

SHALL WE PLAY FISCHER-RANDOM CHESS?

SVETOZAR
GLIGORIĆ

6110

P-5474

P-2789

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

With the increasing use of powerful computer programs and databases in chess today, the fear of the 'death of chess' is being taken seriously. To side-step the effect of computers on our venerable game the great World champion Bobby Fischer has devised a form of chess in which the initial starting position of the pieces is randomly changed before each game. Much thought and practical experimentation has gone into the formulation of the new rules of 'Fischerandom' in order to retain all the essential qualities of the classical form of the game – even castling – so that players can once again enjoy pure chess where the only thing that counts is who is the better player on the day.

In this book, the first ever on Fischerandom, the author discusses the problems facing the chess world today – with quotes and opinions from contemporary players, organisers and journalists – and the history of shuffle chess, together with complete Fischerandom rules and a selection of illustrative games.



The Author

Svetozar Gligorić (far left) is an acclaimed journalist and grandmaster. Once rated the strongest European chess player outside of Russia, he is a long-time friend of Bobby Fischer (left) and thus ideally suited to explain the rules and theories of Fischerandom chess.

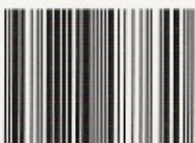
Other books by Svetozar Gligorić:

I Play Against Pieces

With 130 of Gligorić's best games, including classic wins against world champions and other top players replete with instructive tactics and strategies.

0 7134 8770 4

ISBN 0-7134-8764-X



9 780713 487640

For more information on Batsford chess books, write to:

B.T. Batsford
64 Brewery Road
London N7 9NT
www.batsford.com

£12.99

Author's Foreword

In the world of intellectual sporting competition, the game of chess is surely the most complex invention of the human mind. It has existed for 14-15 centuries and, in its advanced form, has been practised for the last 500 years. Its popularity has grown slowly but surely and reached its peak throughout the whole world in the second half of the 20th century.

However, despite the fact that chess has reached the four corners of the globe and attracted men, women and young players of all continents, by the end of the 20th century it had found itself facing an unexpected and strange crisis...

As its own unique fate would have it, the emergence of computers with their powerful playing programs and colossal databases has aroused serious concern for the future of the game. And this book, representing an essay both on the history of chess and its present-day popularity—which can be attributed to its ongoing capacity for creativity—offers an objective review of many, often conflicting, opinions on world chess which reveal both a state of confusion and serious doubts as to whether the game in its traditional form can survive in the 21st century.

In fact this is the first book about an entirely new subject—Fischerandom Chess. It was the world chess champion Robert James Fischer who, in 1996, formulated precise rules for randomized chess—which could breathe new life into the game of chess we play. Though still not so well-known, this invention of Bobby Fischer is already raising reasonable hopes among experts that chess will remain a mass game for the foreseeable future.

In these first years of the new century the author is himself puzzled when trying to fathom out what kind of glorious—or inglorious—days chess is heading for. This is why your writer has not hesitated to present a wide choice of views from both chess giants and ordinary fans, thus leaving it up to the reader to form an opinion about the game's destiny—if he or she can. The problem is alive and kicking...