



Chess Barbs

by Jude Acers (US senior master)

DIAGRAM NO. 4: Levenfish—Riumin, Moscow, 1936. White forces an elegant win. Work out EVERY variation and prove your class! Solution elsewhere in this issue.

NEWS: The Las Vegas hotel Caesar's Palace has offered a flat \$175,000 for the Spassky-Fischer world title match with enormous side revenue guaranteed. A U.S. venue is now out of the question for the match, which now shapes up as probably the greatest man vs. man sporting event in history. No world boxing event remotely compares with this great contest -- the slumbering Russian bear against the Brooklyn bomber. Spassky refuses to accept two cities in Iceland-Yugoslavia, as ordered by World Chess Federation and may forfeit the world title unless changes are made. If the on again-off again match really happens, I'm going to run in-depth analysis by on-the-scene grandmasters for every game in the BARB. An estimated 20 million registered chessplayers in the USSR alone are certain to follow the match move for move daily. Fischer is immensely popular in the Soviet Union. . . Fischer favored 3½-2½ by booking agencies in England. Meanwhile fantastic efforts to get the Soviet Union's Department of Physical Culture and Sport to agree to terms for Spassky continue at a mad pace. . . What the U.S. has done to deserve Fischer I do not know, but out of the blue Fischer is knocking on the world title door, is the highest rated Elo Rating Scale player in history, is 8 times U.S. champion and twice winner of world interzonal events, which qualify the best players in the world to final matches to

challenge the world champion. With a grin, much confidence and blazing style, Fischer awaits! So does everybody else. Chess widows of the world, get ready: on June 25 every serious chess player in the world will be facing insomnia for two months. Get the coffeepot ready!

I'm going into hibernation during the match but will relay my impressions, analysis and enthusiastic reports by a secret captain midnight courier on a white horse. Essentially chess is a lot of fun and great excitement. Don't ever doubt that professional players do not feel this down to their shoelaces. This match is going to make kids of us all! I personally have dreamed about such a match since 1965. . . Australian IGM Walter Browne tied at 7-1 with Louis Levy (N.Y.) to take the Sparks Nevada National Open, Mar. 5-10, Berkeley's James Tarjan proved his class by placing equal second with chess heavies Risquier and Gligorich.

Decisive Game: 1971-2 Swedish International Tourney. White: Walter Browne. Black: Jan Timman. (Notes by Nilsson, Swedish master and analyst) 1 e4 d6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 Nf3 Bg7 5 Be2 0-0 60-0 Bg4 7 Be3 Nc6 8 Qd2 e5 9 d5(A) Ne7 10 Rad1 Bd7(B) 11 Ne1 Ng4 12 Bg4 Bg4 13 f3 Bd7 14 Bh6(C) Bh6 15 Qh6 c6! 16 dc Qb6ch 17 Kh1 Bc6 18 f4?!(D) f6 19 Nd3 f5!(E) 20 fe 21 Nf4 Nf5 22 Qg5 Qd8(F) 23 Qd8 Rfd8 24 Nfd5 e3! 25 Rfel(G) de 26 Ne3 Nd3 27 Rd8ch Rd8 28 Re3 b5! 29 a3 a5 30 b4(H) ab 31 ab e4! 32 Kgl Rd4 33 Na2 Rd2 34 Nc3 Rc2 35 Ne4 Rb2 36 g4 Rb4 37 Nf6ch Kf7 38 g5 Rc4(I) 39 Rh3?!

b4! 40 Rh/ch Ke6 41 Rh3 (the sealed move) Kf5 42 Rg3 Rc3 43 Rg3 b3 44 Rb4 Kg5 45 Ng4 Be4!(J) 46 Re4 b2 47 Rb4 Rclch 48 Kg2 bl/Q 49 Rbl Rbl 50 Nf2 Rb2 51 Kg3 Rb3ch 52 Kg2 Kf5 53 Nh3 g5 54 Ngl Kg4 55 h3ch Kh4 56 Nf3ch Rf3 57 Kf3 Kh3 58 Kf2 g4 59 Kgl Kg3 60 Kh1 Kf2 6l White resigns(K)

(A) White wants more than some advantage after 9 de de 10 Rad1. (B) Spassky -- Parma, Havana World Team Championship continued 10. . . Nd7. Spassky suggested 10. . . Ne8, keeping d7 for the bishop, which White wishes to exchange. Timman has Spassky's plan in view but in a somewhat different manner. (C) Of dubious value. Timman considers 14 Nd3 correct. (D) It is impossible to criticize this move. White can hardly afford passive tactics in such an open position. Black would now find 18. . . Qb2 19 f5 dangerous. (E) Powerful because the White knight may not return to f3 now. (F) The deadly thrust of 23 Ng6 hg 24 Rf5! Rf5 25 Qg6ch could not be ignored. (G) If 25 ed e2! 26 Ne2 Bd5 27 Rd5 Ne3 28 Rfd1 Nd5 30 Rd5 Re8. (H) By weakening the queen's wing White lightens the opponent's problems. (Acers: I do not agree and would certainly play b4.) (I) But not 38. . . h6? 39 ghl Kf6 40 Rh3. (Acers: This is incorrect analysis. Black now has a fantastic win, as shown by Igor Zaitsev, international master: 40. . . Rg4ch 41 Kf2 Rf4ch 42 Kgl Bd7!! 44 h7 Rfchl 45 Kfl Bh3ch 46 Kf2 Kg7. Unsatisfactory are 42 Ke3 Re4ch followed by 43. . . Re8 and 42 Kg3 Rf3ch.) (J) Very nice! After 45. . . Bd5 46 h4!ch White may still have some hopes of saving the game. (K) Acers: A fabulous game, which even absolute beginners should go over piece-meal.

Tournaments of more than 100 players of every strength are held every Friday at the Berkeley YMCA, 2001 Allston, 7-11 pm. NEW ENTRANTS ALWAYS WELCOME. Details and answers to all questions on area chess: USCF Regional Vice President Martin E. Morrison, Box 1622, Oakland, CA 94604, or phone, 582-1973 (Castro Valley).

SOLUTION TO DIAGRAM NO. 4: 1 Nf6chl gf (1. . . Kh8 2 Qf8mate) 2 ef and Black resigned because of two threats: (a) 3 Qg3ch Qg4 4 Qg3ch Kh8 5 Qg7mate; (b) 3 Qf8ch!! Kf8 4 Rd8mate. Neat! Levenfish was a Soviet grandmaster who earned his title the hard way. Born in 1899, Levenfish was an engineer and expert in glass industrial production. In 1937 he won the 9th USSR Championship and drew a match with Botvinnik! Probably, along with Carl Schlechter, Grigory Levenfish is the most underrated player in chess history. If you did not work out EVERY variation of the combination you are a weakie, but keep trying. Fortunately for you, Mr. Levenfish has passed on. . .