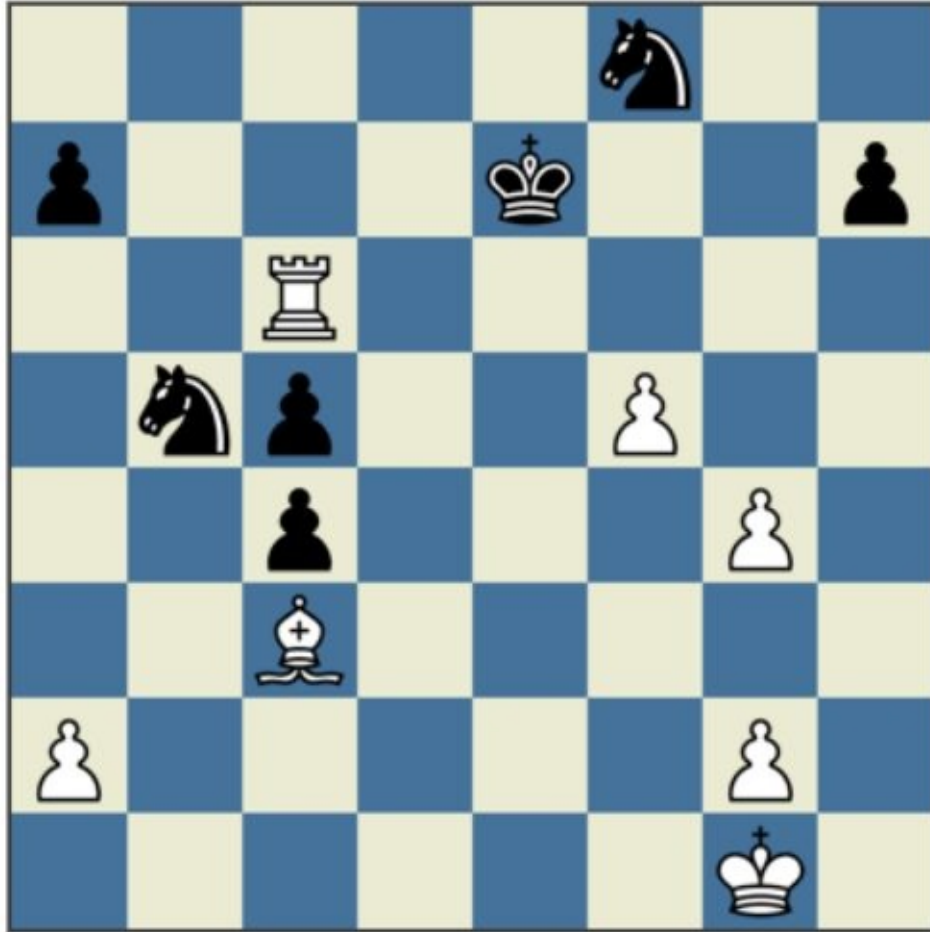
Herceg Novi Blitz (4.1), 1970

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.Nf3 e5 7.Be3!? c6 8.0-0
Ng4 9.Bg5 f6 10.Bc1 f5 11.h3 exd4 12.Nxd4 Ne5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.f4 Qb6
15.Be3 Ng6 16.Nxf5 Qxb2 17.Nxg7 Qxc3 18.Bd4 Qa5 19.Bg4 Na6 20.Bxc8
Raxc8 21.Qg4! Rc7 22.Ne6 Qf5**



23.Nxf8 Qxg4 24.hxg4 Nxf8 25.f5 c5 26.Bc3 Rd7 27.Rad1 Nc7 28.Rfe1 Kf7
 29.Re3 b5! 30.Red3 bxc4 31.Rxd6 Rxd6 32.Rxd6 Nb5 33.Rf6+ Ke7
 34.Rc6??

34.Be5 was one easy win. After the text White is still better, but Bobby is able to hold the position.



34...Nxc3 35.Rxc5 Nxa2 36.Rxc4 Nd7 37.Ra4 Nc3 38.Rxa7 Ne4 39.Kh2 Kd6
40.Kh3 Ndf6 41.Kh4 h6 42.Rg7 Ke5 43.Rg6 Kf4 44.g3+ Kf3 45.Rxh6 Nxg4
46.Rg6 Nxg3 47.Rxg4 Draw



Sammy Reshevsky at Lone Pine in the late 1970s. (Photo by Jerry Hanken)

Vlastimil Hort was a tough nut to crack for Bobby, drawing the first three times they played. Bobby only won their fourth and last game in a long hard struggle at the Palma Interzonal in 1970.

Hort was a prodigy making his debut for the Czech national team at the Leipzig Olympiad in 1960 at the age of 16.

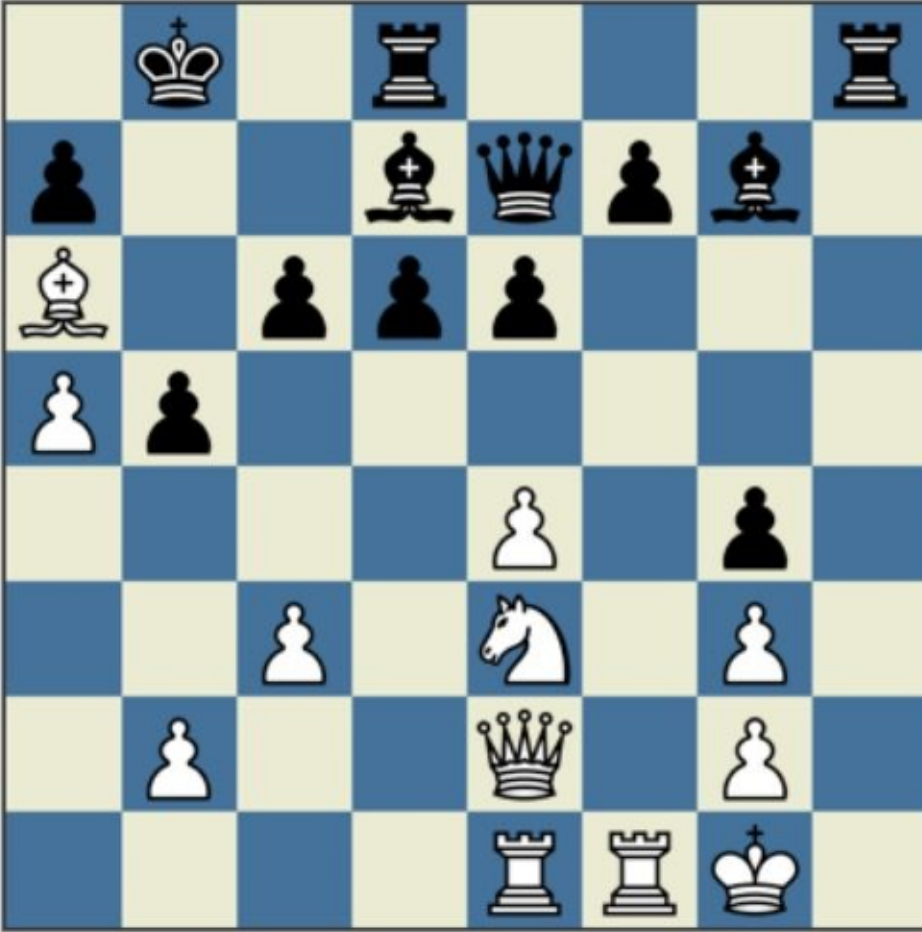
His strength as a player can be judged by his victory over Lev Polugaevsky on board 4 in the USSR versus the World match in 1970 and his narrow loss to Boris Spassky $8\frac{1}{2} - 7\frac{1}{2}$ in the 1977 Candidates Matches.

(69) Torre Attack A48

Vlastimil Hort - Fischer

Herceg Novi (5.1), 1970

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bh4 Bg7 5.Nbd2 g5 6.Bg3 Nh5 7.e4 d6 8.Bd3 g4 9.Nh4 Bxd4 10.c3 Bf6 11.Nf5 Nxc3 12.fxc3 e6 13.Ne3 h5 14.0-0 Nd7 15.Qe2 Qe7 16.Rae1 Ne5 17.Ndc4 Bd7 18.Na5!? b6 19.Nac4 0-0-0 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Ba6+ Kb8 22.Nc4 Bg7 23.a4 h4 24.a5 hxg3 25.hxg3 b5 26.Ne3 c6



27.c4

After 27.Qxg4 Rh7, followed in most cases by ...Rdh8, Black is winning quite easily.

27...b4 28.c5 Bd4! 29.cxd6 Qxd6 30.Rf4 Rh5 31.Rd1?? Bxe3+ 32.Qxe3 Qxd1+ 33.Rf1 Qd6 34.Rc1 c5 0-1



16-year-old Vlastimil Hort faces Vassily Smyslov at the Leipzig Olympiad in 1960.

Only in a blitz game can you find Bobby meeting the Slav Defense with the Exchange variation!

(70) Slav D10

Fischer – Vlastimil Hort

Herceg Novi (5.2), 1970

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 cxd5 5.Bf4 e6 6.e3 Nc6 7.Bb5 Bd6 8.Bxd6 Qxd6 9.f4 Bd7 10.Nf3 Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Nd2 Qb4 13.Qb3 Qa5 14.Qa4 Qxa4 15.Bxa4 Nb4 16.Bxd7+ Kxd7 17.Ke2 f5 18.Nc4 Rhc8 19.Rhc1 Nd3 20.Ne5+ Nxe5 21.dxe5 Rxc1 22.Rxc1 Rc8 23.Rxc8 Kxc8 24.Kd2 Kd7 25.Kc3 Kc6 26.Kc4 b6 27.a4 a6 28.b4 b5+ 29.axb5+ axb5+ 30.Kd4 Kb6 31.h3 g6 32.g4 h5 33.gxh5 gxh5 34.h4 Kc6 35.Kc3 Draw

(71) King's Indian E70

Tigran Petrosian - Fischer

Herceg Novi blitz (6.1), 1970

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.d4 d6 4.e4 Bg7 5.Bd3

In the early 1990s Yasser Seirawan played this move with success, even defeating Vassily Ivanchuk in 22 moves with it. If Black does not play accurately, White can steer for a Saemisch type position with Bd3, Nge2, Be3/Bg5, where he is able to dispense with the move f3.

5...c5 6.d5 0-0 7.Nge2 e6 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bd2 Nbd7 10.b3 exd5 11.cxd5 a6 12.0-0 b5 13.f4?



13...c4! 14.bxc4 Nc5 15.Bc2 b4 16.e5 dxe5 17.fxe5 Ng4 18.Na4 Nxa4 19.Bxa4 Bxe5 20.Bf4 Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Bxa1 22.Qxa1 Nf2+ 23.Rxf2 Qxf2

24.Bxh6 f6 25.Bxf8 Kxf8 26.Ng1 Bg4??

26...Kg7 or 26...Kf7 would have avoided the double attack which follows and left Black completely winning.

27.Qb1! Kg7 28.h3?

28.Qxb4 Rf8 29.c5 when White's pair of passed pawns provide ample compensation for the exchange. It was better to leave the bishop on g4 as it picks up a key tempo for White. After c5 it would be hanging.

28...Bf5

The bishop is not only protected here, it is also much more active than on g4.

29.Qxb4 Ra7 30.Bd1

30.c5 Re7 when ...Re1 and ...Be4 are difficult threats to meet.

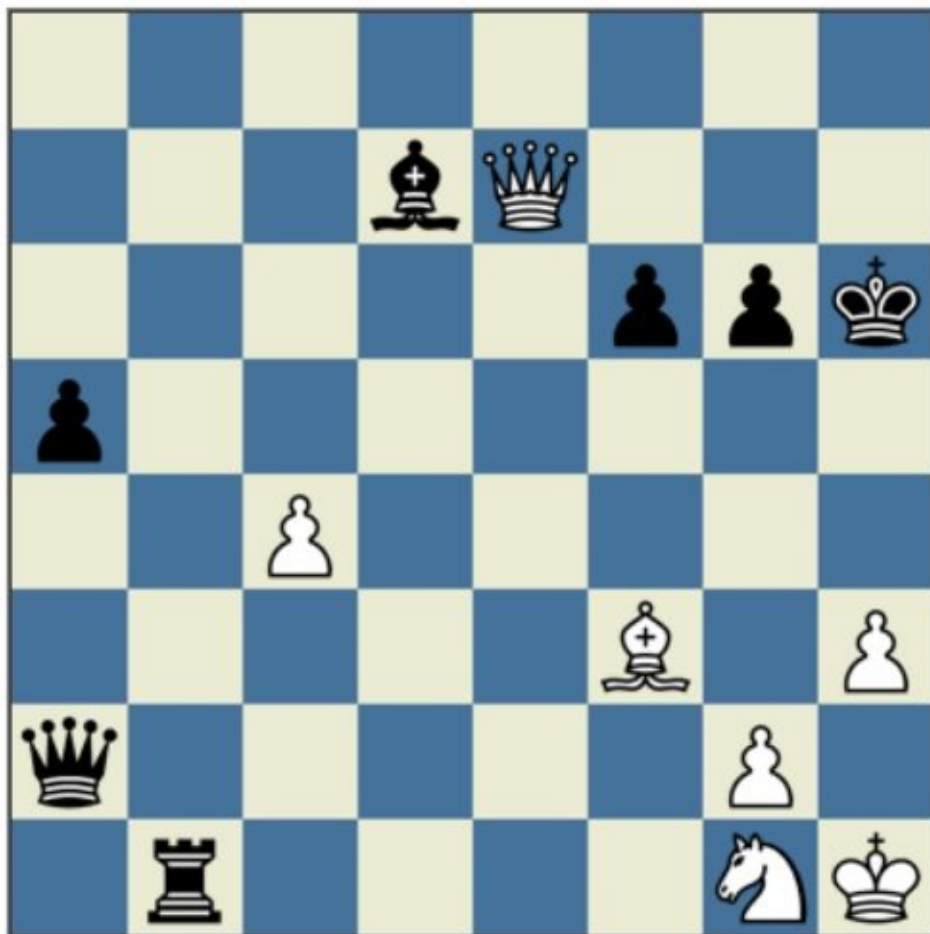
30...Qxa2?!

30...Bd3 preparing ...Rc7 and meeting 31.c5 with 31...a5 32.Qb6 Re7 with ...Re1 soon to follow and the immediate (30...a5! driving the queen from its excellent post) 31.Qb3 Rc7 would have both left Bobby in the driver's seat.

31.Bf3 a5 32.Qc5 Rb7 33.d6

White now has enough counterplay to hold.

33...Rb1 34.d7 Bxd7 35.Qe7+ Kh6



36.Qxd7??

Petrosian had to force the draw with 36.Qf8+ Kh7 (36...Kg5?? is suicide. For example: 37.h4+ Kxh4 38.Qh6+ Kg3 39.Qh2+ Kf2 40.g4+ winning the queen.) 37.Qf7+.

36...Qf2! 37.Kh2 Qxg1+ 38.Kg3 Qe1+ 39.Kh2 Qe5+ 40.g3 Rb2+ 41.Bg2 Qe4 42.Qd5 Rxd2+ 0-1



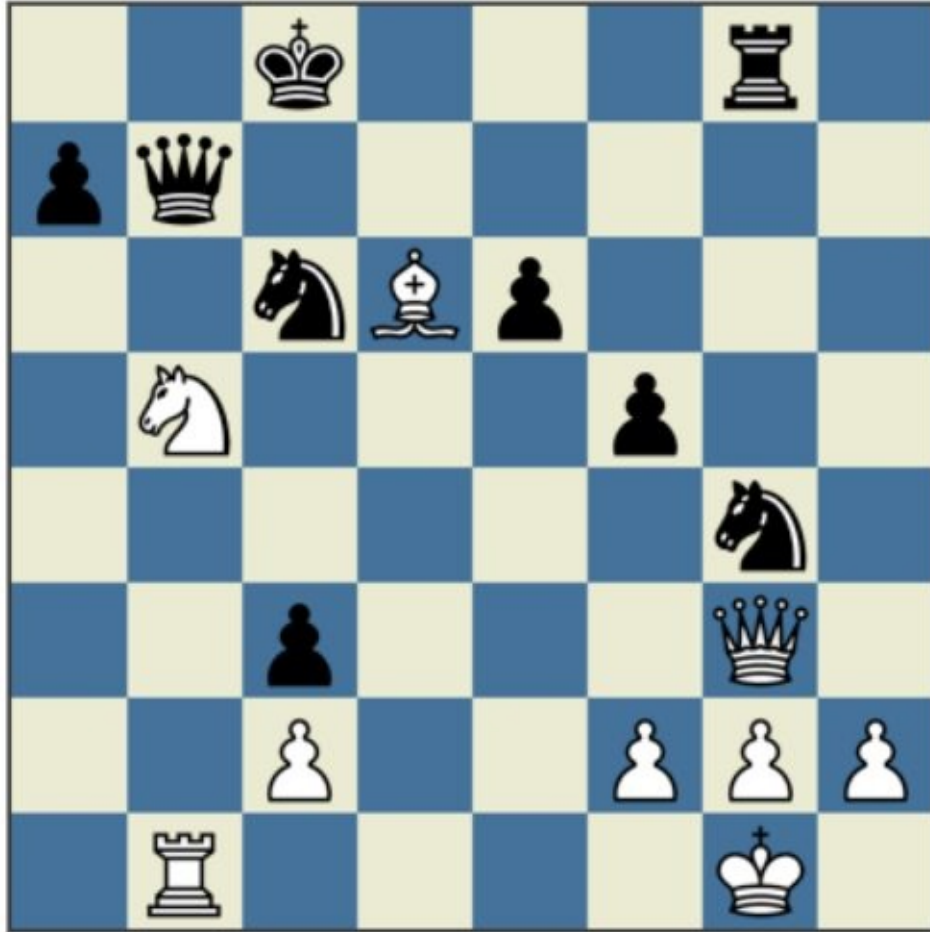
Bobby battling Tigran at blitz during his visit to Moscow in the summer of 1958.

(72) French Winawer C19

Fischer – Tigran Petrosian

Herceg Novi Blitz (6.2), 1970

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Nf3 Ne7 8.a4 Bd7 9.Bd3 Bc6 10.0–0 Nd7 11.Ba3 h6 12.Re1 b6 13.Nd2 Bxa4 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Qg4 Bc6 16.Qxg7 Rg8 17.Qxh6 Nxe5 18.Bxc5 d4 19.Be4 dxc3 20.Bxc6+ N7xc6 21.Ne4 0–0–0 22.Red1 Ng4 23.Qh4 Rxd1+ 24.Rxd1 f5 25.Nd6+ Kb8 26.Nb5 Qg7 27.Bd6+ Kb7 28.Rb1 Kc8 29.Qg3 Qb7



30.Nxc3 Qa6 31.h3 Nf6 32.Qh4 Nd7 33.Qh7 Rd8 34.Qf7 Qc4 35.Rb3 Qd4
 36.Qxe6 Qf6 37.Qd5 Nde5 38.Nb5 Qf7 39.Qc5 Nf3+ 40.Rxf3 Kd7 41.Rd3 1-0



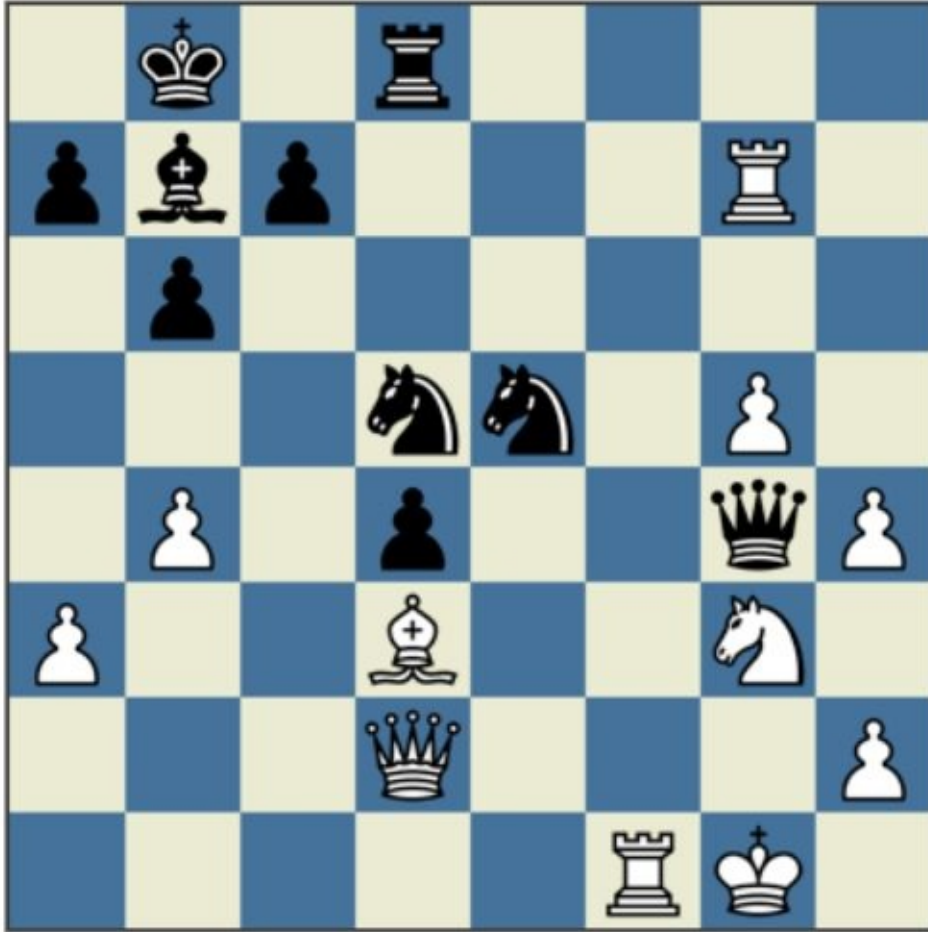
Olaf Ulvestad (left) and David Bronstein produced a real epic in their first-round encounter. The 118 moves of their game required three sittings and enthralled the huge audience throughout its inordinate length. It was fighting chess of the best type.

Press Photo Agency Wirephoto

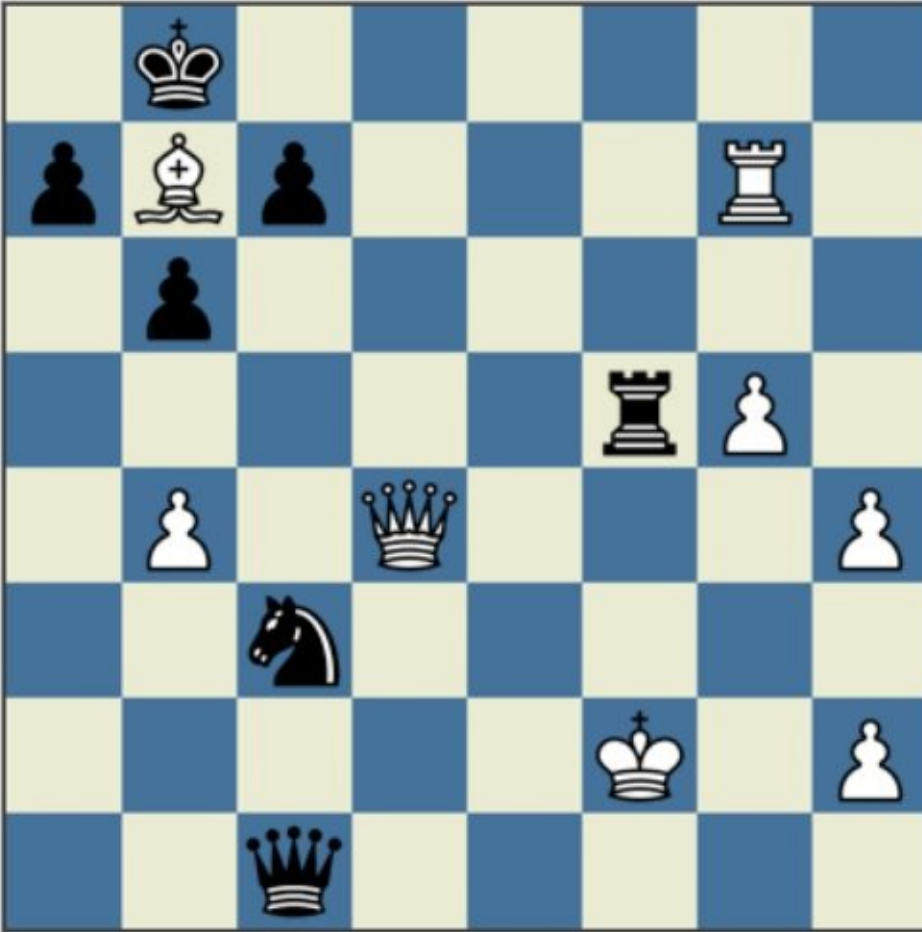
The United States lost to the Soviet Union 7 ½ - 12 ½ in Moscow in 1946 but the players from the Pacific Northwest held their own. Arthur Dake of Portland, playing on board nine against Andreas Lilienthal, drew twice. Seattle's Olaf Ulvestad came back from a marathon loss in the first round against David Bronstein to equalize the score in their second game. Ever the sportsman and artist Bronstein chose to include it in his book *200 Open Games*.

(73) French Winawer C16
Fischer – David Bronstein
 Herceg Novi (7.1), 1970

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 b6 5.a3 Bf8 6.f4 Nc6 7.Nf3 Nh6 8.Bd3 Nf5
 9.Ne2 h5 10.g3 Bb7 11.c3 Qd7 12.Qc2 0–0–0 13.b4 f6 14.Bd2 Kb8 15.0–0
 Nfe7 16.Rfb1 h4 17.Nxh4 g5 18.fxg5 fxe5 19.Rf1 exd4 20.cxd4 Bg7 21.Bc3
 e5 22.Rf7 exd4 23.Rxg7 Rxh4 24.gxh4 Qg4+ 25.Ng3 dxc3 26.Qxc3 d4
 27.Qd2 Ne5 28.Rf1 Nd5**



29.Bf5 Nf3+ 30.Rxf3 Qxf3 31.Be4 Qxa3 32.Qxd4 Qc1+ 33.Kf2 Rf8+ 34.Nf5 Nc3 35.Bxb7 Rxf5+



Black wins after 35...Qc2+ when White has no satisfactory way to answer the check. 36.Ke3 (36.Kf1 Rxf5+; 36.Kg1 Ne2+ or 36.Kf3 Qxf5+) 36...Nd1+.

**36.Bf3 Nd5? 37.Rg8+ Kb7 38.Qe4 Qd2+ 39.Kg3 c6 40.Qxf5?? Qe1+!
41.Kg4 Ne3+ 42.Kf4 Nxf5 43.Kxf5 Qxb4 44.Rg7+ Kc8 45.Be4 Qf8+ 46.Kg6
Qe8+ 47.Kf5 Qf8+ Draw**

(74) Sicilian Alapin B22

David Bronstein - Fischer

Herceg Novi Blitz (7.2), 1970

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Qxd4 e6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qe4 d6 8.Nbd2
Be7 9.Bd3 dxe5 10.Nxe5 Nxe5 11.Qxe5 0-0 12.Bc2 Bd6 13.Qh5 f5 14.Nf3
Nf4 15.Bxf4 Bxf4 16.0-0 g6 17.Qh3 Qf6 18.Rad1 b6 19.Rfe1 Kh8 20.g3 Bc7
21.Qh6 Qg7 22.Qxg7+ Kxg7 23.Bb3 Re8 24.Nd4 Kf6 25.f4 a6 26.Nf3 Re7
27.h4 h6 28.Kf2 Bb7 29.Ne5 Rae8 30.a4 g5 31.hxg5+ hxg5 32.fxg5+ Kxg5**

**33.Rd4 Rh7 34.Nf3+ Kf6 35.Rh4 Rxh4 36.gxh4 e5 37.h5 e4 38.Nd4 f4
39.Rg1 e3+ 40.Ke2 Be4 41.Bc2 f3+ 42.Kxe3 Bxc2+ 43.Kxf3 Be4+ 44.Kf2
Bh7 45.h6 Re7 46.Rg4 Bg6 47.Rh4 Rh7 48.Kf3 Kg5 49.Rg4+ Kxh6 0–1**

(75) Sicilian Najdorf B93

Predrag Ostojić - Fischer

Herceg Novi Blitz (8.1), 1970

**1.e4 c5 2.Ne2 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 Qc7 7.Bd3 g6 8.f4 Bg7
9.Nf3 0–0 10.0–0 Nbd7 11.Kh1 b6 12.Qe1 Bb7 13.Qh4 Rac8 14.Bd2 e5
15.Rae1 exf4 16.Bxf4 Ne5 17.Bh6 Bxh6 18.Qxh6 Nfg4 19.Qh4 Nxf3 20.Rxf3
f5 21.Rf4 d5 22.Rxg4 fxg4 23.Qxg4 Rf4 24.Qg3 dxe4 25.Bxe4 Bxe4 26.Nxe4
Rxe4 0–1**

Predrag Ostojić (1938-1996) finished dead last in Herceg Novi, 5½ points behind his nearest competitor (Ivkov), but he was hardly a weak player having won the Yugoslav championship in 1968. He repeated this feat in 1971 and was awarded the Grandmaster title in 1975, the same year he finished second in a strong 16-player round robin in Cleveland.

(76) Sicilian Accelerated Dragon B34

Fischer - Predrag Ostojić

Herceg Novi Blitz (8.2), 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6?!

This cross between the Dragon and Accelerated Dragon, the so-called Semi-Accelerated Dragon, is a risky continuation. Black avoids the Maroczy Bind and preserves the possibility of playing ...d7-d5 in one go, but the cost is too great. White's next two moves are the reason this variation is not more popular.

6.Nxc6! bxc6

On 6...dxc6 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8 8.Bc4 White's advantage is clear.

7.e5 Ng8 8.Bc4 Bg7 9.Bf4 Qa5 10.0–0 Bxe5 11.Bxe5

11...Qxe5 12.Re1 Qc7??

12...Qf4 was tested in Timman-Korchnoi, Candidates (5) 1991, when 13.Re4 Qf6 14.Re3! gave White a strong initiative.

13.Qd4 f6 14.Bxg8 Rxd8 15.Qxf6!

15.Nb5! cxb5 16.Qd5 forking the rooks was another road to victory - Fischer

Authors - We prefer the game continuation as Black can decline the gift after 15.Nb5 with 15...Qd8 meeting 16.Nd6+ with 16...Kf8 and matters are not as clear as in the game.

**15...d5 16.Re2 Ba6 17.Nxd5 cxd5 18.Qxa6 Rf8 19.Rae1 Rf7 20.Qe6 Rd8
21.c3 Kf8 22.g3 d4 23.cxd4 Rxd4 24.Qe5 Qxe5 25.Rxe5 Rd2 26.R1e2 Rxe2
27.Rxe2 Rf6 28.Kf1 Rc6 29.Ke1 e6 30.Kd2 Ke7 31.Re4 Rb6 32.b3 Ra6
33.a4 Kd6 34.Rh4 h5 35.Rd4+ Ke7 36.Kc3 Rc6+ 37.Rc4 Ra6 38.Rc7+ Kf6
39.Kb4 Rb6+ 40.Kc4 a6 41.a5 Rd6 42.b4 Rd2 43.Kc5 Rxf2 44.Kb6 e5
45.Kxa6 e4 46.b5 e3 47.Rc1 Ke5 48.b6 Rg2 49.b7 Rb2 50.Ka7 g5 51.b8Q+
Rxb8 52.Kxb8 1-0**

(77) King's Indian Averbakh E74

Wolfgang Uhlmann – Fischer

Herceg Novi Blitz (9.1), 1970

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.Bg5 h6 7.Be3 c5 8.d5 e6
9.Qd2 exd5 10.exd5 Kh7 11.h3 Re8 12.Bd3 Nbd7 13.Nf3 Ne5 14.Nxe5 Rxe5
15.0-0 Bf5 16.Bf4 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 Re7 18.Rfe1 a6 19.g4 Qd7 20.Qg3 Rae8
21.Rxe7 Rxe7 22.Bxd6 Ne4 23.Nxe4 Rxe4 24.Bxc5 Rxc4 25.Qd6 Qxd6
26.Bxd6 Rd4 Draw**



East Germany's number one faces his counterpart from the West in this battle from the Leipzig Olympiad of 1960.

(78) French Winawer C15

Fischer - Wolfgang Uhlmann

Herceg Novi Blitz (9.2), 1970

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.a3 Bxc3+ 5.bxc3 dxe4 6.Qg4 Nf6 7.Qxg7 Rg8
8.Qh6 Rg6 9.Qe3 Nc6 10.Bb2 b6 11.0-0-0 Bb7 12.h3 h5 13.c4 Qd6 14.Ne2
0-0-0 15.Nf4 Rgg8 16.Be2 Qe7 17.d5 exd5 18.cxd5 Ne5 19.c4 Ba6 20.Qc3
Nfd7 21.d6!



21...cxd6? 22.c5!!

Uhlmann was surprised by this move and he made a mistake taking White's bishop on e2 - Fischer.



22...Bxe2??

He had to play 22...Nxc5 when after 23.Bxa6+ Kb8 24.Bb5 neither of Black's choices is fully satisfactory:

(1) 24...a6 25.Be2 Rc8 26.Kb1 Ncd3 27.Qd4 Nxf4 28.Bxa6 Rc5 29.Qxe4 - Houdini evaluates the position as only slightly better for White.

(2) 24...Ncd3+ 25.Nxd3 Rc8 26.Nxe5 "with a winning position", but Houdini evaluates the following sequence as leading to equal chances. 26...Rxc3+ 27.Bxc3 dxe5 28.Bb4 Qg5+ 29.Kb1 Qxg2. In view of Houdini's assessments 21..cxd6? should not be adorned with a question mark. It was actually Black's best reply to 21.d6.

Uhlmann's only mistake in this game was playing 22..Bxe2??.

23.cxd6+ Nc5 24.dxe7 Rxd1+ 25.Rxd1 Bxd1 26.Qxe5 Ba4 27.Kb1 Bc6
28.Nd5 Bxd5 29.Qxd5 1-0



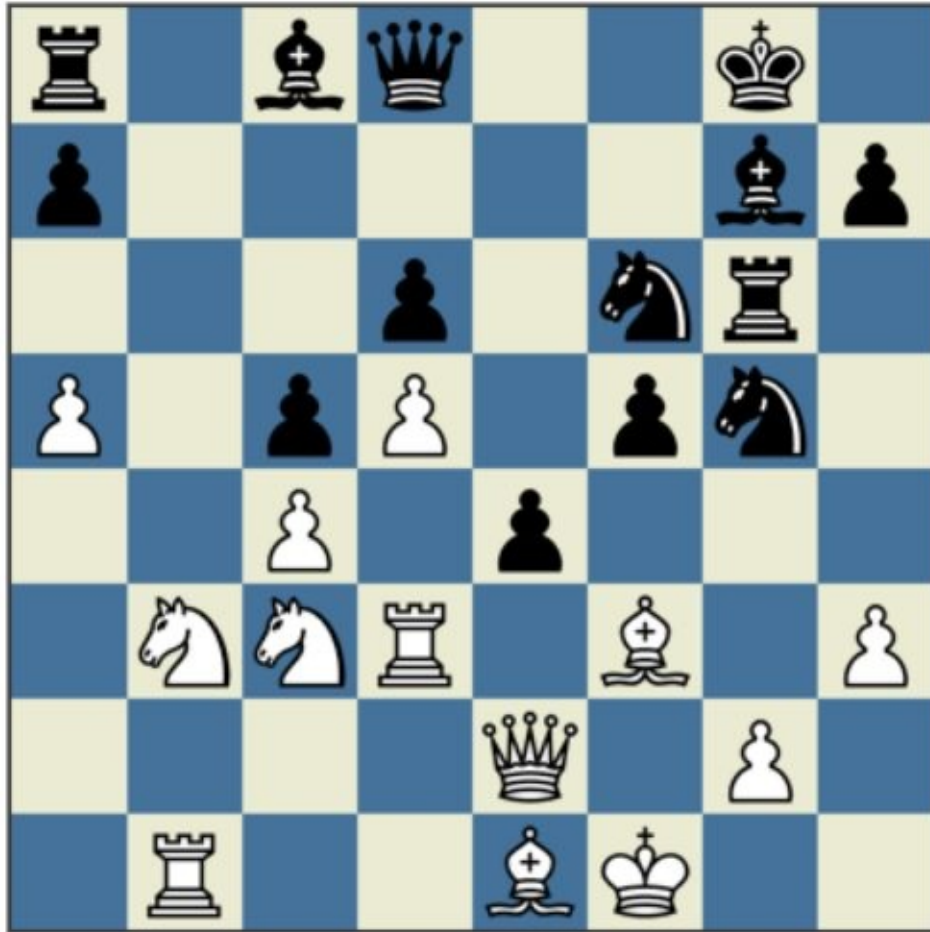
The young Viktor Korchnoi.

(79) Kings Indian Classical E97

Viktor Korchnoi- Fischer

Herceg Novi Blitz (10.1), 1970

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 O-O 6.Nf3 e5 7.O-O Nc6 8.d5 Ne7
9.Nd2 c5 10.a3 Ne8 11.b4 b6 12.Rb1 f5 13.f3 e4 14.a4 g5 15.a5 Rf6! 16.bxc5
bxc5 17.Nb3 Rg6 18.Bd2 Nf6 19.Kh1 g4 20.fxc4 Nxc4 21.Rf3 Rh6 22.h3
Ng6 23.Kg1 Nf6 24.Be1 Nh8 25.Rd3 Nf7 26.Bf3 Ng5 27.Qe2 Rg6 28.Kf1



28...Nxh3! 29.gxh3 Bxh3+ 30.Kf2 Ng4+ 31.Bxg4 Bxg4 0-1



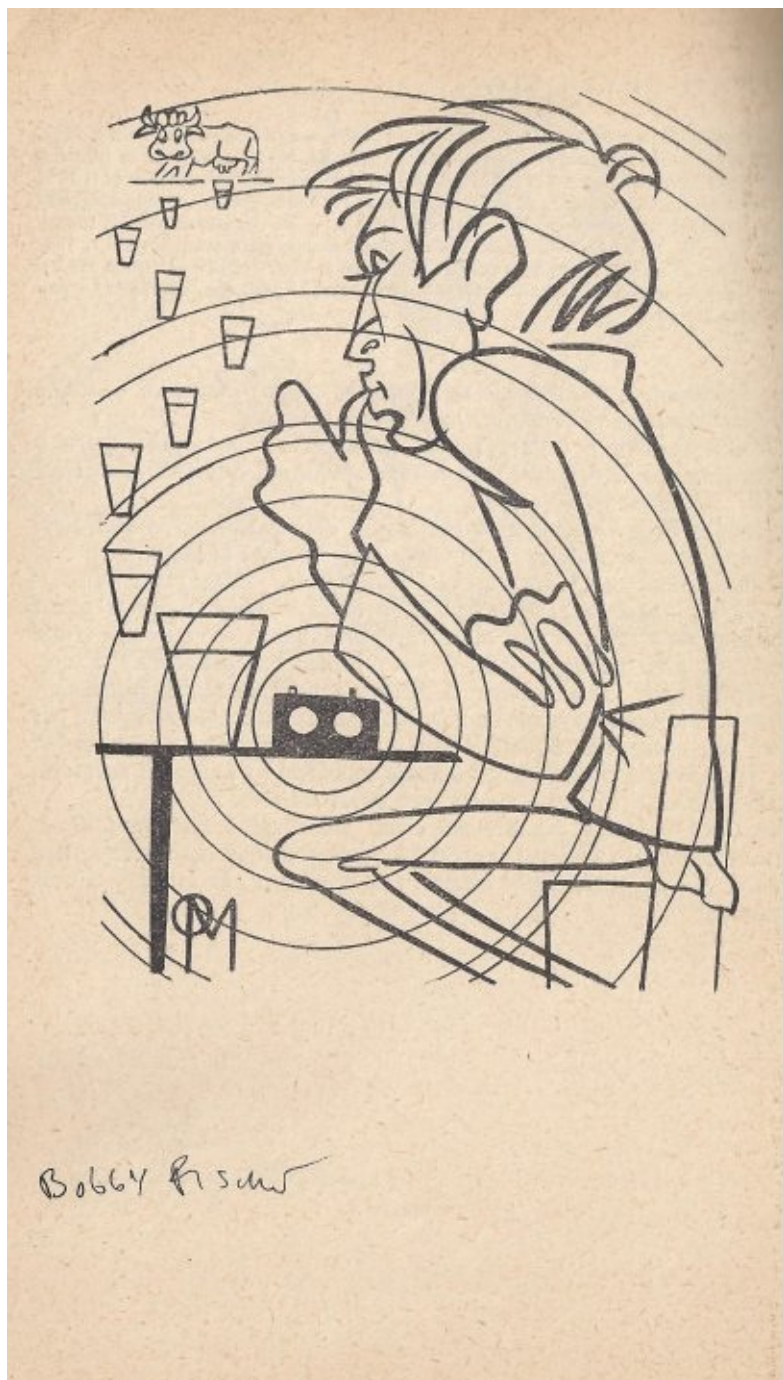
Viktor Korchnoi had a lifetime record of 4-4 against Bobby in tournament games.

(80) French Winawer C19

Fischer – Viktor Korchnoi

Herceg Novi Blitz (10.2), 1970

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.a4 Qa5 8.Bd2
Nbc6 9.Qg4 0–0 10.Nf3 f6 11.Bd3 f5 12.Qg3 c4 13.Be2 b5 14.0–0 bxa4
15.Ng5 Nxd4 16.cxd4 Qxd2 17.Qh4 h6 18.Nf3 Ng6 19.Nxd2 Nxh4 20.Rxa4
Ng6 21.Rfa1 a6 22.Nb1 Ne7 23.Ra5 Nc6 24.R5a4 Nxd4 25.Bd1 f4 26.Nc3
Nc6 27.Ne2 Nxe5 28.Nd4 Rb8 29.h4 Rb6 30.h5 Nc6 31.Ne2 e5 32.Nc3 Rd8
33.Bf3 e4 34.Be2 Nd4 35.Bf1 Bb7 36.Rd1 Nb5 37.Nxe4 Rc8 38.Nd2 Nc3
39.Rda1 Nxa4 40.Rxa4 Bc6 41.Ra5 Bb5 42.Nf3 c3 43.Nd4 Bxf1 44.Kxf1
Rb4 45.Rxd5 a5 46.Ke2 a4 47.Kd3 Ra8 48.Kxc3 Rb1 49.Rb5 Rxb5 50.Nxb5
a3 51.Nxa3 Rxa3+ 52.Kd4 Ra2 53.Kd3 Kf7 54.g3 fxg3 55.fxg3 0–1



Bobby Fischer caricatured in 1970.

Matulović , like Ostojić , was a special invitee to Herceg Novi, but he confirmed his reputation as an excellent blitz player, finishing in the middle of the field just shy of 50 percent.

Sadly for Matulović , who was a strong grandmaster who twice won the Yugoslav Championship and performed at a very high level in six Olympiads, he is likely to best remembered for the many controversies he was involved in. Most famously this included taking back a move against Grandmaster Bilek at the Sousse Interzonal 1967 for which he earned the nickname “J’adoubovic”. Matulović is reputed to have intentionally lost his last round game against Mark Taimanov at the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal in 1970 which allowed his opponent to qualify for the Candidates. In a bit of karmic justice the Soviet Grandmaster got Bobby in the first round and lost 6-0.

One could also add that Matulović, who didn’t like to see his losses appearing in print, often adjourned totally lost positions. He had no expectation of saving them but banked on the newspapers being less likely to report on adjourned games. Needless to say such behavior hardly endeared him to his colleagues.

Matulović did not confine his intrigues to the chess board and was known to answer to his alias “Dr. Marinelli” when he was on the hunt. He definitely stood out on the Yugoslav national team of the 1960s and 1970s among gentlemen like Gligoric and Ivkov.

(81) Ruy Lopez Schliemann C63
Fischer - Milan Matulović
Herceg Novi (blitz) 1970

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 f5 4.Nc3 fxe4 5.Nxe4 d5 6.Nxe5 dxe4 7.Nxc6 Qg5 8.Qe2 Nf6 9.f4 Qxf4 10.d4 Qh4+

There have been few tests of the 7...Qg5 variation at the very top level of world chess, but they have shown a preference for 10...Qd6. The most recent example is Karjakin-Radjabov, Ningbo (World Team Championship) 2011. The text may be underestimated.

11.g3 Qh3 12.Bg5 a6 13.Ba4 Bd7 14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Qxe4+ Kf7 16.Ne5+ fxe5 17.Rf1+

17.Bb3+ was the path to an advantage albeit a narrow one. The main line runs 17...Be6 18.Rf1+ Kg8 19.d5 Qg4 20.Qe3 Bb4+ (20...Bf7? 21.d6) 21.c3 Bf7 22.cxb4 with a small advantage according to Houdini.

17... Ke7 18.Bxd7 Kxd7

18...Qxd7 19.O-O-O and Black’s king and queen are attacked.

19.Rf7+

19.Qxb7 and 19.0-0-0 were better choices.



19...Ke8??

19...Be7!! gives chances for a successful defense - Fischer.

A very astute assessment of the position, in fact Houdini thinks Black is better here! The text is not the best but only deserves one question mark.

20.Rxc7 Bd6?

This in fact was Black's first mistake. With 20...Qe6 he would have kept his disadvantage to a minimum.

21.Rxb7 Rc8 22.O-O-O Qxh2?

This is actually the losing move. Matulović could have stayed in the game with 22...Rf8 according to Houdini.

23.dxe5 Be7 24.Rxe7+

After this move Black has no hope.

24...Kxe7 25.Qb7+ Ke6 26.Qd7+ Kxe5 27.Qd5+ Kf6 28.Rf1+ Kg6 29.Qf5+ Kh6 30.Qe6+ Kh5 31.Rf5+ Kg4 32.Rf4+ Kxg3 33.Qg4 1-0

(82) Sicilian Najdorf B97

Milan Matulović - Fischer

Herceg Novi Blitz (11.2), 1970

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qb6 8.Qd2 Qxb2 9.Nb3 Qa3 10.Bxf6 gxf6 11.Bd3 Nc6 12.0-0 Bg7 13.Rf3 f5 14.Rg3 Bf6 15.exf5 Qb4 16.Bf1 d5 17.Re1 Ne7 18.fxe6 Bxe6 19.f5 Nxf5 20.Nxd5 Qxd2 21.Nxf6+ Ke7 22.Nxd2 Nxc3 23.Nd5+ Kf8 24.Nc7 Nxf1 25.Rxf1 Ke7 26.Nxa8 Rxa8 27.c4 Rd8 28.Rf2 Rd4 29.Re2 Kd6 30.Ne4+ Kc6 31.c5 Bc4 32.Re3 Bxa2 33.Nd6 b5 34.Ra3 Ra4 35.Rh3 Kxc5 36.Nb7+ Kc6 37.Nd8+ Kc7 38.Rd3 Bc4 39.Rd4 Ra2 40.h4 a5 41.h5 a4 42.h6 a3 43.g4 Rb2 44.g5 a2 0-1

Manhattan Chess Club Blitz

August 8th, 1971

This event was arranged on short notice at the request of Bobby after he defeated Bent Larsen. It also celebrated the opening of a new home for the Manhattan Chess Club. The conflict with the U.S. Open (which also started August 8th) explains the absence of Grandmasters Walter Browne, Pal Benko, William Lombardy, Lubomir Kavalek and Sammy Reshevsky. The well-known blitz specialist International Master Bernard Zuckerman was another prominent absentee.

1. Fischer 21.5/22; 2.Soltis 18; 3. R. Byrne 17.5; 4. Feuerstein 11; 5-6. Mednis and Shipman 10.5; 7-8. Kramer and Levy 8.5. 9. McKelvie 7.5; 10. Kevitz 7; 11. Gore 6; 12. Brandts 5.5.

IM Walter Shipman recalls that the round robin event was organized so that

players faced each other with both White and Black before moving on to the next opponent.

Andy Soltis, in his memoir, *Confessions of a Grandmaster*, recalls this event on page 73.

A few weeks after the Mayaguez tournament ended, the Manhattan C.C. opened their newest quarters (they'd had seven before then and have moved three times since) with an invitational five-minute. It was a double-round 12 player robin event, and all I remember distinctly was my first game. My opponent was Bobby Fischer.

I had White in a Najdorf Sicilian that went..... and Black had stolen the initiative. *The New York Times* ran an enormous photo of us at that point, with two dozen or so spectators (Hans Kmoch, Jack Collins and Walter Goldwater among them) craning for a better view of the board. And I remember thinking that all I wanted to do was to get out of the game without major embarrassment.

But as he headed into a favorable rook-and-pawn ending, Bobby overlooked a trick queening combination by White. I emerged with a queen and two pawns against his rook and four or five pawns, with about a minute left for me and slightly more for him.

I knew the position on the board was a win. But I also knew I'd never win it. There was something about the Fischer presence that both numbed and intimidated you. I started playing to stop his passers, rather than advance by king or pawns, and ended up hanging my queen.

(83) Sicilian Najdorf B87

Andrew Soltis- Fischer

New York (1.1) 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bc4 e6 7.Bb3 b5 8.0-0 Be7 9.Qf3 Qd7!?

Authors: The text, which protects e6, prepares ...Bb7 in the event of e5 and avoids Nd5 sacrifices that would attack the queen were it on c7, appears to have

been first played in Browne-Planinc, Sarajevo 1970. It was almost never played until the 1990s.

10.a4 b4 11.Na2 Bb7! ...0-1

Confessions of a Grandmaster (page 73)



Bobby has just played 11...Bb7! against Soltis. John Collins watches in the foreground.

(Photo by Larry C Morris)

(84) Sicilian Sveshnikov B33

Fischer – Andrew Soltis

New York (1.2)1971

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6
8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Na3 f5 10.Bc4 Bg7 11.Qh5 0-0 12.exf5 Nd4 13.Bd3 f6 14.Be4
Rb8 15.Nd5 Qa5+ 16.c3 Rf7 17.g4 Bd7 18.0-0 Ne2+ 19.Kh1 Bc6 20.Rad1
Nf4 21.Nxf4 Bxe4+ 22.f3 Bc6 23.Ne6 d5 24.g5 Be8 25.g6 1-0**

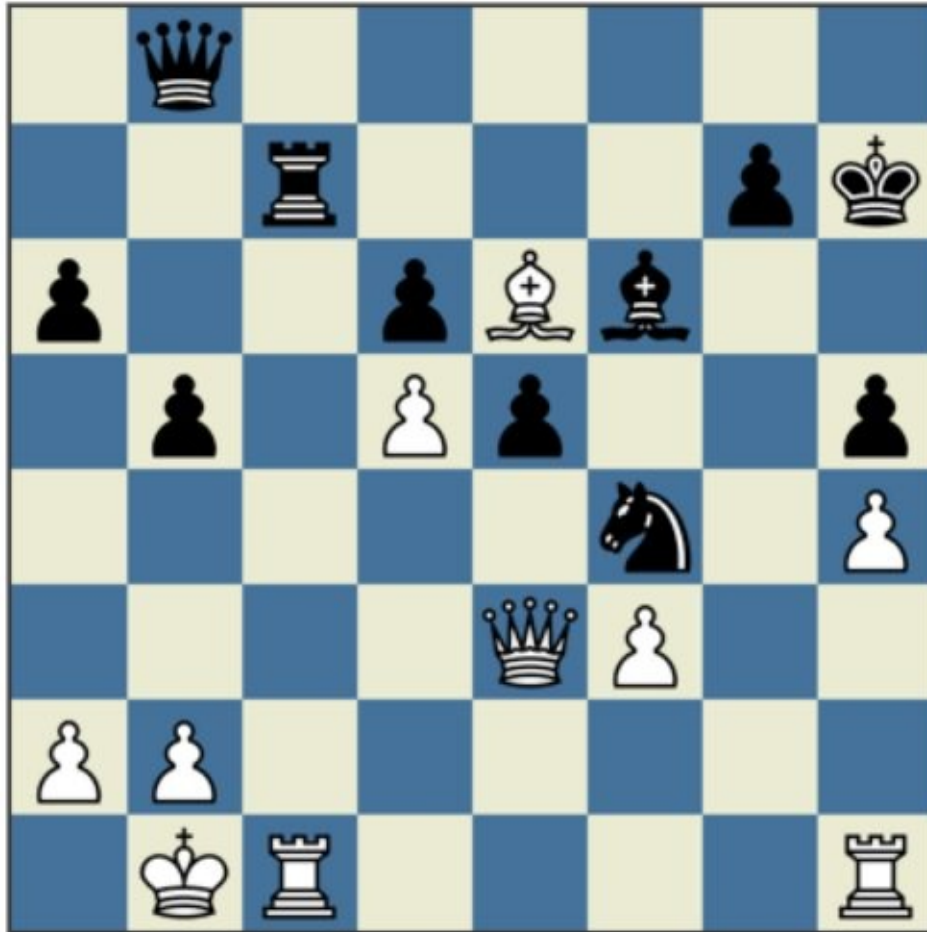
Note: We are uncertain the exact order that Fischer met the following opponents. The following arrangement is arbitrary.

(85) Sicilian Najdorf B90

Robert Byrne - Fischer

New York (2.1) 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 0–0 9.Qd2 Be6 10.0–0–0 Nbd7 11.g4 b5 12.g5 Nh5 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Rc8 15.Bh3 Rc7 16.Na5 Nb8 17.Bg4 Nf4 18.h4 f5 19.gxf6 Bxf6 20.Bb6 Rxc2+ 21.Qxc2 Qxb6 22.Nc6 Rf7 23.Nxb8 Qxb8 24.Kb1 Rc7 25.Qb3 Ne2 26.Qe3 Nf4 27.Rc1 h5 28.Be6+ Kh7



29.Rxc7 Qxc7 30.Rc1 is definitely in White's favor, but at this point in the game Byrne was likely under one minute for the remainder of the game with Black having lots of time left.

29.Qe4+ g6 30.Rhg1 Kh6 31.Rc6 Rxc6 32.dxc6 Qb6 33.Rc1 Nxe6 34.Qd5 Nc7 35.Qxd6 Bg7 36.Qe7?? Kh7

36...Qf2 would have ended the game instantly.

**37.a3 a5 38.Rd1 Qxc6 39.Rd7 Ne6 40.Rd6 Qxf3 41.Qxe6 Qf5+ 42.Ka2 e4
43.Qe7 Kh6 44.Rd7 Qf6!**

Transposing into a winning endgame.

**45.Qxf6 Bxf6 46.Rd5 e3 47.Rd3 e2 48.Re3 Bxh4 49.Rxe2 Bg3 50.Kb3 h4
51.a4 bxa4+ 52.Kxa4 h3 0-1**



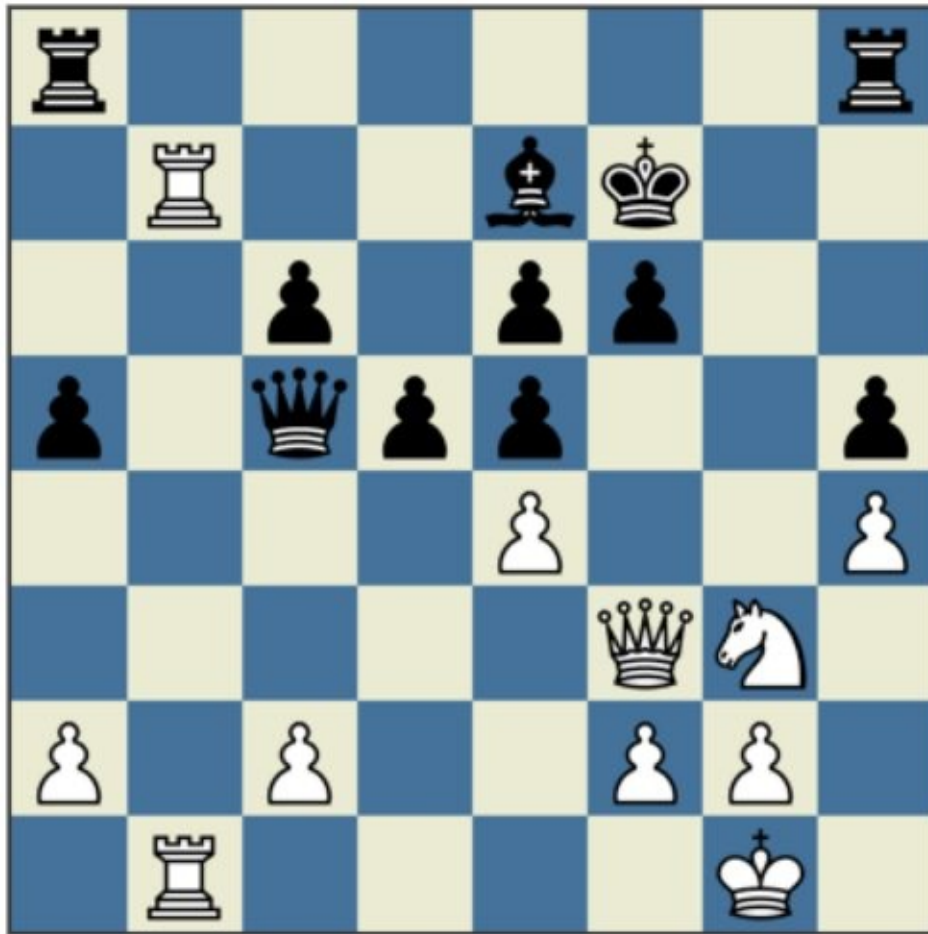
Robert Byrne, one of five American players post Fischer, to qualify for the Candidates. Yasser Seirawan, Gata Kamsky, Hikaru Nakamura and Fabiano Caruana are the others. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

(86) Sicilian B57

Fischer – Robert Byrne

New York (2.2) 1971

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 d6 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nf6 6.Bc4 Qb6 7.Nxc6 bxc6
8.0-0 e6 9.Bf4 Qxb2 10.Qd3 Qb4 11.Rab1 Qc5 12.Rfd1 e5 13.Bg5 Be7
14.Bxf6 gxf6 15.Ne2 Be6 16.Bxe6 fxe6 17.Rb7 Kf7 18.Rdb1 d5 19.Ng3 h5
20.h4 a5 21.Qf3**



21..Kg6??

Black has played very well so far, but one can imagine he has also burned up a lot of his five minutes to get to this point. Here he had to play 21...Ra7. After 22.Nxh5 (22.Rb8 Rh6) Black meets the threat of 23.Qxf6+ with 22...Rh6 with equal chances in a dynamic position. After the text Black's position quickly falls apart.

22.R1b3 a4 23.Rc3 Qd6 24.Nxh5 f5 25.exf5+ exf5 26.Rxe7 1-0

The Chess Player, v. 1, game 346

(87) King's Indian E98

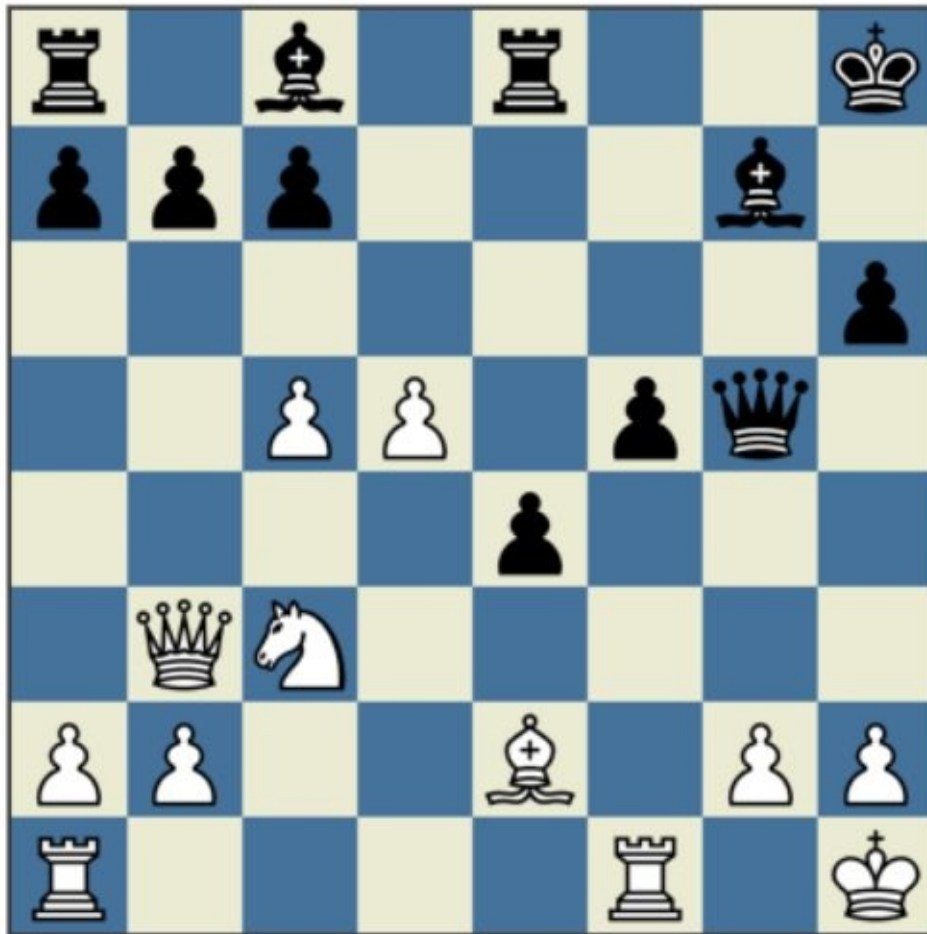
Paul Brandts - Fischer

New York (3.1) 1971

1.d4 g6 2.c4 Bg7 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e4 d6 5.Be2 0-0 6.Nf3 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7
9.Ne1 Nd7 10.Nd3 f5 11.exf5 gxf5 12.f4 Ng6 13.Be3 Nf6 14.Qc2 Re8 15.fxe5
dxe5 16.Bg5 h6 17.Bxf6 Qxf6 18.Qb3 e4 19.Nf4 Nxf4 20.Rxf4 Qg5 21.Rff1
Qe3+ 22.Kh1 Qg5

White is not hanging a piece: 22...Bxc3 23.Bh5.

23.c5 Kh8 24.Rad1 Be5 25.g3 Rg8



26.Nb1??

26.d6! and White is doing well.

26...f4 27.Rg1 f3 28.Bc4 Qh5 29.Qe3 Rxc3 30.Qxe4 Qxh2+ 0-1



NM Paul Brandts and Ruth Cardoso. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

(88) Ruy Lopez C98
Fischer – Paul Brandts
New York (3.2) 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0
9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Nc6 13.d5 Nd8 14.a4 Qb8 15.b4
cxb4 16.cxb4 bxa4 17.Bxa4 Qxb4 18.Ba3 Qb7 19.Nc4 Ne8 20.Bxe8 Rxe8
21.Bxd6 f6 22.Rb1 Qa7 23.Qa4 Bd7 24.Qa3 Bb5 25.Bxe7 Qxe7 26.Nd6 Rb8
27.Re3 Nf7 28.Nxe8 Qxe8 29.Nd2 Rd8 30.Rc1 Nd6 31.Rc7 Qg6 32.Rg3 Qh6
33.Rgxc7+ Qxc7 34.Rxc7+ Kxc7 35.f3 Kf7 36.Nb3 Ke7 37.Nc5 Rc8 38.Nb7
1-0

(89) Sicilian Najdorf B92

James Gore - Fischer

New York (4.1) 1971

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.Be3
0-0 9.Qd2 Be6 10.0-0-0 Nbd7 11.Kb1 b5 12.f3 Nb6 13.Bxb6 Qxb6 14.Rhf1
Rfd8 15.Nd5 Bxd5 16.exd5 a5 17.Qd3 a4 18.Nd2 a3 19.b3 Rab8 20.c4 bxc4
21.Nxc4 Qc5 22.Rd2 g6 23.Rc1 Rdc8 24.Rdd1 Qf2 25.g4 Rc5 26.Nxa3 Rxd5
27.Qa6 Rxd1 28.Bxd1 d5 29.Nb5 d4 30.Nd6 Nd5 0-1**

Black won on time and is winning on the board as well. *The Chess Player*, v. 1, game 353.



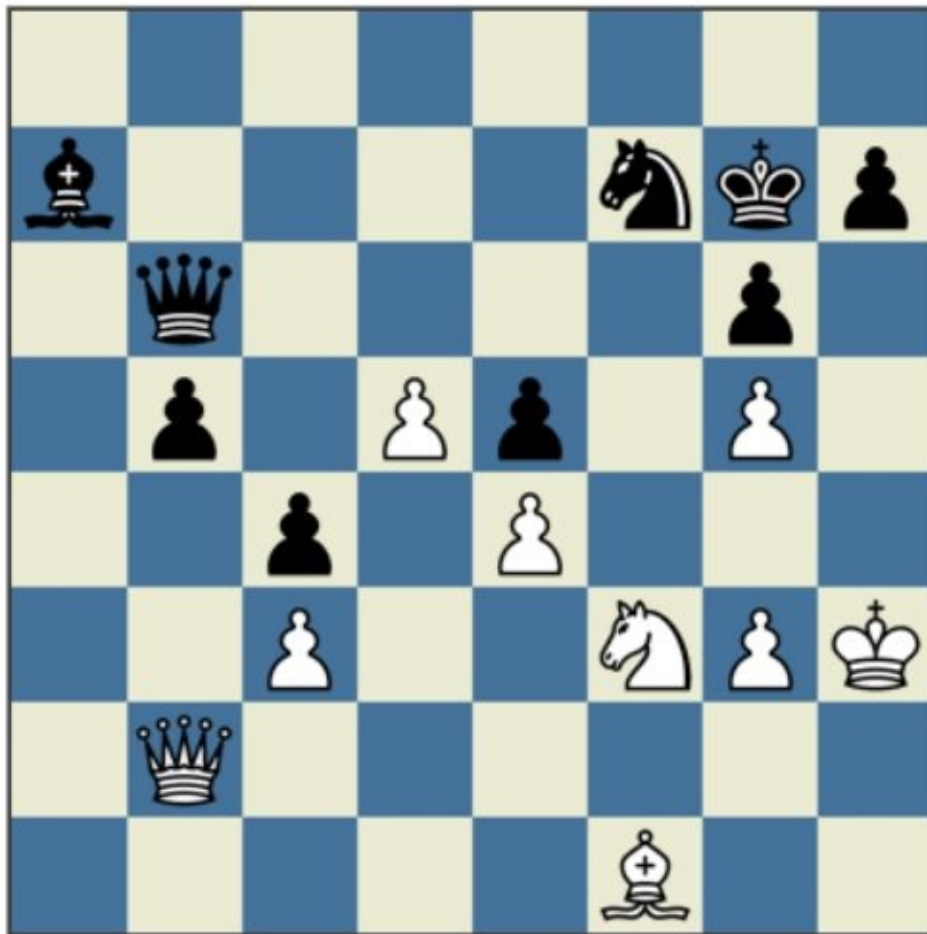
NM James Gore (left) was a good friend of Fischer's going back to the 1950s. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

(90) Ruy Lopez C98

Fischer – James Gore

New York (4.2) 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0
 9.h3 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 Qc7 12.Nbd2 Nc6 13.d5 Nd8 14.a4 Rb8 15.b4 Ne8
 16.Nf1 g6 17.bxc5 dxc5 18.Bh6 Ng7 19.Ne3 Bd6 20.Qd2 f6 21.Ng4 Bxg4
 22.hxg4 Nf7 23.axb5 axb5 24.Ra6 Ra8 25.Rea1 Qb7 26.Rxa8 Rxa8
 27.Rxa8+ Qxa8 28.Be3 Qc8 29.g5 f5 30.Qe2 f4 31.Bc1 c4 32.Bd1 Qa6
 33.Qb2 Ne8 34.g3 fxg3 35.fxg3 Nc7 36.Kg2 Kg7 37.Ne1 Qa5 38.Be2 Na6
 39.Be3 Nc5 40.Bxc5 Bxc5 41.Nf3 Ba7 42.Bf1 Qb6 43.Kh3



43...Qc5

43... Qe3 or 43...Qf2 and Black would be winning if he only had another minute on his clock.

44.Qa2 Qc8+ 45.Kg2 Qc5 46.Qe2 Qc8 47.Qd2 Qc5 1-0 Black lost on time in an equal position (48.Qe2). *The Chess Player*, v. 1, game 345.

(91) Sicilian Najdorf B93

Edmar Mednis - Fischer

New York (5.1) 1971

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.0-0
0-0 9.a4 Qc7 10.a5 Be6 11.f4 exf4 12.Bxf4 Nbd7 13.Kh1 Ne5 14.Nd4 Rac8
15.Qe1 Kh8 16.Qg3 g6 17.Bh6 Rfe8 18.Bg5 Ng8 19.Nxe6 fxe6 20.Be3 Bf6
21.Bb6 Qe7 22.Bd4 Bg7 23.Rad1 Nf7 24.Bxg7+ Kxg7 25.Qd3 Nf6 26.Qd4
Red8 27.Bc4 Ne5 28.Bb3 Rf8 29.Qxd6??

29.Kg1 would have offered equal chances.

29...Qxd6 30.Rxd6



30...Nxe4! 31.Rxf8 Rxf8 32.Rd1 Nf2+ 33.Kg1 Nxd1 34.Nxd1 Kf6 35.Nf2 Ke7 36.Ne4 Nd7 37.g3 Rf5 38.Ba4 Rxa5 0-1



Edmar Mednis in Paris on his way to the Siegen Olympiad.
(Alexander Liepnieks archives)

(92) French Winawer C19

Fischer – Edmar Mednis

New York (5.2) 1971

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Nf3 b6 8.a4 Ba6 9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.Qd3 Nb8 11.0-0 Ne7 12.a5 bxa5 13.Ba3 Nd7 14.dxc5 Nc6 15.c4 dxc4 16.Qd6 Qxd6 17.exd6 0-0 18.Nd2 Nd4 19.Nxc4 Rfc8 20.Ra2 Nxc5 21.Nxa5 Nd7 22.c4 Nc6 23.Nxc6 Rxc6 24.c5 f6 25.Rb1 Rac8 26.h3 Nxc5 27.Rc2 Nd7 28.Rxc6 Rxc6 29.Rb7 Nb6 30.d7 Nxd7 31.Rxd7 1-0

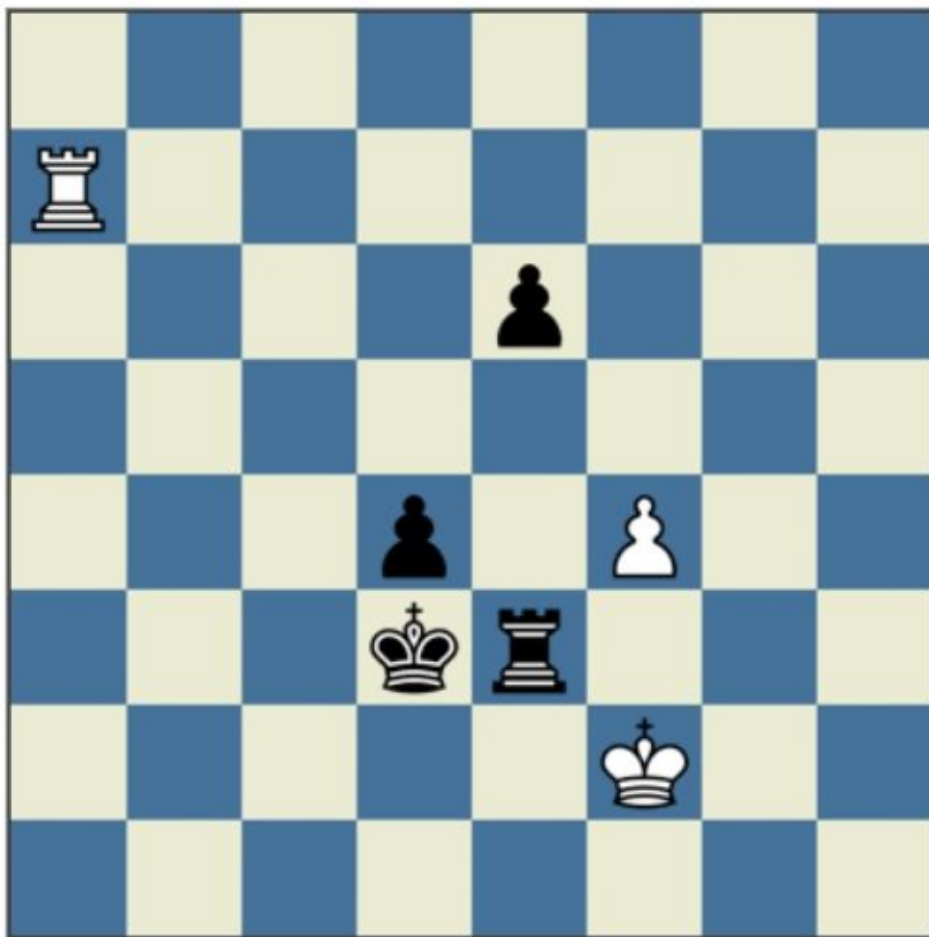
(93) Sicilian Dragon B77

Walter Shipman - Fischer

New York (6.1) 1971

1.Nc3 g6 2.e4 c5 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nxd4 Nc6 6.Be3 d6 7.Bc4 Nf6 8.f3 0-0 9.0-0 Bd7 10.Qd2 a6 11.Rad1 Rc8 12.Bb3 b5 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Nxd4 15.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 16.Qxd4 a5 17.c3 a4 18.Bc2 Rc4 19.Qd2 b4 20.cxb4 Qb6+ 21.Kh1 Qxb4 22.Qxb4 Rxb4 23.b3 Rc8 24.Rd2 Rc3 25.Kg1 axb3 26.Bxb3 Ba4 27.Bxa4 Rxa4 28.Re1 Kf8 29.Rb2 Rc7 30.Rd1 Ra5 31.Kf2

Rcc5 32.Rbd2 Kg7 33.h3 Kf6 34.Ke3 Ke5 35.f4+ Kf5 36.g4+ Kf6 37.Ke4 Ra4+ 38.Ke3 Rc3+ 39.Rd3 Rxd3+ 40.Rxd3 Rxa2 41.Kf3 Ra4 42.Re3 h6 43.h4 Ra7 44.Rb3 Ra5 45.Rd3 Rc5 46.Ke4 Rc4+ 47.Kf3 Rc1 48.Re3 Rc7 49.Rb3 Rc5 50.Ke4 Rc1 51.Kf3 Rf1+ 52.Kg3 Re1 53.Kf3 Rg1 54.Re3 e6 55.dxe6 fxe6 56.Rd3 d5 57.Ra3 h5 58.gxh5 gxh5 59.Ra8 Rg4 60.Rf8+ Ke7 61.Rh8 Rxh4 62.Kg3 Rh1 63.Kg2 Rh4 64.Kg3 Rh1 65.Kg2 Ra1 66.Rxh5 Ra3 67.Kf2 Kd6 68.Rh8 d4 69.Rd8+ Kc5 70.Re8 Kd5 71.Re7 Ra6 72.Kf3 Ra3+ 73.Ke2 Re3+ 74.Kf2 Re4 75.Kf3 Re1 76.Rd7+ Kc4 77.Kf2 Re4 78.Kf3 Re3+ 79.Kf2 Kd3 80.Ra7 Re2+ 81.Kf3 Re3+ 82.Kf2



82...Rh3??

82...Ke4 or 82...e5 (as 83.fxe5 Rxe5 will eventually lead to the Lucena position as White's king is cut off) are easy wins.

83.Ra3+ Ke4 84.Rxh3 Kxf4 85.Rh4+ Ke5 86.Kf3 Kd5 Draw

Trying too hard to win a drawn rook and pawn ending Fischer blundered away his rook but was saved by his connected passed pawns. The scorekeepers were regrettably unable to get the last few moves because of the blitz tempo... Burt Hochberg writing in *Chess Life*, October 1971 (p. 556).

That's not actually what happened. First, Bobby was winning when he blundered. Second, Shipman remembers that with about thirty seconds left on his clock he was winning on the board, but had to offer a draw or he would have lost on time.

Shipman explains that with about thirty seconds left on his clock he was winning on the board but had to offer a draw or he would have lost on time.

For more on this game read the letter from Neil McKelvie in this book which appears at the conclusion of the 1963 Manhattan Chess Club blitz tournament coverage.

(94) Ruy Lopez C60

Fischer – Walter Shipman

New York (6.2) 1971

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nge7 4.c3 d5 5.Nxe5 dxe4 6.Qe2 Qd5 7.Nxc6 Nxc6
8.d4 Bf5 9.Nd2 0–0–0 10.0–0 Bg6 11.Nb3 f5 12.Be3 Qf7 13.Bxc6 bxc6
14.Qa6+ Kd7 15.Na5 Qe6 16.c4 Be7 17.Rfd1 Rb8 18.d5 cxd5 19.Rxd5+ Bd6
20.Rad1 Ke7 21.Nc6+ Kf7 22.Nxb8 Rxb8 23.Rxd6 cxd6 24.Qxa7+ 1–0**



Masters Walter Shipman (white pieces) and Louis Levy ready to do battle at the Marshall Chess Club in the mid-1960s. International Master James Sherwin can be seen to Levy's left with the black pieces. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

George Kramer (b. 1929) won the New York State Championship at the age of 16! He was a member of the U.S. Olympiad team at Dubrovnik 1950.

(95) Ruy Lopez C68

Fischer – George Kramer

New York 1971

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 dxc6 5.0-0 Bg4 6.h3 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Qd7
8.d3 0-0-0 9.Be3 f6 10.Nd2 Ne7 11.b4 Ng6 12.Rfb1 Be7 13.a4 b6 14.Qe2
Kb7 15.Nc4 Nf4 16.Qf3 Ne6 17.Rb3 Nd4 18.Bxd4 Qxd4 19.Rab1 h5 20.b5

**cx b5 21.axb5 a5 22.Ne3 Qd7 23.Nd5 Bc5 24.Rc3 Qd6 25.Rc4 Rd7 26.c3 f5
27.Qxf5 Rf8 28.Qxh5 Bxf2+ 29.Kh1 Rdf7 30.Rc6 Bg3 31.Qxf7 Rxf7
32.Rxd6 cxd6 33.Ne3 Rf2 34.Nf5 Bf4 35.Nxd6+ Ka7 36.Nc4 Rc2 37.g3 Bxg3
38.Ne3 Rh2+ 39.Kg1 Rxh3??**

39...Bf4 or 39...Rd2 were drawing but likely Black had only seconds left while White had several minutes.

40.Kg2 1-0

The Chess Player, v. 1, game 347

(96) Caro Kann Closed A07

Fischer - Arthur Feuerstein

New York 1971

**1.e4 c6 2.d3 d5 3.Nd2 g6 4.g3 Bg7 5.Bg2 Nf6 6.Ngf3 O-O 7.O-O dxe4
8.dxe4 Nbd7 9.Re1 e5?**

After this White gets a big advantage because of the weakness of the d6-square. Better are 9...Nc5 or 9...Ng4 followed by 10...Nge5.

10.Nc4 Qe7 11.b3 b5 12.Ba3 b4?

12...c5 would have offered more resistance.

13.Bb2

Now Black cannot defend the e5-pawn.

**13...Ba6 14.Ncxe5 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 Rfd8 16.Qc1 c5 17.a3 Bb7 18.axb4 cxb4
19.Qb2 Nh5 20.Bxg7 Nxb7 21.Qe5 Qxe5 22.Nxe5 Rd2 23.Ra2 Ne6 24.Nc4
Rd7 25.Na5 Rc8 26.Bh3?**

Correct was 26.Nc4.

26...f5?

Black would have been back in the game with 26...Ba6, as the Knight on a5 is

stuck.

**27.Nxb7 Rxb7 28.exf5 Nd4 29.fxc6 Rxc2 30.Rxc2 Nxc2 31.gxh7+ Kg7
32.Re8 Kxh7 33.Bf5+ Kg7 34.Bxc2 1-0**

The Chess Player, v. 1, game 352

(97) Grunfeld D93

Alexander Kevitz - Fischer

New York 1971

**1.Nf3 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nf6 4.Nc3 d5 5.Bf4 0-0 6.e3 c6 7.Be2 Bg4 8.Qb3 b6
9.Rc1 dxc4 10.Qxc4 b5 11.Qc5 Nfd7 12.Qa3 a5 13.Ne4 Bxf3 14.gxf3 e5
15.dxe5 Nxe5 16.0-0 Nbd7 17.Rfd1 Qh4 18.Bg3 Qh5 19.Kg2 Nb6 20.Rc2
Nec4 21.Qc5 Qxc5 22.Nxc5 Nxb2 23.Rd6 Rac8 24.Bxb5 cxb5 25.Rxb6 Nc4
26.Rxb5 Na3 27.Rxa5 Nxc2 0-1**

(98) Sicilian Alapin B22

Louis Levy - Fischer

New York 1971

**1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.cxd4 d6 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Qb3 e6 8.Bb5
Be7 9.Nc3 Nxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.0-0 Bd7 12.Bf4 Na5 13.Qb2 Bxb5 14.Qxb5
d5 15.Nd2 a6 16.Qb2 Rc8 17.Qc2 Qd7 18.Be3 Rc6 19.f4 Rfc8 20.Rac1 Qc7
21.Nb1 Nc4 22.Qe2 Nxe3 23.Qxe3 b5 24.f5 exf5 25.Rxf5 b4 26.Rf3 h6
27.Rc2 Qb6 28.Qf4 Rf8 29.Rg3 Bg5 30.Qf3 bxc3 31.Nxc3 Qxd4+ 32.Qf2
Qxf2+ 33.Kxf2 d4 0-1**

This game comes from the article by Paul Montgomery, "Fischer Munches a Bagel and Finds 11 Chess Rivals a Piece of Cake" *New York Times*, August 9, 1971.



NM Neil McKelvie pondering his position. (Photo by Beth Cassidy)

The 16 available games were published in the following publications:

Nine games first appeared in *Chess Life and Review* (October 1971, pages 556-557). They include both games Fischer played with Brandts, Shipman and Mednis as well as Fischer-Byrne, Kevitz-Fischer and Fischer-Soltis.

An additional five games (two with Gore, Fischer-Kramer, Fischer-Feuerstein and Fischer-Byrne) were published in volume one of *The Chess Player*.

The game Levy-Fischer was published in the *New York Times* the day after the event on August 9th.

The fragment Soltis-Fischer was published in the former's *Confessions of a Grandmaster*.

The missing games are: Fischer-Levy 1-0; Fischer-Kevitz 1-0; Feuerstein-Fischer 0-1; Kramer-Fischer 0-1; Fischer-McKelvie 1-0; McKelvie-Fischer 0-1.

We can thank International Master Sal Matera, National Master Jeffrey Kastner and Sam Sloan for recording games from this event as did *Chess Life and Review* Editor Burt Hochberg in his article on the tournament. Without their efforts no games from this event would have survived. We were able to contact Kastner and Sloan who generously shared their recollections.

Initially Sloan was assigned Robert Byrne and the plan was to have Matera and Kastner take turns entering Bobby's games. That changed after the very first round. Jeffrey Kastner explains:

I was assigned Fischer, but this changed after the first round. Bobby had a game against Soltis whose endgame moves (Soltis as White had K+Q vs Bobby's K+R+2 connected pawns) were played so fast that I couldn't keep up. Plus Soltis, in extreme time pressure, kept making illegal moves, and instead of Bobby claiming a forfeit win, he would instantly reset the position so Soltis could move again. From that game on, Sal and I did all the Fischer games together, with Sal recording White's moves and me the Black moves. That system worked pretty well until one of Fischer's games vs Shipman (the lone draw). The endgame moves of that one were played at hyperspeed by both sides, and neither one of us could keep up with recording every move.

What is one to make of the missing Fischer games? Is there a chance they might be out there somewhere?

Kastner remembers the missing games were recorded and both he and Sloan distinctly recall they were given to Burt Hochberg. Unfortunately from there the trail grows cold as Hochberg's chess archive was bought by Hanon Russell and later from him by David DeLucia. Neither of these famous collectors, who are known for sharing their treasures with the public, have ever indicated they had these games in their possession.

We note the piecemeal way the available games were presented after the event with exactly two pages allocated for the *Chess Life and Review* article, the selection in *The Chess Player* not containing all the games in the *CL+R* piece but offering some new ones, and the Louis Levy game published in the *New York Times* and nowhere else. Why this would be the case we have no idea.

Tony Gillam, publisher of *The Chess Player*, makes it clear that he has no

missing games:

I remember the games very well. I definitely published everything I had. No additional games or positions, no unplayable games. I can't remember who sent me the games. That leads to me think that David Levy acquired them. That magazine issue also had the Fischer v Larsen match games and I think he supplied them as well, plus the photo with both Fischer's and Larsen's signatures.

We can only hope these missing games turn up in the future.

Player Index

(all index numbers refer to games)

Anastasopoulos 15

Anelli 38

Arrupe 28

Bachiller 27

Benko 56

Brandts 87, 88

Bronstein 73, 74

Buraschi 43

Bustos 47

Byrne, D. 50

Byrne, R. 85, 86

Canova 40

Casado 1

Christoph 25

Dresen 26

Evans 4, 5

Ferreira 35a

Feuerstein 96

Fine 54, 55, 57

Garcia Palermo 21

Galarraga 3

Galfón 44

Gersch 4

Gomez 30

Gonzalez 46

Grillo 32

Harmon 51

Harris 2

Henriksen 7

Hense 6

Hoffman 53

Hort 69, 70

Ingolotti 35a

Ivkov 63, 64

Jensen 8
Kevitz 97
Kokkoris 18
Korchnoi 79, 80
Kramer 95
Langhanke 24
Larsen 60
Levy 98
Loayza 10
Lujambio 31
Marchetti 41
Martinez, G. 11
Martinez, M. 47
Matulović 81, 82
Mednis 91, 92
Middendorf 22
Nordfjord 9
N.N. 19
Ornithopoulos 16
Ostojić 75, 76
Padula 20
Panno 35a
Peinado 29
Petrosian 71, 72
Pietrobono 45
Reshevsky 49, 67, 68
Reuben 58, 59
Rubinstein, A. 52a
Rubinstein, J. 35
Quinteros 35a
Salvi 42
Seidler 39
Schmitz 23
Shipman 93, 94
Smyslov 65, 66
Snitzer 12
Soltis 83, 84
Straniero 34
Szmetan 36

Tal 61, 62
Tarrasch 52a
Trikaliotis 17
Uhlmann 77, 78
Vaschetti 33
Velarde 48
Vizantiadis 14
Wagner 5
Weberg 37
Zhukov 13
Zuckerman 52

ECO Codes Index

A03 66
A05 9
A07 96
A11 25
A16 59
A23 23
A24 29
A48 69
A49 62
B00 34
B04 60
B10 20
B11 33
B07 47, 63
B17 56
B19 10
B22 74, 98
B28 24
B29 41, 46
B30 17, 45, 61
B32 1, 7, 84
B33 39
B34 50, 67, 76
B35 51, 58

B43 27
B45 16
B43 27
B52 48
B57 86
B77 3, 93
B86 28, 32
B87 22, 38, 83
B89 35
B90 85
B92 89
B93 76, 91
B95 18
B97 82
C01 11
C10 13, 52a
C15 78
C16 73
C18 31
C19 72, 80, 92
C21 2
C25 42
C31 21, 36
C41 19, 57
C42 44
C52 40, 53
C56 5
C59 43
C60 94
C63 81
C68 95
C69 15
C75 8
C76 6
C78 12
C89 37
C98 88, 90
D10 70
D34 35b

D50 14
D52 4
D79 65
D83 55
D93 97
E02 35a
E40 54
E68 30, 64
E70 71
E74 77
E91 49
E94 68
E97 79
E98 87

Opening Index

Alekhine 60
Bird 66
Catalan 35a
Caro-Kann 10, 20, 33, 56, 96
Center Counter 34
Danish Gambit 2
English 23, 29, 59, 67
Evans Gambit 40, 53
French 11, 13, 31, 52a, 72, 73, 78, 80, 92
Giuoco Piano 5
Grunfeld 55, 65, 97
Irregular 42
King's Gambit 21, 36
King's Indian 30, 49, 64, 68, 71, 77, 79, 87
King's Indian Attack 9
Nimzo-Indian 54
Petroff 44
Philidor 19, 57
Pirc 47, 63
Reti 25
Ruy López 6, 8, 12, 15, 37, 81, 88, 90, 94, 95
Queen's Gambit 4, 14, 35b

Queen Pawn 62

Sicilian 1, 3, 7, 14, 16, 17, 18, 22, 24, 26, 27, 28, 32, 35, 38, 39, 41, 45, 46, 48, 50, 51, 52, 58, 61 74, 75, 76, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 89, 91, 93, 98

Slav 70

Torre Attack 69

Two Knights Defense 43