

The King in exile



Bobby Fischer: King of blitz.

THE ECCENTRIC American genius Bobby Fischer is now 40 years old and has not played a serious game for 11 years, yet hope still lingers that he may one day return to the board. In the latest batch of rumours, the Dutch newspaper *De Telegraaf* is said to be negotiating for a match between Bobby and Dutch star Jan Timman. They are considering the usual Fischer demands of a \$1.5 million prize fund, an unlimited number of games and a private hall as venue. Novel Fischer additions this time include a \$5000 fee per meeting for pre-match discussions — cash in hand naturally — and an insistence that in all communications he, Bobby, be named specifically as “the world champion”.

In his own eyes, of course, Fischer still considers the world title he won in 1972 to be rightfully his. Few others, in particular present champion Anatoly Karpov, would agree. The honour passed to Karpov in 1975 when Fischer refused to defend his title because of a squabble over match conditions, and subsequent attempts to organise a clash have inevitably collapsed. So have all other efforts to get Bobby back at the board again. Yugoslavia attempted to fix up a match with its most experienced grandmaster, Svetozar Gligoric. It fell through. More recently hope was aroused with a published rumour that Fischer had played 17 blitz games with Canadian GM Peter Biyasis, and won 17-0, but no game scores ever emerged to support this.

It has, however, long since become clear that the problems in organising an encounter are not financial, but psychological. In this respect the recent suggestion of astute English columnist Leonard Barden merits attention. Barden argues that the best chance of getting Bobby back lies not in a drawn-out contest, where the American's paranoid tendencies might cause a walk-out at any stage, but in a one-day blitz contest (in which each player has five minutes for each game). He even points out that at least in lightning chess Bobby is still officially the King, having won the last world quick-play championship, in Yugoslavia in 1970. There he bludgeoned a field which included Korchnoi, Petrosian, Hort and Smyslov, and finished 4½ points clear of his nearest rival, Tal.

Personally, though, I wonder whether Fischer would make a re-appearance even if he were offered a million dollars per blitz game. And if he did, would he still be able to play as he did in this following game, from the last round of the lightning tournament in Herceg Novi, 13 years ago?

RUY LOPEZ

R. J. FISCHER	M. MATULOVIC
1. e4	e5
2. Nf3	Nc6
3. Bb5	f5
4. Nc3	fxe4

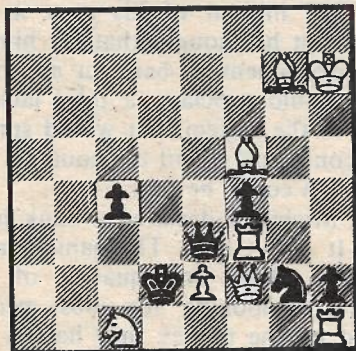
5. Nxe4	d5
6. Nxe5	dxe4
7. Nxc6	Qg5
8. Qe2	Nf6
9. f4	Qxf4
10. d4	Qh4 ch
11. g3	Qh3
12. Bg5	a6
13. Ba4	Bd7
14. Bxf6	gxf6
15. Qxe4 ch	Kf7
16. Ne5 ch	

A knight sacrifice exposing the Black king to the full fury of White's major pieces.

16. ...	fxe5
17. Rf1 ch	Ke7
18. Bxd7	Kxd7
19. Rf7 ch	Ke8
20. Rxc7	Bd6
21. Rxb7	

Rooks on the seventh are terrible enough even when you have plenty of time to think.

21. ...	Rc8
22. 0-0-0	Qxh2
23. dxe5	Be7
24. Rxe7 chl	Kxe7
25. Qb7 ch	Ke6
26. Qd7 ch	Kxe5
27. Qd5 ch	Kf6
28. Rf1 ch	Kg6
29. Qf5 ch	Kh6
30. Qe6 ch	Kh5
31. Rf5 ch	Kg4
32. Rf4 ch	Kxg3
33. Qg4 checkmate	



White to play and mate in 2 moves against any Black defence.

This problem is the first stage of the Lloyds Bank British Problem Solving competition, which is also open to New Zealand readers. To compete in this event, solve this puzzle and send the solution (key move only) to: Public Relations, Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard St, London EC3P 3 BS, mentioning the *Listener* as the source. Successful entrants from this phase will qualify for a more difficult postal phase, and the final will be staged in London in January 1984. Unfortunately fares of qualifiers will not be covered, but there is a special prize of £10 for the highest scoring overseas entry.

MURRAY CHANDLER