

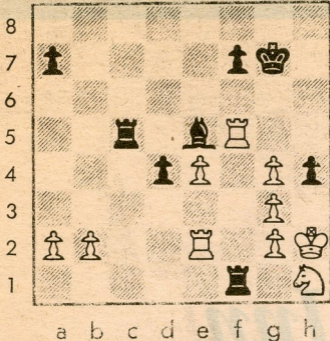
Chess



By Frisco Del Rosario

BISGUIER-FISCHER

Black to play and win.



COMMEMORATING BOBBY'S BUST

During the 1960 Mar del Plata international tournament, American grandmaster Bobby Fischer lost on the Black side of a King's Gambit to Soviet GM Boris Spassky. Fischer pulled even with Spassky in first place at the end, but their individual encounter stung Fischer so badly, he sought to refute the revered King's Gambit.

Fischer's analysis was published under the sensational headline "A Bust to the King's Gambit" in the premiere issue of *American Chess Quarterly* (Winter 1961), and readers couldn't ignore such an outrageous claim because it came from one of the world's brightest grandmasters.

Fischer truly had a knack for eye-popping headlines. Subsequent Fischer titles included, "The Russians Have Fixed World Chess" and "I Was Tortured in the Pasadena County Jail." Once you read past the screaming banner, though, Bobby was never too far off. Soviet players have admitted with their moves (if not their words) that playing short draws amongst themselves is occasionally fine strategy, you've all seen the Rodney King video, and Fischer's King's Gambit defense is rock solid.

Burlingame 1991

White: Mark Schneider

Black: John Owen

King's Gambit

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. e4 e5 | 17. Ke1 Rg3 |
| 2. f4 ef4 | 18. Qd2? ¹¹ Rg2 |
| 3. Nf3 ¹ d6 ² | 19. Rg5 Rg5 ¹² |
| 4. d4 ³ g5 | 20. Qf2 Kd8 ¹³ |
| 5. h4 g4 | 21. Qg1 Rg1 |
| 6. Ng1 ⁴ Nf6 ⁵ | 22. Kf2 Rh1 |
| 7. Nc3 ⁶ Nh5 | 23. Kf3 Nd7 |
| 8. Nge2 f3 | 24. Kg2 Rh4 |
| 9. gf3 ⁷ gf3 | 25. Bd3 c6 |
| 10. Nf4 Bg4 | 26. Ne3 Kc7 |
| 11. Kf2 ⁸ Be7 | 27. Nf5 Rg8 |
| 12. Nh5 Bh5 | 28. Kf3 Rh3 |
| 13. Bg5 Bg5 ⁹ | 29. Kf4 Nf6 |
| 14. hg5 Qg5 | 30. Be2 Rg2 |
| 15. Nd5 Rg8? ¹⁰ | 31. Rd1 h6 |
| 16. Rh5 Qg1 | 32. Resigns |

NOTES:

- Fischer enjoyed playing the King's Gambit himself, but in order to avoid his own "bust," he played 3.Bc4 here.
 - The basic point to Fischer's Defense is improving on the Kieseritzky Gambit (3...g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ne5) — Black has denied White's knight the e5-square.
 - Aiming towards White's positional goal in the gambit — the opening of the f-file. Black counters by protecting the pawn on f4 and White perseveres by undermining the defense.
 - The struggle revolving around f4 is amusingly inevident — all the pieces sit on their original squares.
 - 6...Bh6 and 6...Qf6 directly guard the f4-pawn.
 - 6...Nf6 follows the principles that knights should be developed before long-range pieces and developing moves should threaten something when possible.
 - Open game authority Estrin claims the inobvious 7.Qd3 defeats Black's idea (7...Nh5? 8.Qb5): 7...d5 8.e5 Nh5 9.Ne2 Bh6 10.g3 is good for White, and so is 7...Nc6 8.Bf4 Nh5 9.g3 Nf4 10.gf4.
 - Allows Black's queen bishop to develop to g4. Not as sporting is 9.Nf4 Ng3 (9...Nf4 only helps White) 10.Rh2 Be7 11.gf3 Bh4 12.Ng2.
 - Stops ...f2 with a move that fits into the landscape.
 - 13...Nc6 is less risky and gives nothing up.
 - Black only sees his threat of ...Qg3. Much better is 15...Nd7 16.Nc7 Kd8 17.Na8 Rg8.
 - The quiet 18.c3! is right, protecting the d-pawn in case White's king has to run to d2 and c1, and preparing to develop the queenside with perhaps 18...c6 19.Qb3 cd5 20.Qb7 Qe3 21.Kd1 Rg1 22.Kc2.
 - Black's rook is deflected only for a moment.
 - Not 20...Na6 21.Qg1 Rg1 22.Kf2 Rh1 23.Bb5 c6 24.Rh1 cb5 25.Rh7 with a healthy ending for White.
- SOLUTION:** 1...Rh1! 2.Kh1 Rc1 3.Kh2 Bg3 4.Kh3 Rh1 mate.