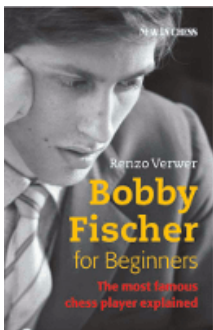




SKITTLES ROOM

## From the Archives

Hosted by Mark Donlan



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## From the Archives...

Since it came online many years ago, [ChessCafe.com](#) has presented literally thousands of articles, reviews, columns and the like for the enjoyment of its worldwide readership. The good news is that almost all of this high quality material remains available in the [Archives](#). The bad news is that this great collection of chess literature is now so large and extensive – and growing each week – that it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate it effectively. We decided that the occasional selection from the archives posted publicly online might be a welcomed addition to the regular fare.

Watch for an item to be posted online periodically throughout each month. We will update the [ChessCafe.com](#) home page whenever there has been a “new” item posted here. We hope you enjoy *From the Archives*...

By the Spring of 1964, the 21-year-old American Grandmaster Bobby Fischer had already established himself as one of the pre-eminent players in the West. However even then, Bobby knew well that any road to the top spot was blocked by the Soviet hegemony. What is not widely known is that he retained an American businessman to help him arrange a match with one of the top Soviet players.

## Bobby Fischer-Alex Bisno Agreement

April 1964

AGREEMENT BETWEEN ROBERT FISCHER HEREINAFTER TO BE KNOWN AS FISCHER AND ALEXANDER BISNO, HEREINAFTER TO BE KNOWN AS BISNO.

WHEREAS, BISNO has suggested to FISCHER that if it can be arranged, FISCHER should play a match with one of the top Russian players.

WHEREAS, FISCHER is agreeable to the playing of such a match and is hereby designating BISNO to represent him in the negotiations for the playing of such a chess match.

WHEREAS, BISNO proposes to proceed with the negotiations through the United States Department of State, Cultural Department, acting through the American Chess Foundation and the United States Chess Federation.

IT IS THEREFORE AGREED between the parties FISCHER and BISNO as follows:

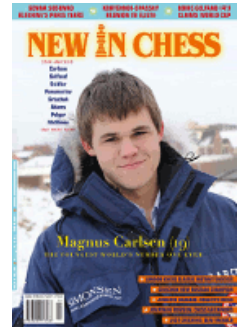
(1) That BISNO shall do what he feels is necessary to initiate negotiations with the proper chess federation in Russia and do what is necessary to complete successful negotiations for this match.

(2) The match is to be between FISCHER and one of the five top players in Russia, not excluding Petrosyan, the present Champion of the World, if the Russians will agree to designate him.

However, FISCHER will play the match with anyone designated by the Russian authorities as long as he is one of the top five players in Russia.

(3) The match is to be held either in Russia entirely, or in the United State of

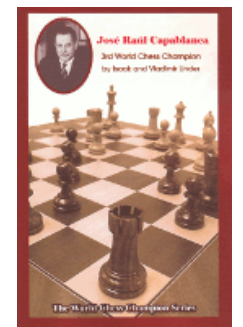
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America entirely; or, part of the match in Russian and part in the United States of America.

(4) Draws are not to be counted and the winner of the first eight or ten games - whatever is agreed upon - shall be declared the winner of the match.

(5) The purse is to be \$8,500.00, the winner of the match to get 80 percent and the loser to get 20 percent.

(6) The referee or referees to be appointed shall be persons that are acceptable and agreeable to FISCHER.

(7) The match is to take place at any time agreeable to both parties but at such time as will not interfere with prior commitments of the players.

(10) [*sic*] BISNO is given four months from this date to make final arrangements for this match. In addition to the prize money, FISCHER is to get his transportation and food and lodging expenses paid for.

SIGNED AND SEALED THIS 19TH DAY OF APRIL, 1964.

/s/ Alexander Bisno

(Original duly signed)

/s/ Robert Fischer

(Original duly signed)

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This article first appeared at [ChessCafe.com](http://ChessCafe.com) in February, 1997.

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