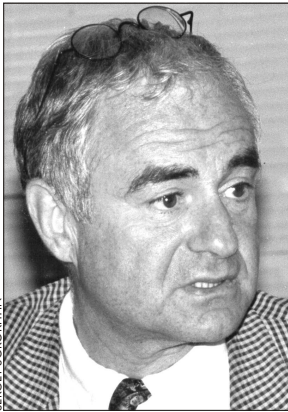


Fischer's Legacy

by **Genna Sosonko**



*A personal view
on the chess opening*

In the beginning of 1970 Botvinnik was preparing for an 18-game match against Bobby Fischer, to be held in Leiden in the Netherlands, but the match never got off the ground. His notes on Fischer's opening repertoire have been preserved and when it became clear in 1971 that Fischer would meet Mark Taimanov in the quarter-finales of the Candidates' matches, the Patriarch offered his expertise to him. Here is what Botvinnik, perhaps a bit naively, thought about the openings of the American forty years ago:

'Fischer has a steady opening repertoire but for each event he prepares additional variations. In the Sicilian he might play a set-up with $\text{♕d3/♙e3/♜c3/♞b3/f4/♚f3}$, often combined with a pawn storm on the kingside, especially against weaker players. From his early years he has a liking for a rook switch on the third rank, attacking the enemy king. Despite a clear preference for bishops he won't

hesitate to exchange a bishop for a knight when he can ruin the opponent's pawn structure. Fischer does not like long pawn chains. He always makes sure there is enough air for his pieces to 'breathe' and that's why closed pawn structures rarely occur in Fischer's games. When he encounters a new or unknown idea Fischer's first reply is often not spot-on.'

The following observation of Botvinnik's is most remarkable: 'Like other tall players (Smyslov, Euwe) Fischer has a predilection for long queen moves. Taimanov needs to pay special attention to this.'

I remember a conversation I had with Tal on Fischer's opening preparation. 'Bernard Zuckerman was Fischer's neighbour in New York and the two worked together for a while. "On one position we would spend 20 hours, on another 2 hours, and so on." Typical, very American, very efficient', Tal said. 'On my part I can look at a completely irrelevant line for hours on end.'

Vasily Smyslov played his first game against Fischer when the latter was only 16 years old. He emphasizes his great willpower and the incredible amount of energy Fischer would put in his games from the word go. Smyslov told me that Fischer played the opening very quickly in all their encounters. 'He invariably used up half an hour less than I. Although time controls were much slower in those years, in the end it was still an important factor.'



Mark Taimanov

Fischer was also extremely stubborn when it came to the choice of an opening line. Once he had analysed something and had reached a certain conclusion he would stick to it for better or worse. An example of this phenomenon is the Capablanca Memorial tournament on Cuba in which Fischer participated by telegraph. O'Kelly chose the Marshall Attack against Fischer, because he had noticed that Bobby's play against it was not totally convincing. Before the game the Belgian observed: 'I want to see how Bobby cracks this Marshall-nut'. Like they do in present times, O'Kelly held on relatively easily – a pawn down but a tenable ending.'



Alberic O'Kelly de Galway

In the next game behind the white pieces it was exactly the same scenario for Bobby: again the Marshall and again a draw, this time against Bob Wade. Both O'Kelly and Wade were of course clearly weaker than the American. This leaves the burning question: which variation would Fischer choose nowadays against the Marshall? Now as then no clear route to advantage has been discovered. The same applies for the Petroff. Fischer scored some victories against weaker opposition, but

Petrosian made a draw in their 1971 match without much ado.

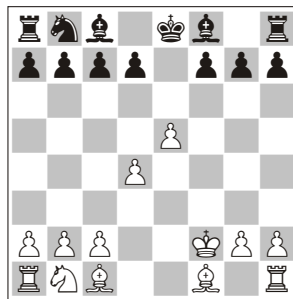
Open Games

In his younger years Fischer exclusively played 1.e4 – best by test! – and occasionally availed himself of antique open games. Check out his win against Wade from 1968.

**Fischer,Robert
Wade,Robert**

Vinkovci 1968 (1)

- 1.e4 e5 2.f4 ♘f6 3.fe5 ♗e4
4.♗f3 ♗g5 5.d4 ♗f3 6.♖f3 ♖h4
7.♗f2 ♖f2 8.♔f2



White has a small endgame advantage, which he converted into a win in the end.

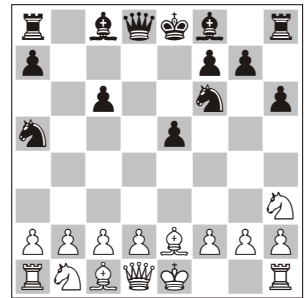
In the King's Gambit Accepted he invariably opted for the Bishop's Gambit (3.♗c4) which yielded him three wins in great positional style. He also employed the Evans Gambit on several occasions. Still he later eliminated these openings from his repertoire.

The most remarkable weapon in his arsenal was the forgotten Steinitz move 9.♗h3 in the Two Knights' Defence. He was convinced that after bishop takes knight h3 the strategic plus and bishop pair more than compensate for the ruined kingside pawn structure.

**Fischer,Robert
Bisguier,Arthur**

Poughkeepsie 1963 (5)

- 1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗c4 ♗f6
4.♗g5 d5 5.ed5 ♗a5 6.♗b5 c6
7.dc6 bc6 8.♗e2 h6 9.♗h3



9...♗c5 10.0-0

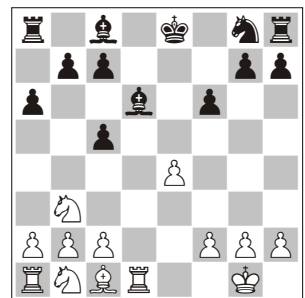
- 10.d3 0-0 11.♗c3 ♖e8 12.0-0 ♗h3
13.gh3 ♖d7 14.♗g4 ♗g4 15.hg4
1-0 Fischer-Radoicic, Pough-
keepsie 1963 (7).
10...0-0 11.d3 ♗h3 12.gh3 ♖d7
13.♗f3 ♖h3 14.♗d2 ♖ad8
15.♗g2 ♖f5 16.♖e1 ♖fe8
17.♗e4 ♗b6 18.♗f6 ♖f6
19.♗h1 c5 20.♖c3 ♗c6 21.f4
♗d4 22.♖c4 ♖g6 23.c3 ♗f5
24.fe5 ♖e5 25.♗f4 ♖e2 26.♗e4
♖b2 27.♗e5 ♖e8 28.♖f5 ♗e5
29.♖e5 1-0

In spite of these successes the cornerstone of his repertoire remained the Ruy Lopez, which he enriched with many fresh ideas. In the 1966 Olympiad in Havana he pulled the Exchange Variation out of his hat, which at the time had the reputation of being completely innocuous.

**Fischer,Robert
Portisch,Lajos**

Havana ol 1966 (6)

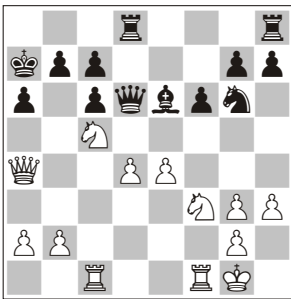
- 1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.♗b5 a6
4.♗c6 dc6 5.0-0 f6 6.d4 ed4
7.♗d4 c5 8.♗b3 ♖d1 9.♗d1
♗d6?



10.♖a5! b5 11.c4 ♘e7 12.♙e3
 f5 13.♘c3 f4 14.e5 ♙e5 15.♙c5
 ♙c3 16.bc3 ♘g6 17.♘c6 ♙e6
 18.cb5 ab5 19.♗a7 ♖b8
 20.♖db1 ♘f7 21.♗b5 ♖hd8
 22.♖b4 ♙a2 23.♘c7 ♖bc8
 24.h4 ♖d2 25.♙b6 f3 26.♙e3
 ♖e2 27.♗b5 ♖a8 28.h5 ♘e5
 29.♖f4 ♘e7 30.♖d1 ♖c8 31.♖e4
 ♘f6 32.♖d6 ♘f5 33.♖f4 ♘g5
 34.♖f3 1-0

Fischer, Robert
 Gligoric, Svetozar
 Havana ol 1966 (8)

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6
 4.♙c6 dc6 5.0-0 f6 6.d4 ♙g4
 7.c3 ed4 8.cd4 ♗d7 9.h3 ♙e6
 9...♙h5? 10.♘e5 ♘d1 11.♘d7
 ♘d7 12.♖d1± Fischer-Jimenez
 Zerquera, Havana ol 1966 (13)
 10.♘c3 0-0-0 11.♙f4 ♘e7
 12.♖c1 ♘g6 13.♙g3 ♙d6
 14.♘a4 ♙g3 15.fg3 ♙b8
 16.♘c5 ♗d6 17.♗a4 ♘a7



18.♘a6! ♙h3 19.e5 ♘e5 20.de5
 fe5 21.♘c5 ♘b8 22.gh3 e4
 23.♘e4 ♗e7 24.♖c3 b5 25.♗c2
 1-0

Fischer came up with innovations in virtually all lines of the Ruy Lopez. He launched an important novelty against the Neo-Steinitz in Bled 1961.

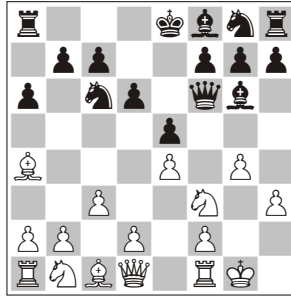
Fischer, Robert
 Geller, Efim
 Bled 1961 (6)

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6
 4.♙a4 d6 5.0-0

This used to have the reputation of being inferior to 5.c3, which

Fischer had played on all previous occasions where he had faced the Neo-Steinitz.

5...♙g4 6.h3 ♙h5 7.c3 ♗f6?
 8.g4 ♙g6



9.d4!

A powerful pawn sacrifice.

9...♙e4 10.♘bd2 ♙g6 11.♙c6
 bc6 12.de5 de5 13.♘e5 ♙d6
 14.♘g6 ♗g6 15.♖e1 ♘f8
 16.♘c4 h5 17.♘d6 cd6 18.♙f4
 d5 19.♗b3 hg4 20.♗b7 gh3
 21.♙g3 ♖d8 22.♗b4 1-0



Vasily Smyslov

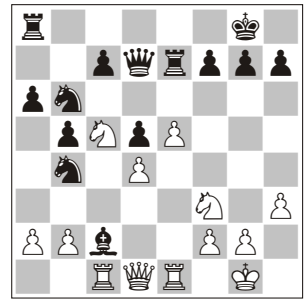
At the summit of his career (until 1972) the main line of the Ruy Lopez initiated by 9.h3 very much carried Fischer's hallmark.

Fischer, Robert
 Reshevsky, Samuel
 Santa Monica 1966 (10)

1.e4 e5 2.♗f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6
 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♙e7 6.♖e1 b5
 7.♙b3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 ♘d7
 10.d4 ♘b6

This was an important line in those days. Young Fischer acted on impulse in his encounter with Dieter Keller, Zurich 1959: 11.de5 ♘e5 12.♘e5 de5 13.♗h5 ♙f6 and Black had nothing to complain about and in the end even won! Seven years later Fischer played far stronger.

11.♘bd2 ed4 12.cd4 d5 13.♙c2
 ♙e6 14.e5 ♗d7 15.♘b3 ♙f5
 16.♙g5 ♖fe8 17.♙e7 ♖e7
 18.♖c1 ♘b4 19.♘c5 ♙c2



20.♗d2! ♗e8 21.♗b4 a5
 22.♗c3 ♙g6 23.♘h4 ♘a4
 24.♗b3 ♘c5 25.♖c5 c6
 26.♖ec1 ♖e6 27.f4 f5 28.a4 ba4
 29.♗a4 ♖b8 30.♗a3 ♗d8
 31.♘g6 hg6 32.♖c6 ♖c6 33.♖c6
 ♗h4 34.♖g6 ♘h7 35.♖g5 ♖b4
 36.♗f3 ♘h6 37.g3 ♗h3 38.♗d5
 1-0

Viktor Kortchnoi told me he had warm, even friendly relations with Fischer during the Saltsjöbaden Interzonal in 1962. They would spend a lot of time together and discuss certain openings at length. 'I told him about a new system that was developed, Smyslov's 9...h6.' 'What is this', Bobby exclaimed, 'Just 9...h6, voluntarily weakening the kingside?' He shook his head in disbelief but avoided the matter and went 9.d4 when I played this line against him in Round 19.'



TUROV ARCHIVES

Round 19 from the Candidates Tournament on Curaçao 1962. Kortchnoi is about to play 16...e6, reaching a critical position



The idea of this move is to ruin Black's pawn structure at the expense of a mere pawn after 16...e6 17. d5 e5 18. e5 f6 19. f6 g6 20. e3 and White is fully in command of the f5-square.

16...g6 17.h4!
White has the initiative.

Fischer often played b2-b4 in the Ruy Lopez.

Fischer, Robert
Stein, Leonid

Sousse izt 1967 (7)

1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 a6 4.a4 f6 5.0-0 e7 6.e1 b5 7.b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 b7 10.d4 a5 11.c2 c4 12.b3 13.bd2 bd7 14.b4!

White had no advantage in Keres-Gligoric, Zurich 1959, after 14...b2 c5 15. f1 e8 16. a4 f8.

14...ed4
14...a5 15. b3! leaves White in control of the a5-square.

15.cd4 a5 16.ba5 c5 17.e5!
White has wrested the initiative in the centre.

Another example of this strategy from the Breyer Variation (9...b8), which Fischer combated many times.

Fischer, Robert
Spassky, Boris

Sveti Stefan m 1992 (1)

1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 a6 4.a4 f6 5.0-0 e7 6.e1 b5 7.b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 b8 10.d4 bd7 11.bd2 b7 12.c2 e8 13.f1 f8 14.g3

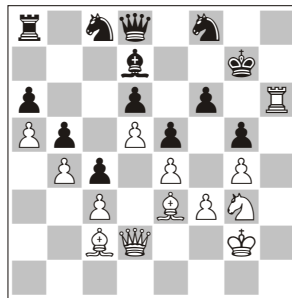
At a later stage in his career Fischer had no reservations to enter the main line.

Fischer, Robert
Gligoric, Svetozar

Rovinj/Zagreb 1970 (10)

1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 a6 4.a4 f6 5.0-0 e7 6.e1 b5 7.b3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 h6 10.d4 e8 11. bd2 11...e3 f8 12. bd2 b7 13. b1 b8 14. a3 Fischer-Ivkov, Palma de Mallorca izt 1970. 11...f8 12. f1 b7 13. g3 a5 14. c2 c4 15. b3 b6 16. a4 c5 17. d5 c4 18. b4 c8 19. e3 d7 20. a5 c8 21. d2

g5 24. g5 hg5 25. g4 g6 26. g3 f6 27. h1 f8 28. g2 f7 29. f3 f8 30. h4 gh4 31. h4 h7 32. ah1 h4 33. h4 g5 34. h6 g7



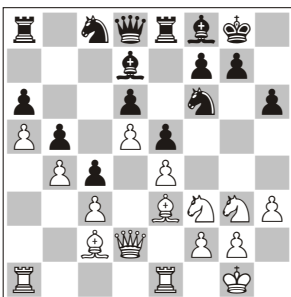
35. f6 1-0

Here's another novelty against Chigorin's 9...a5.

Fischer, Robert
Bisguier, Arthur

New York ch-USA 1963 (4)

1.e4 e5 2.f3 c6 3.b5 a6 4.a4 f6 5.0-0 e7 6.e1 b5 7.b3 0-0 8.c3 d6 9.h3 a5 10.c2 c5 11.d4 c7 12.bd2 c6 13.dc5 dc5 14.f1 d8 15. e2 h5 16.g3!



21...h7 22. h2 e7 23. f5



The first game of the match Petrosian-Spassky.
Was the picture taken in 1966 or 1969?

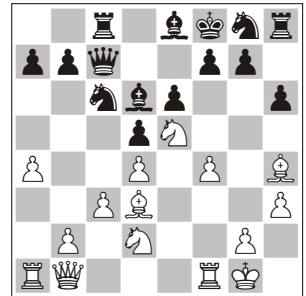
TURCOV ARCHIVES

but White was clearly better off and duly won.

Fischer also ran into trouble against the Caro-Kann, especially in his younger years, when he preferred the relatively rare Two Knights Variation. People who would never play the Caro-Kann suddenly lashed out 1...c6 against him. Paul Keres was among those who were successful with this approach, in his case even twice. Later on Fischer used different ways to fight against the Caro-Kann.

Fischer, Robert
Petrosian, Tigran
Belgrade tt 1970 (1)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.ed5 cd5
4.♗d3 ♘c6 5.c3 ♙f6 6.♗f4 ♗g4
7.♖b3 ♘a5 8.♖a4 ♗d7 9.♖c2
e6 10.♙f3 ♖b6 11.a4 ♗c8
12.♗bd2 ♘c6 13.♖b1 ♗h5
14.♗e3 h6 15.♗e5 ♙f6 16.h3
♗d6 17.0-0 ♗f8 18.f4 ♗e8
19.♗f2 ♖c7 20.♗h4 ♗g8



21.f5!
with a decisive attack.

Another weapon, whether it be against the Caro-Kann, the French or the Sicillian, was Fischer's King's Indian Attack. His win from the 1967 Interzonal tournament is still exemplary for the way to conduct a kingside attack.

Fischer, Robert
Miagmarsuren, Lhamsuren
Soussie izt 1967 (3)

1.e4 e6 2.d3 d5 3.♗d2 ♙f6 4.g3
c5 5.♗g2 ♘c6 6.♗gf3 ♗e7

g6 15.♗g5 h6 16.♗d2 ♗g7
17.a4 c5 18.d5 c4

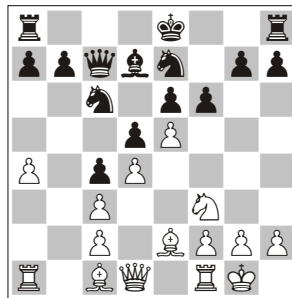
would have suited his open style much better.

After 3.♗c3 Fischer's results were unbalanced, losing several games with white throughout his career. But there were also some fine wins.



Fischer, Robert
Larsen, Bent
Denver m 1971 (1)

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♗c3 ♗b4 4.e5
♗e7 5.a3 ♗c3 6.bc3 c5 7.a4
♗bc6 8.♗f3 ♗d7 9.♗d3 ♖c7
10.0-0 c4 11.♗e2 f6



19.b4!?

Earlier games saw 19.♗h2 and 19.♗e3.

19...♗h7

Not the most accurate reply, but White is also better after 19...cb3 20.♗b3 and if 20...♗c5 21.c4!

20.♗e3 h5 21.♖d2 ♗f8 22.♖a3
and White won after an eventful game.

Semi-Open Games

Fischer's choice against the French has always been 3.♗c3. Only once did he play the Tarrasch Variation 3.♗d2. When he lost to Robert Byrne at the 1965 US Championship due to a tactical oversight, he never repeated the line, although there is a lot to be said for the argument that 3.♗d2

12.♖e1!

12...0-0 13.ef6 gf6 14.♗h6 ♖f7
15.♗h4 ♗g6 16.♗h5!, so Black has to play 13...♖f6, granting White control over e5! Larsen chose

12...♗g6 13.♗a3 fe5 14.de5
♗ce5 15.♗e5 ♗e5 16.♖d4!

7.0-0 0-0 8.e5 ♖d7 9.♗e1 b5
10.♞f1 b4 11.h4 a5 12.♙f4 a4
13.a3! ba3 14.ba3 ♗a5 15.♗e3
♙a6 16.♙h3 d4 17.♞f1 ♗b6
18.♞g5 ♗d5 19.♙d2 ♙g5
20.♙g5 ♖d7 21.♖h5 ♜fc8
22.♗d2 ♗c3



23.♙f6!+- ♖e8 24.♞e4 g6
25.♖g5 ♗e4 26.♜e4 c4 27.h5
cd3 28.♜h4 ♜a7 29.♙g2 dc2
30.♖h6 ♖f8 31.♖h7 1-0

Fischer has a few entirely new middlegame concepts to his name.

Fischer, Robert
Andersson, Ulf

Siegen 1970

1.b3 e5 2.♙b2 ♗c6 3.c4 ♗f6
4.e3 ♙e7 5.a3 0-0 6.♖c2 ♜e8
7.d3 ♙f8 8.♗f3 a5 9.♙e2 d5
10.cd5 ♗d5 11.♗bd2 f6 12.0-0
♙e6



13.♙h1!!

Kasparov called this a 'mysterious move'. The idea behind it will soon become transparent.

13...♖d7 14.♖g1 ♜ad8 15.♞e4
♖f7 16.g4! g6 17.♜g3 ♙g7

18.♜ag1

The first part of White's plan has been executed.



Ulf Andersson

18...♗b6 19.♗c5 ♙c8 20.♗h4
♗d7 21.♞e4 ♗f8 22.♗f5! ♙e6
23.♗c5 ♗e7 24.♗g7 ♙g7
25.g5+- ♗f5 26.♜f3 b6 27.gf6
♙h8 28.♗e6 ♜e6 29.d4 ed4
30.♙c4 d3 31.♙d3 ♜d3 32.♖d3
♜d6 33.♖c4 ♗e6 34.♙e5 ♜d8
35.h4 ♗d6 36.♖g4 ♗f8 37.h5
♗e8 38.e4 ♜d2 39.♜h3 ♙g8
40.hg6 ♗g6 41.f4 ♙f8 42.♖g5
♗d6 43.♙d6 1-0

This original plan remains popular to this very day, especially among black players.

Sicilian Defence

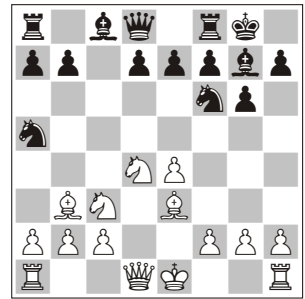
Tal opines that Fischer's successes against the Sicilian are not as impressive as you would expect. 'It is difficult to play against yourself!' explained the former World Champion. Fischer's main weapon was putting the king's bishop on c4. That's what he did against the Classical Variation, but also against the Najdorf and the Dragon.

Fischer, Robert

Reshevsky, Samuel

New York ch-USA 1958/59 (6)

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cd4
4.♗d4 g6 5.♙e3 ♗f6 6.♗c3
♙g7 7.♙c4 0-0 8.♙b3 ♗a5?



9.e5 ♗e8?

9...♗b3 10.ef6 ♗a1 11.fg7 ♗c2
12.♖c2 ♙g7, as played in the stem game Bastrikov-Shamkovich, Sochi 1958, is the lesser evil.

10.♙f7! ♙f7 11.♗e6! de6

Black's king won't survive the journey after 11...♙e6 12.♖d5 ♗f5 13.g4 ♙g4 14.♜g1 ♙h5 15.♖g2.

12.♖d8

and Black's minor pieces were no match for the queen.

Fischer never claimed to have invented this trap. In true fact he had read about it in *Shakhmatny Biulletin* 10/1958.

The same pattern can be found in the second game of the Candidates' match quarter-final against Taimanov in 1971.

Fischer, Robert

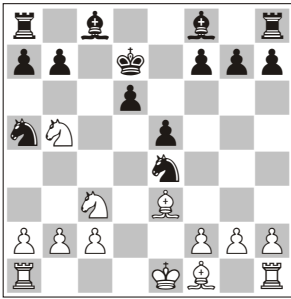
Taimanov, Mark

Vancouver m 1971 (2)

1.e4 c5 2.♗f3 ♗c6 3.d4 cd4
4.♗d4 e6 5.♗b5 d6 6.♙f4 e5
7.♙e3 ♗f6 8.♙g5 ♖a5 9.♖d2
♗e4 10.♖a5 ♗a5 11.♙e3 ♗d7
12.♗1c3!

When Taimanov asked him about it Fischer revealed he had seen this recommendation in some footnote in a 1969 book by Alexander Nikitin and he had worked it out himself subsequently. Typically,

Taimanov did not know about this suggestion of his compatriot.

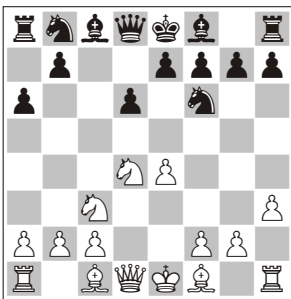


Taimanov used to say that you always had to be prepared for a Maroczy set-up when playing the Sicilian against Fischer, since he was so fond of space.

In their Candidates' match Fischer showed up late for Game 1 and also for other games. Did he want to unsettle his opponent or just avoid the photographers? Remarkably, his colleagues of today have exactly the same habit and you can often see only a few participants present in the arena when the arbiter signals the beginning of a round.

**Fischer,Robert
Bolbochan,Julio**

Saltsjöbaden izt 1962 (21)
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cd4
4.♘d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.h3 e6
7.g4 b5 8.♙g2 ♙b7 9.0-0 b4



One of the ideas behind this flank move is to meet the standard 6...e5 with 7.♘de2 ♙e7 8.g4 0-0 9.♘g3.
6...♘c6 7.g4 ♘d4 8.♙d4 e5
9.♙d3 ♙e7 10.g5



NEW IN CHESS

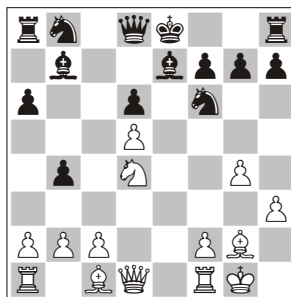
Sergey Karjakin

Gradually gaining control of the d5-square and winning the game.

This line is still topical in our time. Here are two recent games.

**Karjakin,Sergey
Van Wely,Loek**

Nice (rapid) 2008 (5)
1.e4 c5 2.♘f3 d6 3.d4 cd4
4.♘d4 ♘f6 5.♘c3 a6 6.h3 e6
7.g4 b5 8.♙g2 ♙b7 9.0-0 b4
The blindfold game Carlsen-Gelfand from the same round went: 9...h6 10.♙e1 e5 11.♘f5 g6 12.♘e3 ♘bd7 13.a4 b4 14.♘cd5 ♘d5 15.♘d5 a5 16.c3 bc3 17.bc3 ♙e7 18.♙b1±.
10.♘d5! ed5 11.ed5 ♙e7



12.♘c6

Other moves come into consideration as well: 12.♘f5 or 12.g5!?.

12...♙c7 13.♘e7 ♙e7 14.g5 ♘fd7 15.♙e1 ♘f8 16.♙e2 ♙d8 16...♘e5 17.f4 ♘bd7 18.fe5 ♘e5± is perhaps more tenacious.
17.♙f4 ♘e5 18.♙e5 de5 19.♙e5 h6?

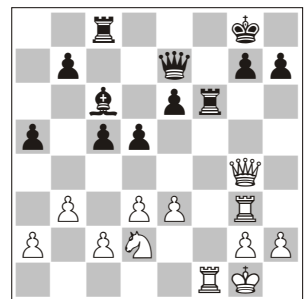
Now White can go for the kill. However, 19...a5 20.♙e3 ♘a6 21.♙ae1 is no picnic either.
20.♙f4 a5 21.g6 f6 22.♙e6 ♙c8 23.♙e3!+- ♙b6 24.♙ae1 ♙d7 25.d6 ♙a7 26.♙c4 1-0

Flank Openings

In the notes to his game against Leonid Stein, Sousse Interzonal 1967, Fischer wrote: 'I have never opened with the QP – on principle.' In the latter part of his career Fischer occasionally refrained from 1.e4. He tried 1.c4 (four times against Spassky in Reykjavik but also previously against Polugaevsky) as well as 1.♘f3 and 1.b3. With the latter move Fischer was victorious on all five outings!

**Fischer,Robert
Mecking,Henrique**

Palma de Mallorca izt 1970 (21)
1.b3 d5 2.♙b2 c5 3.♘f3 ♘c6 4.e3 ♘f6 5.♙b5 ♙d7 6.0-0 e6 7.d3 ♙e7 8.♙c6 ♙c6 9.♘e5 ♙c8 10.♘d2 0-0 11.f4 ♘d7 12.♙g4 ♘e5 13.♙e5 ♙f6 14.♙f3 ♙e7 15.♙af1 a5 16.♙g3 ♙e5 17.fe5 f5 18.ef6 ♙f6



19.♙g7 ♙g7 20.♙f6 ♙g3 21.hg3 ♙e8 22.g4 a4 23.♘f3 ab3 24.ab3 ♙g7 25.g5 e5

26.♖h4 ♘d7 27.♗d6 ♙e6
 28.♟f2 ♟f7 29.♗b6 ♗e7 30.e4
 de4 31.de4 c4 32.b4 ♘g4
 33.♟e3 ♗d7 34.g6 ♟f8 35.gh7
 ♗h7 36.♗g6 ♟e8 37.♗e5 ♘c8
 38.♗c4 ♘d8 39.♗d6 ♗g7
 40.♟f2 ♟c7 41.♗c8 ♟c8
 42.♗d6 1-0

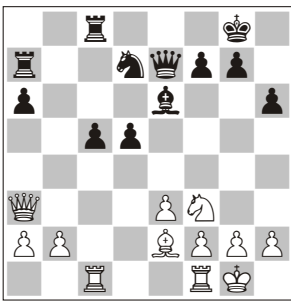
This type of position suited Fischer extremely well. He was second to none in executing a clear strategic plan.

In his match against Spassky in 1972, Fischer added new systems to his armour, including the Queen's Gambit.

**Fischer, Robert
 Spassky, Boris**

Reykjavik Wch-m 1972 (6)

1.c4 e6 2.♗f3 d5 3.d4 ♗f6
 4.♗c3 ♙e7 5.♙g5 0-0 6.e3 h6
 7.♙h4 b6
 Spassky's trusted Bondarevsky-Tartakower-Makogonov Variation.
 8.cd5 ♗d5 9.♙e7 ♗e7 10.♗d5
 ed5 11.♗c1 ♙e6 12.♗a4 c5
 13.♗a3 ♗c8 14.♙b5
 Fischer's novelty.
 14...a6 15.cd5 bc5 16.0-0 ♗a7
 17.♙e2 ♗d7



18.♗d4! ♗f8 19.♗e6! fe6
 20.e4!
 True to the American School Fischer liked bishops better than knights. Here the exchange of good knight versus bad bishop is particularly strong.
 20...d4 21.f4 ♗e7 22.e5 ♗b8
 23.♙c4 ♟h8 24.♗h3 ♗f8 25.b3
 a5 26.f5 ef5 27.♗f5 ♗h7

28.♗cf1 ♗d8 29.♗g3 ♗e7
 30.h4 ♗bb7 31.e6 ♗bc7 32.♗e5
 ♗e8 33.a4 ♗d8 34.♗f2 ♗e8
 35.♗f3 ♗d8 36.♙d3 ♗e8
 37.♗e4 ♗f6 38.♗f6 gf6 39.♗f6
 ♟g8 40.♙c4 ♟h8 41.♗f4 1-0

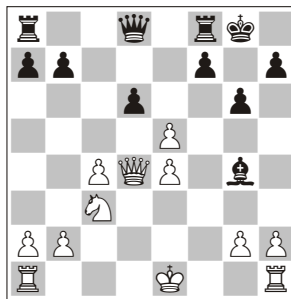
Fischer as Black

During a post-mortem analysis Robert Byrne once proposed a much too aggressive move. Fischer replied: 'No, you should first equalize as Black and only then can you start thinking about winning'. Fischer understood this concept very well but nevertheless he played differently himself. Fischer behind the black pieces was a totally different player from the one sitting behind the white pieces. With white he had a truly classical, positional style, as Black he consciously played lines that entailed a great deal of positional risk. So his repertoire consisted of uncompromising openings like the Sicilian, the Grünfeld and the King's Indian.

**Uhlmann, Wolfgang
 Fischer, Robert**

Leipzig ol 1960 (11)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 g6 3.♗c3 ♘g7
 4.e4 0-0 5.♙e2 d6 6.f4 c5 7.♗f3
 cd4 8.♗d4 ♗c6 9.♙e3 ♗g4
 10.♙g4 ♙d4 11.♙d4 ♙g4
 12.♗d2?! [≥ 12.♗g4] 12...♗d4
 13.♗d4 e5 14.fe5



14...♗h4!

Fischer's improvement over the previously known 14...de5
 15.♗e5.
 15.♗f2



NEW IN CHESS ARCHIVES

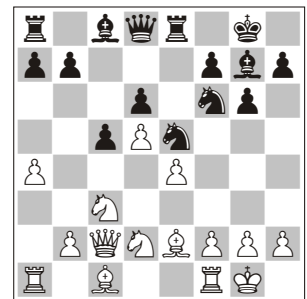
Bobby Fischer

This is forced. 15.g3?! de5!
 16.♗e5 ♗h3 gives Black a dangerous initiative, as pointed out by Uhlmann: 17.♗d5? f6! 18.♗f6
 ♗f6 19.♗f6 ♗g2 and Black wins.
 15...♗f2 16.♟f2 de5
 with equality. Later Fischer won the ending anyway.

**Glorigic, Svetozar
 Fischer, Robert**

Palma de Mallorca izt 1970 (22)

1.d4 ♗f6 2.c4 e6 3.♗c3 c5 4.d5
 ed5 5.cd5 d6 6.♗f3 g6 7.e4
 ♙g7 8.♙e2 0-0 9.0-0 ♗e8
 10.♗d2 ♗bd7 11.a4 ♗e5
 12.♗c2



12...g5!?

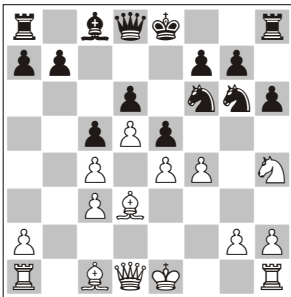
In those days an almost new approach.

13.♟f3 ♘f3 14.♟f3 h6 15.♟d2
a6 16.♟e2 ♖e7 17.♟ae1 ♗e5
18.♟h1 ♗d4 19.f3 ♘h5 20.♟b5
ab5 21.♟b5 ♗e5 22.♟c3 ♗e7
23.♟e8 ♗e8 24.♟g7 ♘g7 25.b4
cb4 26.♗b2 ♗e5 27.♗b4 ♘f4
28.♟d1 b6 29.♟f2 ♘d3 30.♗b6
♘f2 31.♗f2 ♟a4 32.♟g1 ♟a1
33.♗e1 ♟a2 34.♗g3 ♗b2 35.h4
♟a1 0-1

Spassky, Boris
Fischer, Robert

Reykjavik Wch-m 1972 (5)

1.d4 ♘f6 2.c4 e6 3.♟c3 ♟b4
4.♘f3 c5 5.e3 ♘c6 6.♟d3 ♟c3
This voluntary exchange on c3
constitutes the so-called Hübner
System. Black wants to clamp
White down and render his pair of
bishops useless.
7.bc3 d6 8.e4 e5 9.d5 ♘e7
10.♘h4 h6 11.f4 ♘g6



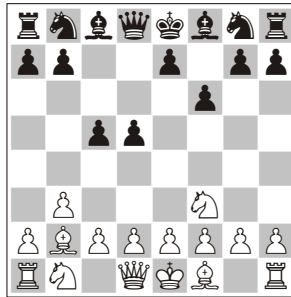
12.♘g6 fg6 13.fe5 de5 14.♟e3
b6 15.0-0 0-0 16.a4 a5 17.♟b1
♟d7 18.♟b2 ♟b8 19.♟bf2 ♗e7
20.♟c2 g5 21.♟d2 ♗e8 22.♟e1
♗g6 23.♗d3 ♘h5 24.♟f8 ♟f8
25.♟f8 ♘f8 26.♟d1 ♘f4
27.♗c2? ♟a4! 0-1

In the final of the Candidates' match in Buenos Aires in 1971 Petrosian held his own quite well. After 5 games the match was balanced (2½-2½) and Fischer had been in peril on several occasions. Time to shift gear.

Petrosian, Tigran
Fischer, Robert

Buenos Aires m 1971 (6)

1.♘f3 c5 2.b3 d5 3.♟b2 f6!
This is superior to 3...♘c6 4.e3
♘f6 5.♟b5, as in the aforementioned game Fischer-Mecking. One could call White's third move 'lazy' or inaccurate.



4.c4 d4 5.d3 e5 6.e3 ♘e7 7.♟e2
♘ec6

The game has barely started and already Black is slightly better.

Fischer regularly avoided his pet King's Indian when he could be reasonably certain that opponents like Spassky or Petrosian would adopt the Sämisch Variation. I believe he had a strong dislike of playing against a closed centre. Despite a series of losses, he remained faithful to the Ragozin Defence. I dare say this has something to do with the book by Isaak Lipnitsky he read at a young age, which contains deep analyses of this opening. Lipnitsky's passion must have touched Fischer very deeply. Varying results did not prevent him from playing this line throughout his life.

I have spoken with Kortchnoi, Taimanov, Smyslov, Karpov and Kasparov about Fischer and all agree that his phenomenal opening knowledge was only the foundation for many victories. Today concrete knowledge of long lines is an abso-

lute must for every top player and plays a much bigger role than before. This gave Fischer mixed feelings, hence the conception of Fischerandom chess.

In 1975 Fischer was supposed to play Anatoly Karpov, who had been preparing seriously with his trainer Semen Furman. Karpov: 'We decided that the slow systems I had used against the Sicilian Defence so far needed some refurbishing – it would be the Poisoned Pawn from now on. Along the same lines we considered taking up the Petroff and the Caro-Kann, partly because they had served Karpov well against Spassky and



Anatoly Karpov

partly because the American had relatively little experience against these openings.' Fischer would doubtlessly have prepared a number of opening surprises, as he had done in previous matches. It's a pity this match was never to be.