In Memoriam: Bent Larson

HISTORY OF FIDE

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

Principles of Chess

ODDITIES IN CHESS

Online Chess

In Memoriam: Bent Larson
Editorial - “My Move”

We are excited about releasing our second issue of White Knight Review. Chess is a sport that is enjoyed by every sector of life, from young to old, male and female, rich or poor and entails people on a variety of levels and yet it is a great facilitator of the skills and strengths of two opposing people. Though chess is called a game it is far more than that. It can be a fierce competitive war of intellect or a relaxing personal pastime. It is a game that can be played singularly or with a formable opponent be it man or computer.

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

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

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

Chess.com is the #1 chess site on the internet. If you google the word chess, it is the first site that comes up. They have over 2,500,000 members and approximately 10,000 are playing 24/7 from all around the world. You will never have a problem finding someone to play with and at any level. Interesting enough, my brother, Bill Wall was the very first GM to play chess online (from Miami where I live), Alex Lenderman, Vinay Bhat, Gregory Serper, Nigel Davis, and Raymond Keene. The two extra features you get are Video Lessons and Chess Mentor. One of the most powerful learning methods is watching and listening to top Grandmasters explain their thoughts while at the chessboard. Video Lessons are in-depth chess lectures that cover all topics from openings to endings with awesome analysis and insight. Chess Mentor is the most effective interactive chess training system ever created! You receive custom feedback on every possible move so you not only know the right answer, but why other moves were wrong. Lessons are written by chess professionals and teachers and you will learn how Grandmasters think about each move.

Chess.com has something to offer for the novice or seasoned player and I suggest you join for free to play or pay to get better. In the next issue I will explore other chess sites out there that offer Free Chess playing. Some with people and some with computers. Many are exclusively chess sites while others are multigame sites. Here are a few sites you might want to check out.

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

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

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

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

In addition to the text and 398 pages, there are a few chess diagrams and two chess games (in descriptive notation). Each chapter highlights an aspect of Morphy’s life. He qualified at age 20 for the American Legal Bar, but was still too young to practice law. He occupied his time playing chess and winning the first American Congress at New York in 1857. He was challenged to go to Europe and play the best in Europe. Howard Staunton wouldn’t pay him, but Morphy beat all the other old world champions, including Adolph Andersen, winner of the first international chess tournament at London in 1851. Morphy’s law practice was disrupted by the American Civil War (1861-1865) and he may have been a Confederate spy during that period. Due to Morphy’s fame as a chess player, no one would take him seriously as a qualified lawyer. He then had increasing mental problems of paranoia, and died after taking a cold bath, perhaps of a stroke, in New Orleans in 1884, at the age of 47.

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

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

As a biography, this book is unmatchable. Lawson researched all primary sources thoroughly, making it the fullest and most accurate account available of Paul Morphy’s life, and updated with a new annotated bibliography. This new edition of Paul Morphy: The Pride and Sorrow of Chess, edited by Thomas Aiello, is a very good high-quality chess book that chess player and non chess player would enjoy.
There are hundreds of variants to the normal game of chess. Here are just some of the chess variants.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more on chess variants, see http://www.chessvariants.com/
The World Chess Federation – FIDE

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

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

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

In April 1914 an initiative was taken in St. Petersburg, Russia to form an international chess federation. In July, 1914 an attempt was made to organize an international chess federation during the Mannheim International Chess Tournament. In 1920 another attempt was made to organize an international chess federation at the Gothenburg Tournament. In 1922 an international tournament was held in London (won by Capablanca) as part of the British Chess Congress. One of the participants of this tournament was the Russian chess master Eugene Znosko-Borovsky, who was living in Paris. He announced to the world that a chess tournament would be held in 1924 during the World Sports Olympics Games in Paris in 1924 and hosted by the French Chess Federation. From July 20, 1924, the first world team competition took place at the Hotel Majestic in Paris. It was reported as the first team competition. There were 54 players from 18 countries that participated. It was supposed to be the first International Team Tournament of Amateurs. The organizers of the Sports Olympics considered chess as a sport, but they demanded that only amateurs be permitted to take part in the chess competition.

The winner of this Paris event was Hermanns Mattison of Latvia, followed by Apschenec, then Collè. The team championship was won by Czechoslovakia. Mattison was proclaimed amateur World Chess Champion.
The 1927 event was directed by Alexander Alekhine.
The Frenchman Pierre Vincent was the first to put forward the idea of an international chess federation. He had the support of the French Chess Federation to start a larger, world chess organization.
The Federation Internationale des Echecs (FIDE) was formed on Sunday, July 20, 1924. It was the closing day of the Paris Chess Olympic Games. The principles of FIDE (pronounced fee-day) were to be an association of national federations of chess, with any national chess federation able to join it. The cost of joining was an annual contribution 300 francs.
The first President of FIDE was Dr. Alexander Rueb of Holland. The first registered office of FIDE was in The Hague, Switzerland in 1925.
The first Vice-President of FIDE was Leonard Percy Rees (1862-1944) of Surrey, England. At the time, he was the Secretary of the British Chess Federation. The first Treasurer of FIDE was Professor A. Nicolle of Switzerland.
The original signers in the formation of FIDE included the following from 15 countries:

- Roberto Gabriel Grau (1900-1944) of Buenos Aires, Argentina.
- Leon Wilm Weltens (1878-1975) of Antwerp, Belgium.
- Dr. Steven Francis Smith (1861-1928) of British Columbia, Canada.
- Conrado Ignacio de Penalver y Zamora (1857-1933) of Spain.
- Anatol A. Tschermowil (1871-1942) of Helsinki, Finland.
- Pierre Vincent (1878-1956) of France.
- Officer Francis Hooper Rawlin (1861-1925) of England.

Dr. Alexander Rueb (1882-1959) of Holland and President of the Dutch Chess Association. He was also a Dutch lawyer and diplomat. Istvan Abonyi (1886-1942) of Budapest, Hungary.
Florenzo Manuzzi (1860-1936) of Milan, Italy.
T. Toubin (Towbin) of Poland.
Lt. Jon Gudju (1879-?) of Romania.
Marc Nicollet (1876-1942) of Biel, Switzerland.
Dr. Karel Skalicka (1886-1979) of Czechoslovakia.
Jakob M. Owadi (Owadija) (1878-1941) of Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

Other people who participated in the first FIDE organization included Alexander Alekhine and George Koltanowski.
The motto selected for FIDE was Gens una sumus, meaning “We are one people.”
Dr. Rueb served as President of FIDE for 25 years, from 1924 to 1949. He was an amateur player and wrote books on endgame studies.
In 1949 Folke Rogard of Sweden was elected FIDE President and served until 1970.
In 1970 Dr. Max Euwe was of the Netherlands elected FIDE President and served until 1978.
In 1978 Fridrik Olafsson of Iceland was elected FIDE President and served until 1982.
In 1982 FlorencioCampomanes of the Philippines was elected FIDE President and served until 1995.
In 1995 Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was elected FIDE President. He was the president of Kalmykia, a republic in southern Russia.
In 2010, Kirsan Ilyumzhinov was re-elected FIDE President. He defeated Anatoly Karpo, former world chess champion, by a vote of 95 to 55. The election was held in Khanty-Mansiysk, Siberia, where the biennial Chess Olympiad was being played.

The first GMs were Bernstein, Boleslavsky, Bondarevsky, Botvinnik, Bronstein, Duras, Euwe, Fine, Flohr, Grünfeld, Keres, Kostic, Kotov, Levenfish, Lichthaid, Maroczy, Mieses, Najdorf, Ragozin, Reshevsky, Saemisch, Smyslov, Stahlberg, Szabo, Tartakower, and Vajar.

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In 1957 FIDE introduced norms to gain FIDE titles.
In 1970, former world chess champion Max Euwe was elected FIDE President. He served for 8 years.
The first official FIDE ratings list was in 1972.
In 1978, Fridrik Olafsson, president of Iceland, was elected FIDE President. He served for 4 years.
In 1982, FlorencioCampomanes of the Philippines was elected FIDE President. He served for 5 years.
In June, 1999, FIDE was recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as an International Sports Federation.

In 2004 there are 159 national chess federations, with over 5 million registered chess players, that are members of FIDE.
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The first FIDE World Championship was won by Hungary, with 16 teams competing.
In 1947 the USSR joined FIDE for the first time. It joined only under the condition that Spain, a founding member, be ejected from FIDE.
In 1948 FIDE organized the World Chess Championship. In 1949, Folke Rogard was elected president of FIDE. He served for 3 years. In 1950 FIDE awarded its first Grandmaster (GM) title to 27 players. The first list also included 9 International Masters and 17 International Women Masters.
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**FIDE Member countries include:**

- Afghanistan, Aland, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Faroe Islands, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macau, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Netherlands Antilles, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.
In January 1959, Bobby Fischer again won the U.S. Championship (Rosenwald Trophy) with 6 wins and 5 draws. His USCF rating was 2665. The event was covered in the January 5, 1959 issue of Chess Life. The February 5, 1959 issue of Chess Life published its National Chess Ratings, led by Reshevsky at 2690 and followed by Fischer at 2636. After Fischer's U.S. Championship win, a student council at Erasmus Hall had voted him a gold medal for his accomplishments.

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

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

The March 5, 1959 issue of Chess Life was dedicated to Bobby Fischer. Fischer had dropped out of school when he turned 16 on March 9, 1959. He said he hated school and had problems with his teachers. He was an astounding player across the world with his prodigious playing. Fischer at the age of 15 was the second oldest secondary school student to become a professional chess player. Fischer's academic accomplishments.

In May, 1959, Bobby visited Frank Brady, who was editing the hall from the USCF office of Dr. Albertrecht. Mrs. Fischer also wrote a letter to the office of Dr. Albertrecht, who specialized in chess literature. He offered Bobby to choose a number of chess books free of charge. It took Bobby over a year to make his selection. (Brady, p. 27)

In July, 1959 he took 3rd-4th at the annual international tournament in Mar del Plata, Argentina. The expenses of this trip in Argentina and was64

In December, 1959, just before the 1959-60 US Championship, Fischer decided not to play at the last minute. He had demanded a public drawing of the pairings. Anthony Saidy was substituted for Fischer. On December 19, after it was agreed that the drawing would be made public in the future, Fischer decided to defend his title. Fischer again won the U.S. Championship. He would hold the title at 15 years old. Fischer was "always alone and very peculiar." (Christopher Andersen, Barbra The Way She Is, page 41)

Fischer is the second youngest player to win the U.S. Junior Championship. He would hold the title at 14 years old in 1959. Fischer was "always alone and very peculiar." (Christopher Andersen, Barbra The Way She Is, page 41)

In a 1961 interview with Ralph Brady, Fischer may have dropped out of school to become a professional chess player. Fischer's academic accomplishments.

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

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

In October, 1961, he took 2nd at theAlekhine Memorial in Bled, Yugoslavia, behind Tal. He defeated Tal in 21 of his rounds. Fischer’s rating was 2675. Of Fischer’s performance at Bled, Larry Evans said, "He has shown beyond the shadow of a doubt that he is a contender for the world title. Fischer has single-handedly broken the Russian iron grip on chess supremacy." Svetozar Gligoric said, "Bobby is going to be world champion." (Brady, p. 49)

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

In December, 1961, Fischer was in London. He appeared in the BCC’s "Chess Treasures of the Air."

Fischer and Leonard Barden played a game against Jonathan Penrose and P. H. Clarke. The game was adjudicated as a draw by Max Euwe. Bobby Fischer chose not to play in the 1962 U.S. Chess Championship. That event was won by Larry Evans.

In 1966 Bobby became involved in the Worldwide Church of God. In March, 1962, he won the Interzonal in Stockholm with 13 wins, 9 draws, and no losses. This was the first interzonal that a Soviet player did not take first place. Fischer’s rating was 2713.

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

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

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

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

On January 2, 1964, Bobby Fischer won the U.S. Championship with a perfect score of 11 wins. First prize was $2,000. In 1964, he began a nationwide simultaneous exhibition for the rest of the year. His fee was $250 for a 50-board simul and a lecture. Harry Evans, father of Larry Evans, was in charge of putting it together. From February to May, he played in 40 cities. He played 1,882 games, winning 1,719, drawing 102, and losing 61 games.

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

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

In January 1963, Bobby won the U.S. Championship with 6 wins, 4 draws, and 1 loss (to Edmar Mednis). His rating was 2664. He announced he was boycotting FIDE tournaments because the Russians stopped fixing chess. In July, 1963 he won the Western Open in Bay City, Michigan, winning $750. His USCF rating was 2674.

In September he won the New York State Open with a perfect score of 7 wins, no draws, and no losses. His USCF rating was 2685. In the September 1963 issue of Chess Life, there was an announcement that Bobby Fischer was compiling his early games, from 1955 through 1957, for publication. If anyone had any scores that they played against Fischer, to send them to Chess Life in care of J.F. Reed.

On November 27, 1963, Fischer was to play over 400 opponents at once in an exhibition, but was postponed because of President Kennedy’s assassination (November 22, 1963) and a fire at the Astor hotel where the event was to have taken place. He was attempting to break Gideon Stahlberg’s record of 400 opponents. Stahlberg played 400 opponents in Buenos Aires in 1941, winning 364, 14 draws, and 22 losses. It was only $5 to play and $1 to watch.

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

On March 9, 1966, he turned 21. His mother sent him a number of chess books from the Soviet Union. He had just completed a 65 board simultaneous exhibition in Washington, DC the day before.

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

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

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

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

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White Knight Review
November/December 2010

In August 1965, Bobby participated in the 4th Capablanca Memorial in Cuba by playing through a teletype machine at the Marshall Chess Club in New York. He tied for 2nd-4th with 12 wins, 6 draws, and 3 losses. The United States did not have diplomatic relations with Cuba, and the State Department would not authorize him to travel to Havana. Fischer thus had to play by teletype and the Cuban government paid for the services, over $10,000. Fischer’s USCF rating was 2766.

In 1965 Frank Brady published Profile of a Prodigy, a biography of Bobby Fischer. In late 1965, Fischer spent his time writing Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess. In December 1965, he won the U.S. Chess Championship with 8 wins, 1 draw, and 2 losses. His 1st place prize was $2,000. Fischer’s USCF rating after the event was 2708. He also qualified for the 1967 Interzonal in Sousse, Tunisia.

In April, 1966, Bobby Fischer was the official adjudicator at the Greater New York Open Championship. In July 1966, Bobby took 2nd place at the Patigorsky Cup in Santa Monica, behind Spassky. Over 1,000 people watched his game with Boris Spassky, the largest audience for a chess game in U.S. history. His USCF rating was 2713.

In November 1966, he played Board 1 for the U.S. at the 17th Chess Olympiad in Havana, scoring 14 wins, 3 draws, and 1 loss. His USCF rating was 2748.

In December 1966, he won the U.S. Championship with 8 wins, 3 draws, and no losses. This was his 8th U.S. Championship title. His USCF rating was 2738.

In 1966, Bobby’s mother started her medical school degree in the Friedrich Schiller University, East Germany. She completed her medical degree two years later, at the age of 55. At this time, Bobby was living in a suite at the Tudor Hotel on East 42nd Street, near the United Nations building.

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

In April 1967, Fischer took 1st place at Monaco. His USCF rating was 2762. He received an appearance fee of $2,000 and a 5,000 franc first prize. The trophy was presented to him by Prince Rainier and Princess Grace.

In the summer of 1967, he went to the Philippines for a series of simultaneous and clock exhibitions. In August 1967, he won at Skopje, Yugoslavia. His USCF rating was 2741.

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

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

In the spring of 1968 Bobby moved to Avenue Los Angeles and followed the Worldwide Church of God. In July he took 1st place at Nathanya, Israel. His USCF rating was 2739.

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

In September he took 1st place at Vinkovci, Yugoslavia. His USCF rating was 2745. In 1969 Bobby finished his book, MY 60 MEMORABLE GAMES. It included 9 draws and 3 losses.

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

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

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

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

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

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In September he played Board 1 for the U.S. at the 19th Olympiad in Siegen, Switzerland. His USCF rating was 2755. In November, Pal Benko gave up his spot at the Palma de Mallorca Intertonal for $2,000 so that Fischer could play. Bobby won the event with 15 wins, 7 draws, and 1 loss. His USCF rating was 2771. His December 1970 FIDE rating was 2740.

Fischer won the chess Oscar for 1970, 1971, and 1972. In 1971, Fischer proposed that the world championship match be decided on the first player winning 10 games. In June 1971, Bobby Fischer defeated Mark Taimanov with 6 wins, 6 draws, no losses in the Candidates quarterfinal in Vancouver, Canada. Fischer wanted Larry Evans to be his opponent, but Evans refused when Fischer demanded that Evans abstain from any press or attention for him to leave his wife, Ingrid, back home in Nevada. Fischer's USCF rating was 2801. His FIDE rating was 2785. During the match with Petrosian, someone threw a stink bomb in the playing hall. In January 1972 Bobby appeared on the Dick Cavett show and talked about chess. Just before the match with Boris Spassky, he told the Washington Post "I don't believe in psychology. I believe in good moves." In July 11, 1972 he began his match with Boris Spassky in Reykjavik (Smoky Bay), Iceland for the world championship. On September 1, 1972 Bobby became world champion after winning 7 games, drawing 11 games, and losing 1 game (one on forfeit). Fischer received $160,000 for his efforts and another $40,000 in royalties. President Nixon sent him a telegram congratulating him for his fine efforts. Fischer donated $64,000 of his winnings to the Worldwide Church of God. His USCF rating after the event was 2771. This would be his last USCF rating. In September 1972, Fischer telegraphed the FIDE Congress being held in Helsinki that FIDE should impose a 36-game limit and the elimination of draws.

In 1973, Fischer travelled to Tokyo to meet with the Japan Chess Association and met Miss Miyoko Watai, who gave him a tour of Tokyo. They later became very good friends and lived together in 2000. In September, 1973, Fred Cramer, Vice President (Zone 5) of FIDE, proposed that the world championship be decided on 10 wins, draws not counting. He also proposed that the champion retain his title if the score were a 9-9 tie. This became known as the Cramer proposal, or Annex 43 by FIDE. In September 1973, Fischer telegraphed the FIDE Congress being held in Helsinki that FIDE should impose a 36-game limit and the elimination of draws. "FIDE has decided against my participation in the 1975 World Chess Championship. I therefore resign my FIDE World Chess Championship title." In January 1974, he wrote to Larry Evans about not counting draws in a match. Larry Evans wrote: "The whole idea at the time was that FIDE should be the only authority. There is no way to eliminate a draw match." Fischer responded: "Nonsense! The whole idea to make sure the players draw blood by winning games, and the spectators get their money's worth. And make it an accurate test of who is the world's best player?" In January 1975, the Philippines were offering $5 million for Fischer to play Karpov in the Philippines. In March, 1975, an extraordinary FIDE Congress was held in Osterbek, Netherlands, and it was agreed to have an unlimited number of world championship games, but refused Fischer's 9-9 rule (32 votes for it, and 35 votes against it). On April 3, 1975 Bobby Fischer forfeited his title as world champion to Anatoly Karpov without playing a single chess game since winning the world championship. In 1977, Fischer insisted that the number of games be unlimited. All other proposals, including Fischer's, were rejected. At the 1979 congress, the score reached 9 wins apiece, the champion should retain the title.

In June 27, 1974, Fischer telephoned FIDE's decision to Fischer. On May 26, 1981, Fischer was arrested for theft in Pasadena, California. He paid Fischer $1 million to play a chess match with Karpov in the Philippines. At the end of 1977 he cut all ties with the Worldwide Church of God. He claimed that the church was taking orders from a satanical secret world government. In 1978 Bobby Fischer filed a $3.2 million lawsuit against the publishers of a magazine critical of the Worldwide Church of God. He claimed that the church was taking orders from a satanical secret world government. In 1987 the House of Representatives passed House Resolution Bill 345 recognizing Bobby Fischer as the world chess champion. In 1988 Bobby patented the Fischer digital chess clock which adds 2 minutes per move (the patent expired in November, 2001). In 1991 Bill Wall delivered to Bobby Fischer, via Joan Targ, a large number of chess magazines and chess books provided to him by International Master John Donaldson. Every issue of Inside Chess by Yasser Seirawan was included, as requested by Fischer. In early 1992 Fischer started a relationship with 18-year old Zita Rajcansky of Hungary. She may have been his 14th wife. In 1992 he played a chess match with Boris Spassky. Plans were being made to have Spassky play a match with Fischer in Yugoslavia.
On August 21, 1992 the Department of the Treasury ordered Bobby Fischer to stop his activities in the planning of a chess match in Yugoslavia. He was subject to the prohibition imposed by Executive Order 12810, signed by George Bush on June 3, 1992 (rescinded in 2003), imposing sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro.

On September 1, 1992, Bobby Fischer had retired from the chess world after 20 years. He pulled out an order from the U.S. Treasury Department warning him that he would be violating U.N. sanctions if he played or trained in Yugoslavia. He split on the order and now faces 10 years in prison and a $250,000 fine if he returns to the U.S. In addition, he must forfeit his $3.65 million to the U.S. Treasury and forfeit 10% of any match royalties earned.

On September 30, 1996, Bobby Fischer began his re-match with Boris Spassky (rated 2561) in Sveti Stefan (Montenegro). The match was organized by banker Joel Benbow. On November 11, Fischer won the match with 10 wins, 5 losses, and 15 draws. He received $3.6 million for his winnings and Spassky received $1.5 million.

In 1998 all of Bobby Fischer's valuables and belongings were sold at auction at the Bekins Moving and Storage Company in Pasadena, California. They were sold when the storage bill was not paid by Bob Ellis, who was the agent for Fischer. Ellis was ordered to be arrested by the U.S. Treasury and forfeit 10% of any gains for violating the International Trade (ICB) Code 1701, 1702, and 1705 and Executive Order 12810 (Prohibiting transactions with Yugoslavia), signed by the President George Bush on June 1, 1992.

The crime was a contract in support of a commercial project in a banned country and the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Treasury. He has been frequenting the Polgar family and in 1999, was arrested by the ICE and later released.

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

In November, 2002, the Philadelphia Inquirer published a story that identifies the real father of Bobby Fischer. They also identify the real father to be Paul Nemenyi, a Hungarian physicist. He died in 1988.

In 2001, Fischer worked for awhile as a jockey for the New York Zephyr, an AM station in Manila. In exchange for exclusive interviews, Fischer was allowed to play his favorite Rhythm & Blues records and discuss politics.

In 2002, Bobby Fischer was issued a passport in an effort to prevent him from being deported until it had ruled on his lawsuit seeking to have the deportation order thrown out.

On January 17, 2008, Bobby Fischer was arrested in Reykjavik hospital. He was 64. His mother died in Palo Alto, California. She was 84.

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In 2001, Fischer was arrested in Japan and was living with Miyoko Watai, the President of the Japan Chess Association. Fischer is the father of her real husband. Hans-Gerhardt Fischer is listed on Bob Ellis's letter to the government of Iceland, ”You set up the pieces in a random manner. This would take away the book knowledge of regular chess.

On December 11, 2003 the U.S. Embassy in Manila sent a letter by the U.S. Consul General (Thomas M. Kerr) to the government of Iceland about the case of Mary Young claiming that Fischer was the father of her young daughter. She was 84.

In December, 2003, the President of FIDE offered Bobby Fischer $100,000 and a piece of land in the Kalmuyk Republic in the Caspian Sea. Fischer did not accept the offer.

On January 24, 1993 Fischer granted a live radio interview to a radio station in Budapest, Hungary. It was in the first of over 20 radio interviews he would make in the next 3 years.

On January 14, 1999 Fischer granted an interview to Baguio Radio in the Philippines. He accused the Jewish community of conspiring against him and denied the Holocaust of the Jews. He has been frequenting the Polgar family and in 1999, was arrested by the ICE and later released.

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

In 1999, Fischer was living in Budapest in the 1990s. He has been frequenting the Polgar family and Grandmaster Peter Leko of Hungary, Hong Kong, Switzerland, and the Philippines.

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Principles of Chess

1. Develop your chess pieces quickly.
2. Control the center squares.
3. Try to put your chess pieces on squares that give them maximum space.
4. Try to develop your knights towards the center.
5. A knight on the rim is dim.
6. Don't take unnecessary chances with your moves.
7. Play aggressive and not passive.
8. Calculate forced moves first.
9. Always ask yourself, “Can he put me in check or win a piece?”
10. Have a plan. Every move and idea should have a purpose.
11. Assume your opponent's move is the best move or he will play the best move.
13. Play for the initiative and controlling the board.
14. If you must lose a piece, get something for it if you can.
15. When behind in material, exchange pawns. When ahead, exchange pieces.
16. If you are losing, don't give up fighting. Look for counter-play and tactics.
17. Don't play unsound moves.
18. Don't sacrifice a piece without good reason.
19. If you are in doubt of an opponent's sacrifice, accept it.
20. Attack with more than just one or two pieces.
21. Do not make careless pawn moves. They cannot move back.
22. Do not block in your bishops.
23. Bishops of opposite colors have the greatest chance of drawing.
24. Try not to move the same piece twice or more times in a row.
25. Exchange pieces if it helps your development or uncramps your position.
26. Don't bring your queen out too early.
27. Castle soon to protect your king and develop your rook.
28. Develop rooks to open files.
29. Put rooks behind passed pawns.
30. Study rook endgames. They are the most common and most complicated.
31. Don't let your king get caught in the center.
32. Don't castle if it brings your king into greater danger from attack.
33. After castling, keep a good pawn formation around your king.
34. If you only have one bishop, put your pawns on its opposite color.
35. Trade pieces when ahead in material or when under attack.
36. If cramped, free your game by exchanging material.
37. If your opponent is cramped, don't let him get any freeing exchanges.
38. Study openings you are comfortable with.
39. Play over entire chess games, not just the opening.
40. Blitz chess is helpful in recognizing chess patterns. Play often.
41. Study annotated games and try to guess each move before playing the next move.
42. Stick with just a few openings with White, and a few openings with Black.
43. Record your games and go over them, especially the games you lost.
44. Show your games to higher rated opponents and get feedback from them.
45. Use strong chess engines and databases to help you study and play more.
46. Avoid blunders if you can. Everyone blunders. Strong players just blunder less often.
47. When it is not your move, look for tactics and combinations.
48. Try to double rooks or double rook and queen on open files.
49. Always ask yourself, “Does my next move overlook something simple?”
50. Don't make your own plans without the exclusion of the opponent's threats.
51. Watch out for captures by retreat of an opponent's piece.
52. Do not focus on one sector of the board. View the whole board.
53. Write down your move first before making that move if it helps.
54. Try to solve chess puzzles with diagrams from books and magazines.
55. It is less likely that an opponent is prepared for off-beat openings.
56. Recognize transposition of moves from main-line play.
57. Watch your time and avoid time trouble. Do not rush your game.
58. Bishops are worth more than knights except when they are pinned in.
59. A knight works better with a bishop than another knight.
60. It is usually a good idea to trade down into a pawn up endgame.
61. Have confidence in your game.
62. Play in as many tournaments and matches as you can.
63. Try not to look at your opponent's rating until after the game.
64. Always play for a win.
In Memoriam

Don’t Get Bent!- The life of Bent Larson

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

Bent Jorgen Larsen was born on March 4, 1935 in Tilsted, Denmark. In 1941, Larsen took up chess while lying sick in bed as a child. He was 6 years old.

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

In the 1950s, he attended Aalborg Cathedral School.

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

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

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

In 1959, Bent Larsen was Bobby Fischer’s second at the Bled Candidates tournament. Larsen said that Fischer managed to drive him almost desperate by sitting alone in his room with a chess set, not eating very much and sleeping little. Larsen tried to change Fischer’s openings, but to no avail.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In 1967, he won a strong tournament in Havana.

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

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

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


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

In 1969, he wrote 50 Udvalgte Parier, 1948-69, which was later translated, Bent Larsen: 50 Selected Games.

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

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

In 1970, he played first board for the World side in the USSR vs. Rest of the World, held in Bryansk, Yugoslavia. He scored 2.5/4 against Spassky and Leonid Stein. He won one game, drew one game, and lost one game to Spassky. He won one game against Stein.

Bobby Fischer played Board 2 for the Rest of the World. The USSR team narrowly won the overall match, 20.5 to 19.5.

In 1969, he shared 2nd place overall in the Palma de Mallorca Interzonal, behind the tournament winner, Bobby Fischer.

In 1971, he was the 3rd highest rated player in the world, behind Fischer and Spassky. His rating was 2600.

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

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In 1972/73, he won at Hastings. In 1973, he wrote San Antonio Church’s Fried Chicken

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

Larsen’s loss to Spassky was quick.


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International Chess Tournament ’72.
In 1973, he won the Nordic Championship.
In 1973, he won at Manila.
In 1974, he won the second annual World Open in New York.
In 1976, he won the Biel Interzonal.
In 1977, he lost his Candidates’ match to Portisch.
In 1982, he wrote Larsen’s Good Move Guide.
In 1988 he lost a chess game to Deep Thought chess computer, becoming the first Grandmaster and the player with the highest Elo rating (2560) to be defeated by a computer in tournament play.
Larsen lost in 43 moves at the Software Toolworks Open (US Open) in Long Beach. He had White and played the English opening 1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 c6. Deep Thought tied for 1st place with Tony Miles.
From 1958 to 1990, Larsen took part in over 60 chess tournaments, taking 1st place in 25 events and taking 2nd place in 10 events. He was known as "the tournament world champion."
In 1992, Larsen’s book was reprinted by Batsford under the title Bent Larsen. Master of Counter-Attack. Larsen refused to autograph that book for anyone, stating that it was an unauthorized reprint of his book.
In 2009, his Elo rating was 2415.
From 1948 to 1985, he defeated seven World Champions: Botvinnik, Smyslov, Tal, Petrosian, Spassky, Fischer, and Karpov.
The opening 1.b3 is known as the Larsen Opening.
Grandmaster Raymond Keene considered Bent Larsen as the most cultured grandmaster.
When Larsen gave simultaneous exhibitions, he allowed half the games as White and half the games as Black. Most grandmasters only play White. When on a winning streak, Larsen refused to shave. As soon as he lost, he shaved.
Larsen’s nickname was The Great Dane and The Danish Prince. Larsen was the first native-born Danish grandmaster in chess history.
Nimzowitsch was a Danish grandmaster, but he was born in Riga, Latvia.
At one time, to supplement his income, Larsen translated detective stories into Danish.
Larsen won the Interzonal three times (Amsterdam 1964, Sousse 1967, Biel 1976). The only other person to win three Interzonals was Mikhail Tal.
For many years, he wrote a chess column for Clarin, a Buenos Aires newspaper.
Bent Larsen is survived by his second wife, Laura Beatriz Benedini.
He once observed: “To win, it is necessary to accept lost positions.”
Bent is a common name in Benedictus.

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In 1916, during World War I, Siegbert Tarrasch and Jacques Mieses played a chess match in Berlin in which the prize was ½ pound of butter. Tarrasch won the match and the butter with 7 wins, 2 losses, and 4 draws. At a New York chess tournament during the Depression, the first prize was a keg of schmaltz herring. (Chess Review, December 1947, p. 28)

Modern Chess Masters

Grandmaster Samuel Reshevsky (1911-1992) was a child prodigy in chess. He made his debut on radio singing a love song. His original name was Szmul Rzeszewski, but nobody could pronounce it. He was an accountant by profession. (Chess Review, December 1947, p. 16)

**ODDITIES IN CHESS (CONTINUED)**

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

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

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

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

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

The wife of grandmaster Isaac Kashdan (1905-1982) won the New Britain, Connecticut Chess Championship 23 years in a row. He also had been president of the chess club for over 25 years. He was a member of the club for over 50 years. His son, Andris, was the club treasurer for over 34 years. (Chess Life, June 1975, p. 379)

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

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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

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

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

_by Wall_

Magnus Petersson – Bent Larsen Reykjavik, 1989

1.d4 Nf6 2.c3 [An unusual or rare opening move. Usual is 2.e4] 2...b6 [I have played 2...e6. There followed 3.f4!? N5.e4 4.e3 Nxf5! And Black won, Tony – Wall, Internet 1999] 3.Nf3 [3.Nf3 is a good alternative] 3...e6 [most common and natural is 3...Bb4?] 4...e7 5.e3 [White is trying to get a kingside attack. Also playable are 14.h5 and 14.0–0–0] 6...0–0 [Black counters with a queenside attack] 15.0–0–0?! [It seems that White is castling into the queenside attack. Better may be 15.g5] 15...a4 16.Rd1?! [Looks like a wasted move as the rook can be attacked and has to move again. 16.g5 or 16.a3 looks better] 16...Ba6 [Black is threatening 17...Bd3, which White does not see.] 17.Qd4?? [The losing move. Best may be 17.Qxe4 Qxe4 18.Nxe4 Bxf1 19.Rxf1] 17...Bd3! 18.Qd1

### Ask Bill

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

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

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

Peter, the center squares are the d4, e4, d5, e5 squares of a chessboard. The first opening principle should be controlling the center, with such moves as 1.d4 or 1.e4 for White and 1.d4 or 1.e4 for Black. Controlling the center allows more mobility of the pieces such as knight and bishop, as well as easy access to all parts of the chessboard. Control of the center by one player helps him to position his chess pieces more effectively while preventing the development of your opponent’s pieces. Attacks in the center also tend to be more direct. You can also control the center and attack the center in a hypermodern way, such as 1.d3 followed by 2.Bf4 and 2.Bg2. The bishops are not controlling the center, but are making the long diagonal. These factors often turn your opening into a battle for central control between the two sides.

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

Danny, the problem is with the publishers and demand for databases, not chess book collections. After my books were published by Chess Enterprises in the 1980s and early 1990s, the databases came out and no one was buying any more chess book collections, at least not mine. I tried to get other publishers, and had hard copy, ready-to-print, as well as soft copy, pdf, and zip files (and ChessBase format), but there wasn’t any interest. I probably have collected over 100,000, miniatures, and published over 10,000 miniatures from my books and web sites. I could put all my miniatures from my books in zip format, but it would take some time. I could also add thousands of new ones that have never been in a database as I have thousands of old chess books and magazines around the world full of short games that have never been made into databases. I put a few of my books online for free at db books, but I wasn’t that interested. However, I am trying a new format with e-books and recently wrote 200 King’s Gambit Declined Miniatures and 200 King’s Gambit Accepted Miniatures. If they turn out successful, I can start creating some more miniature series chess books.

### Ask Wall

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

JMR, you should castle as soon as possible to get your king to safety and set your rook out in the game. If you are in check (king being attacked), you cannot castle. Castle early if you can! If your king moves either into or across check (it’s ok if the rook moves across attacking squares, but not the king). You can castle if there are no other pieces between the king and the rook. You cannot castle if you had already moved your king or the rook that you want to castle with. Make sure you touch the king first when moving. Casting is a king’s move, so slide it over to the squares to the right or left of the kingside (written as O-O) or two squares to the left if you are castling queenside (written as O-O-O). The question as which side to castle depends on your opening. Generally you want to castle kingside if that is the fastest way to castle and you developed your kingside pieces. Some openings develop the queenside pieces first, and you may want to castle queenside. Some people want to see which side his opponent is castling, then castle the opposite side. Then try to attack the castled king and drop a piece. Castling your kingside will win your opponent’s queen, and as the queen is a stronger piece, you may want to castle at all. Castling queenside is sometimes more difficult as it takes more pieces to clear the squares for casting and the a8/h1 pawn most probably needs defending with an adjacent king move towards it. It is also more likely that the enemy pawns on the queenside will advance while the kingside pawns stay on their original squares or close to it.

Chavando: I was wondering how emotion affects your game, especially with respect to your performance or have a positive effect in chess?

Chavando, I have been playing chess over 40 years and there is always emotion in the game that may effect my play, especially with stronger players (I peaked at 2150, or weak master). I think emotion is good as it gets you directly involved in a good move or not. I am not an ice cold, rational player, which may prevent me from getting better (or may have helped me get where I am). Misplaced emotion may affect my thinking process, but I do think positions in my mind are lousy or good or beautiful or yucky or bad. This may come from intuition and pattern recognitions of thousands of patterns I have played or seen over the years. I play tactical chess, which is more emotional (less positional chess where you must be cold and rational). Maybe I don’t have a killer instinct, and I know I don’t mind losing a good game. I have very few draws and would rather play a move that is risky and I had some emotional attachment to the move and lose than play a safer move. Does emotion enhance performance? Perhaps, but it makes the games more enjoyable and not feel like work and drudgery. However, emotion does make me find moves and play that then I would otherwise not. I have won (and lost) several brilliancy prize games because of my emotion, combinations, and creative moves that would not have been played if I was cold as ice and logical. But there are times when I feel good, I understand that if I’m not. I do think positions in my mind are lousy or good or beautiful or yucky or bad. This may come from intuition and pattern recognitions of thousands of patterns I have played or seen over the years. I play tactical chess, which is more emotional (less positional chess where you must be cold and rational). Maybe I don’t have a killer instinct, and I know I don’t mind losing a good game. I have very few draws and would rather play a move that is risky and I had some emotional attachment to the move and lose than play a safer move. Does emotion enhance performance? Perhaps, but it makes the games more enjoyable and not feel like work and drudgery. However, emotion does make me find moves and play that then I would otherwise not. I have won (and lost) several brilliancy prize games because of my emotion, combinations, and creative moves that would not have been played if I was cold as ice and logical. But there are times when I feel good, I understand that if I’m not. I do think positions in my mind are lousy or good or beautiful or yucky or bad.
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