

# Chaturanga Squared

The Chaturanga Chess Club Magazine.

Editor-In-Chief – Stan Ward

Vol. 1 Issue 1. May 2020.



## Days of Future Past

### Frank J. Marshall: An American Original Pt. 1

By Stan Ward

Most players who are newer to chess are told to study the different styles of the Grandmasters in order to find out which style they enjoy and are good at. There are many styles. There are what GM Larry Evans termed the Romantics and Classicists as personified by Paul Morphy and William Steinitz respectively. Then there are the Hypermoderns as represented by Reti and Nimzovich.<sup>1</sup> Technical fighters would be Lasker, Botvinnik and Fischer. Positional player might be Capablanca, Petrosian or Karpov. Tactical fighters would be Marshall, Alekhine, Tal and Kasparov. Of the last four mentioned all but one of the players have the common trait of being world champion at some point. That one player who was not is Frank J. Marshall who was American Chess Champion from 1909 to 1936.

Known for his aggressive, attacking style of play Marshall was a dangerous opponent who would take risks in order to win. He's been called a "fearless chess cowboy" by Ex World Champ



Garry Kasparov,<sup>2</sup> and it's been said that his tournament and match results would have been better had he not been so aggressive and taken draws in even positions. Marshall likened himself to Jack Dempsey the former Heavy Weight Boxing Champ. Saying of Dempsey, "Dempsey used to start slugging at the opening gong and never gave his opponent a chance to get started.... I have been much the same way in chess. I have always liked a wide-open game and tried to knock out my opponent with a checkmate as quickly as possible."<sup>3</sup> Let's take a look.

Frank J. Marshall was born on 10 August 1877 in New York city.<sup>4</sup> At the age of 8 his family moved to Montreal Canada and they lived there for the next 11 years. Marshall was by no means a prodigy, a "child with a bulging forehead who spends all his days with his head bowed over a chess

board", he quipped.<sup>5</sup> However, by the time he was 11 years old he was regularly beating his father and stronger competition was indicated. Marshall went first to the Hope Coffee House and then to the Montreal Chess Club. He steadily got better and on 13 November 1893 he played William Steinitz who was giving a simultaneous exhibition. He lost the game, but Steinitz complemented him on his ability which acted like a shot in the arm to the young American. Shortly after the Steinitz exhibition Marshall played Harry Nelson Pillsbury who gave a simultaneous blindfold exhibition. Marshall won the game and from that point on there was no looking back.<sup>6</sup>

In 1894 he won the Montreal Chess Club Championship. Here is a good example of his early play.

(Continued on page 2)

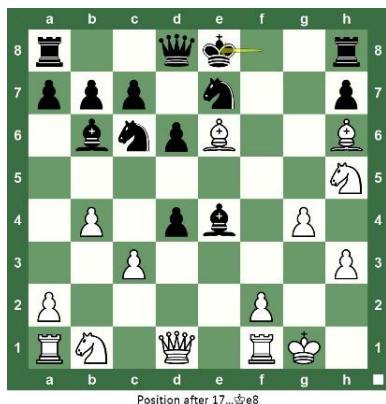
## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Days Of Future Past. A look at GM's and IM's from a bygone age.
2. Time and Tide. Instruction and Articles from before the computer age.
3. The 65<sup>th</sup> Square. Highlighting a member of our club, including a recent game.
4. Hollywood plays chess.

## F.J. Marshall vs R. Short

Montreal Chess Club Championship.  
1894. Evans Gambit Declined C51.

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. b4  
Bb6 5. c3 d6 6. O-O Bg4 7. d4 exd4  
8. Bxf7+ Kf8 9. Bd5 Nge7 10. h3 Bh5  
11. g4 Bg6 12. Ng5 Qd7 13. Ne6+...



.....Ke8 14. Nxc7+ Kf8 15. Be6 Qd8  
16. Bh6 Bxe4 17. Nh5+ Ke8 18. Nf6#  
1-0.

A few years after this win the Marshall family moved back to New York and Franks chess education continued when he joined both the Manhattan and Brooklyn Chess Clubs. By 1899 he had won the Brooklyn Club Championship and it, along with the Manhattan club sent Marshall to London to play in the International Tournament being held there. Because Marshall was an unknown quantity in Europe at that time he was placed in the "minor tournament", the equivalent of a booster or "B" section. This he won in dramatic fashion going 8 1/2 - 2 1/2 with only one loss. This performance made the chess world of the day take notice and Marshall became a player to watch.<sup>7</sup>

The next year, 1900, the International Tournament was held in Paris. All the heavy weights of the chess stratosphere where in

attendance including World Champion Dr. Emanuel Lasker, Pillsbury, Tchigorin, Maroczy, Janowski, Burn, Schlechter, Showalter and Mieses.

After 4 rounds Marshall's score stood at 3 and his 5<sup>th</sup> round opponent was Dr. Lasker the world champion. It was time to see what the young American was made of! Annotated by Frank J. Marshall.

## F.J. Marshall vs Dr. E Lasker

Paris, France. 1900  
Queens Gambit Declined D50

1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5  
c6 5. e4... For a number of years, I was  
fond of this move in similar positions.  
Eventually I discarded it, as it cannot lead  
to a permanent initiative ... 6. Nxe4 Bb4+  
7. Nc3 c5 8. a3 Bxc3+ 9. bxc3 Qa5  
10. Bd2 Ne4 11. Nf3 Nxc3 12.  
dxc5...



12. Qb3 cxd4 14. Nxd4 Qe5 + freeing  
himself from the terrible pin. But the text  
move threatens Qb3; hence Black's reply is  
forced. ... Nxd1 13. Bxa5 Nb2 14. a4  
Bd7 15. c6...

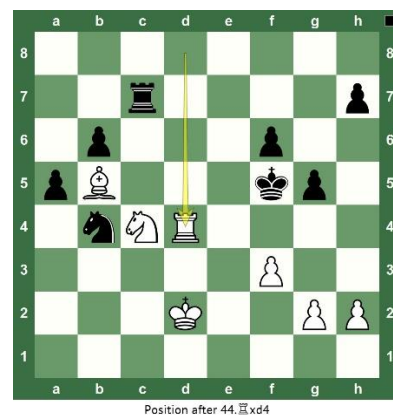


...Bxc6 16. Ne5 Be4 17. f3 f6 18. Bc3

Bc2 19. Kd2 Nxa4 20. Kxc2 Nxc3  
21. Nd3 Nd5 22. cxd5...



exd5 23. Nc5 b6 24. Bb5+ Kf7 25.  
Na4 Nc6! The only reply to the threatened  
Nxb6. If now 26 Bxc6, Rfc8 etc. 26. Nc3  
Rhc8 27. Rhd1 Ne7 28. Kb2 Rc7 29.  
Bd3 a5 30. Na4 Rc6 31. Rac1! Rb8  
32. Rxc6 Nxc6 33. Rc1 Ne5 34. Rc7+  
Ke6... The passive Kg8 would lose much  
more rapidly.  
35. Bb5 g5... White now disregards the  
a7 pawn because he still intends to work on  
the Queen-side Pawns first. The d pawn  
cannot last long. 36. Ra7 d4 37. Ra6  
Kd5 38. Kc2 Rb7 39. Ra8 Nc6 40.  
Kd2 Nb4 41. Rd8+ Ke5 42. Nb2 Rc7  
43. Nc4+ Kf5 44. Rxd4...



Rc5 45. Be8 Rd5 46. Ne3+ Ke5 47.  
Nxd5 Kxd4 48. Nxb4 axb4 49. Bf7 f5  
50. Bg8 h5 51. Bf7 h4 52. h3b5 53.  
Be8 Kc4 54. Bd7 b3 55. Bxf5 Kb4  
56. Bd3 b2 57. Kc2 Ka3 58. Kb1 1-0

## Bibliography

1. Larry Evans, New Ideas in Chess. pages 21 & 25.
2. Garry Kasparov, My Great Predecessors Volume 1. Page 143.
3. through 7. Frank J. Marshall. Marshall's Best Games of Chess, pages 3 thru 9.

# Time and Tide

## Instructional Articles from before the internet and computer age.

Long ago and far away.... before computer engines and the internet.... chess players primary connection to the world chess community was the printed word. The latest trends and analysis came from periodicals such as Herman Helms American Chess Bulletin, Brentano's Chess Monthly, Chess Review (later Chess Life & Review), and the British magazine Chess to name a few. This section looks back at what came before.....

### Chess Life & Review from June 1973

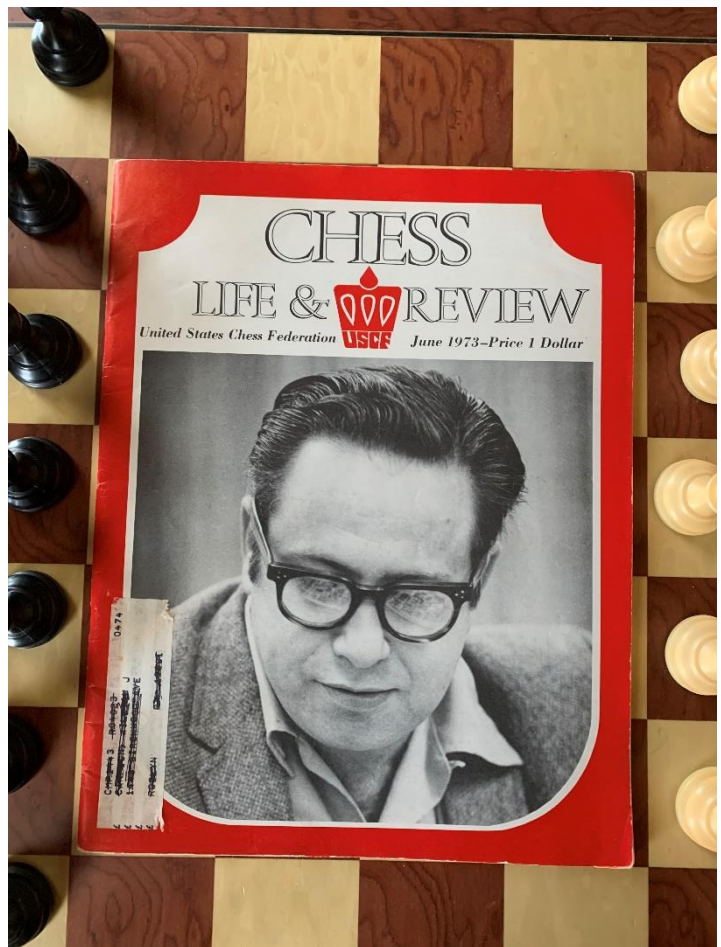
Article presented: "Keres Annotates"

On the cover: GM Arthur Busguier.

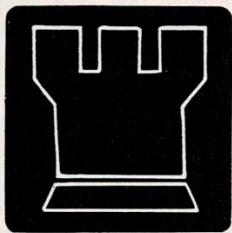
In 1973 Nixon was President

Fischer was World Championship and a Chess Life & Review Membership was \$10.00 year.

Poster from prior years historic championship.







# Keres Annotates...

## Tallinn 1973

One could call them "chess for fun" tournaments. This means that every participant has freedom for creative chess, without the obligation of achieving a certain number of points or a certain place in the final crosstable for an international title or for further qualification. This kind of tournament is, in my opinion, the kind which produces interesting games and can be enjoyed by millions of chess fans.

The tournament calendar in every year includes many contests of this kind, and I believe the traditional Tallinn International Tournaments, held every two years, should be included in this list. I am convinced that I express the opinion of the majority of the participants in this year's tournament in Tallinn by saying that they enjoyed the fighting spirit of the players and the many beautiful games produced by them.

As for the strength of the competition, we brought together this year a number of fine players. This tournament was the first appearance of Boris Spassky after his World Championship match against Fischer, and everyone was interested to see how he would perform here. The other former World Champion, Mikhail Tal, had just won the Championship of the USSR and came out on top of the strong tournament at Wijk aan Zee in Holland. Grandmaster Polugaevsky has always been rated one of the top players in the world lists, and to have a Bronstein in the tournament means at least several exciting games with original ideas. The young grandmaster, Balashov, had just done very well in Wijk aan Zee and he was out to prove in Tallinn that his previous result had not been merely luck.

We had here the promising young grandmaster from Sweden, Andersson, the Dutch junior hope Timman, one of the successful members of the German team in Skopje, Pflieger, while Czechoslovakia sent Pribyl and Bulgaria sent Popov. Saidy, from the U.S., and Westerman, from Finland, came here to improve on their performances in the 1971 event. Adding four players from Estonia, who in most games offered worthy opposition, we had a competition with sixteen strong players, giving the tournament FIDE category 11.

I will not repeat here the technical results of the tournament, which readers will find elsewhere in this issue. The main interest was, of course, focused on the results of both former world champions. As we know, Mikhail Tal won the tournament with a clear edge, having been the permanent leader from the very first rounds. This was a fine new victory for him, following his several first places last year, and gave him a series of more than eighty games without a loss. It seems to me that Tal has regained his top form of the 1960's, but is now conducting his games on a more solid positional basis. I wonder what Tal will show in the coming world championship series.

Spassky did not do as well as many of his admirers might have expected, but

there may be good reasons for this. First, since the Alekhine Memorial Tournament in Moscow in 1971, Spassky had played only the match against Fischer and thus could not have been in his top form. And second, the tournament was one of those pleasant events in which one could try various experiments without having to worry about gaining a certain place in the final table. My impression is that Spassky needs a lot of practical play to restore his usual form.

Polugaevsky played good chess and was the only one who endangered Tal's leadership until the end of the tournament. Balashov fulfilled the international grandmaster norm (9 points) for the second time and should now get the title at the next FIDE Congress. Bronstein played well after his less successful appearance in the last USSR Championship, and I myself almost repeated my story at San Antonio—after a fine start a total collapse in the last third of the tournament.

Andersson, Nei and Timman should be satisfied with their results, but Pflieger, after his fine start, was expected to do better. The Estonian master Rytov got the first leg of his international master title (6½ points). Saidy and Westerman did not show their usual strength.

The tournament produced many inter-

esting fighting games, and it was not easy to choose the most exciting one to present to our readers. I finally chose the following game, showing the wonderful talent of former World Champion Mikhail Tal at the present time.

### RUY LOPEZ

M. Tal		P. Keres
1 P-K4	P-K4	3 B-N5 P-QR3
2 N-KB3	N-QB3	4 B-R4 P-Q3

Certainly one of the most solid lines of play against the Ruy Lopez, although more passive than the usual 4... N-B3.

5 O-O

Years ago this was considered as not the best in view of the possibility of 5... B-N5 6 P-KR3 P-KR4. But today we know that this line is rather risky for Black, and therefore 5 O-O has become the most popular continuation for White. According to theory, 5 BxNch PxB 6 P-Q4 is considered very good for White here, but in practice this line is seldom used.

5... B-Q2 6 P-B3

The immediate 6 P-Q4 is considered best here, as 6... P-QN4 7 B-N3 NxP 8 NxN PxN 9 P-QB3 would give White a strong initiative for the pawn. Now Black can choose a system of development in which White's 5 O-O may be a bit premature.

6... KN-K2 7 P-Q4 N-N3

It seems to me that Black has now solved his opening problems in a satisfactory way and stands quite well.

8 R-K1 B-K2 9 QN-Q2 P-R3!

A well-known method of exchanging the King Bishop, which slightly relieves Black's somewhat cramped position and is positionally well justified. But 9... O-O is, of course, also good.

10 N-B1 B-N4 11 B-K3

The point is that White cannot well exchange on KN5 without leaving his opponent excellent attacking possibilities on the KR file. On the other hand, after 11 N-K3 BxN 12 BxB O-O, White will miss his Knight on the way to Q5, while his pair of Bishops will have little practical value here.

With the text move White offers the exchange of Bishop so as to keep a good Knight on K3. Black does him the favor, but keeping the tension with 11... Q-B3 would also have been good.

11... BxB 12 NxB O-O

After the opening the game is about even. White has some advantage in space, but Black's position is without weaknesses and his pieces are well placed.

13 B-B2

R-K1

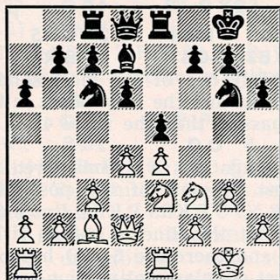
The most logical course here would be 13... N-R5 to force further simplifications. But suddenly I wanted to maintain the tension and did not want to exchange my well-posted Knight at N3. But an old rule says that a cramped position should be eased by exchanges, if possible.

14 Q-Q2 QR-B1 15 P-KN3

Tal is always seeking chances to keep the position under tension, even at the expense of some minor weaknesses. Here he prevents 15... N-R5, which would have led to full equality, for instance after 15 QR-Q1. and he also takes the strong square f4 from his opponent's



Knight. Certainly, it is hard for Black to exploit the slight weakening of White's King position, but not everybody would have taken the risk of playing 15 P-KN3.



15 . . . . Q-B3

I know Tal well enough to assume that he did not intend to protect his Knight now with 16 Q-Q1. More likely would be the variation 16 K-N2 B-R6ch 17 KxB QxN 18 N-Q5, threatening to trap the Queen with 19 B-Q1. Now 18 . . . N-R5?! 19 KxN Q-N7 would hardly give Black sufficient attacking possibilities, for instance, after 20 N-K3 QxRPch 21 K-N4, the King escapes via B3. But 18 . . . Q-R4ch 19 K-N2 Q-N4! would be good enough to get an equal game.

But the most probable idea is 16 N-Q5, and if 16 . . . QxN, then the Queen is trapped after 17 B-Q1. But is that all? Black has the counter-resource 17 . . . N-R5!, threatening mate on N7, and after 18 PxN Q-R6 his Queen is saved.

Having satisfied myself on these points, I began to study the position after 18 . . . Q-R6. If White has no forced advantages, his position would be the worse one in view of his weakened pawn position. But what could he do? On considering the position more deeply, I found the surprising continuation 19 N-B6ch! PxN 20 QxP, threatening 21 R-K3 with an immediate win. Is Black lost? No! After some further analysis of the situation, I found that the threat can be repulsed by 20 . . . PxP 21 PxP NxP, and if now 22 R-K3, Black has the saving counter 22 . . . N-B4!

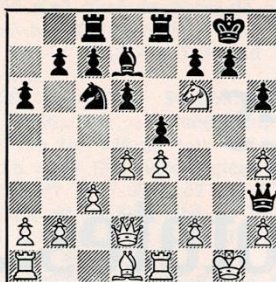
After these considerations, I made the text move 15 . . . Q-B3. But I must admit that my calculation of the variations this time was far inferior to that of my opponent. Considering this fact, the play for complications on my part was a serious fault and should have been replaced by the quiet 15 . . . B-R6, with approximately even chances.

16 N-Q5! QxN

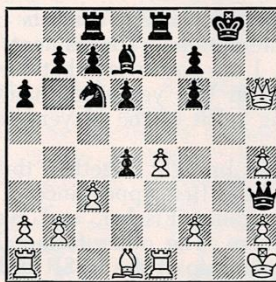
There was still time to choose a quiet line with 16 . . . Q-Q1, or even 16 . . . Q-K3, but I was interested in seeing what my opponent had in mind.

17 B-Q1 N-R5 19 N-B6ch! . . .  
18 PxN Q-R6

**It isn't hard—  
Carry your card.**



Tal makes this sacrifice anyway? Now I began to check to see what was wrong with my calculated variations. And the "hole" was soon found. After 19 . . . PxN 20 QxP PxP, White need not use K3 to transfer his Rook to the KN file, but can accomplish this with 21 K-R1!, with the threat 22 R-N1ch. Can Black afford to go into this line or not? The calculations began again.



**Position after 21 K-R1 (analysis)**

Apparently, 21 . . . B-B4 22 R-N1ch B-N3 would not do because of 23 RxNch PxR 24 QxPch K-B1 25 QxPch K-N1 26 B-N3ch K-R2 27 Q-B7ch K-R3 28 R-KN1 and wins. Another try, 21 . . . RxP, also does not do it: 22 R-N1ch B-N5 23 BxB (23 P-B3 R-K8!) 23 . . . RxB 24 RxRch QxR 25 R-KN1 with good winning chances for White. There remains only 21 . . . N-K4! 22 R-N1ch B-N5 (22 . . . N-N5 23 BxN BxB 24 R-N3!). Reaching this position, I considered that after 23 PxP Black's position was lost, as I could see no defense against 24 PxN.

But the defense is quite simple: 23 . . . N-B6! I absolutely overlooked this move, which places difficult problems before White. It threatens mate on KR7, and if 24 Q-B4, then 24 . . . K-B1! (but not 24 . . . RxP 25 QxN!), and White cannot take on N4 either way. If White tries 24 R-N2, then 24 . . . RxP is good enough to ensure Black a clear advantage.

Has White anything better than 23 PxP or is his sacrifice unsound? An attempt like 23 Q-B4 is not dangerous for Black, for he can play 23 . . . K-B1 24 BxB QxRP with the better game. Also, 23 R-N2 would hardly be strong, as Black can play simply 23 . . . PxP (24 PxP QxBP). The most reasonable solution for White would therefore have been 23 R-N3, which would have led after 23 . . . Q-B8ch 24 R-N1 Q-R6 to a repetition of moves and a drawn outcome. Somebody once told me that chess is, after all, a deadly drawish game!

Having overlooked the resource 23 . . . N-B6!, I decided to decline the sacrifice, having in mind that even after the loss of the Exchange my position is far from lost.

19 . . . . K-R1? 21 P-R5 . . .  
20 NxR RxN

Black has lost the Exchange but he has good compensation for it. First, White must lose at least a pawn, and second, the position of his King is far from safe. Having spent a lot of energy calculating the previous complicated variations, I became afraid of approaching time trouble and decided to choose a simple line. Objectively, the sharp continuation 21 . . . P-B4! (22 KPxB R-KB1) would have been right here, taking advantage of White's open King position. I do not believe that White could then have realized his small material advantage.

21 . . . . B-N5 23 K-R1 BxB  
22 Q-K3 QxP

From now on I made my opponent's task relatively easy for him. Much better was 23 . . . N-K2, followed by 24 . . . N-N3.

24 QRxB Q-R5

And here, 24 . . . PxP 25 PxP P-B4 was worthy of consideration.

25 Q-B3 K-N1 27 Q-N3 Q-K2  
26 R-K3 R-KB1

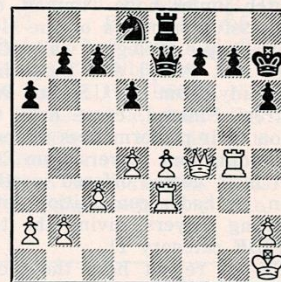
Again not precisely played. Necessary was 27 . . . Q-B3 first, and only after 28 R-B3 Q-K2. By accomplishing P-KB4, White increases his advantage.

28 P-KB4! PxBP

Maybe 28 . . . P-B4 29 PxBP RxP was a better try here.

29 QxP R-K1 31 R-N4 N-Q1  
30 R-KN1 K-R2

A good defending move here was 31 . . . Q-B1, having in mind the chance to play 32 . . . N-K2. The text allows White to make further progress.



32 P-K5! P-Q4?

The threat was 33 PxP! QxR 34 QxQ RxQ 35 PxP, and 32 . . . PxP 33 RxP followed by 34 Q-K4ch would lose material, but much better was 32 . . . Q-B1! After 33 PxP RxR 34 QxR QxP White would still have much technical work to do. After the text move White gets the square KB6 for his Rook, and this enables him to strengthen the attack considerably.

33 R-R3 Q-B1

Of course not 33 . . . N-K3? 34 RxNPch!, etc.

34 R-B3 K-N1 35 Q-B5 Q-K2

A better chance was 35 . . . R-K3.

36 P-N4 R-B1 37 Q-R5 N-K3?



**No 65<sup>th</sup> Square this issue.**

## **Hollywood plays chess**

**Humphrey Bogart playing Arnold Denker as Hermann Steiner and Lauren Bacall look on.**



**Bogart was considered an expert level player (2000)**

